



# Kern Road Veterinary Clinic Newsletter

---

March 2017

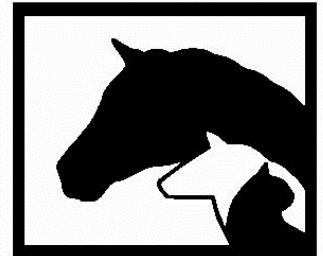
## DENTALS: What to know. By Drs. Gnagey/Hermann

Many people are shocked when we recommend a dental cleaning for their pet. Pets need dental care just like we do! Unfortunately getting them to brush and floss twice daily isn't something we can accomplish. This is where veterinary dental procedures come in. Teeth and gums can become diseased due to tartar build up. Regular dental care can help ensure healthy teeth will remain healthy and allow us the opportunity to treat or remove unhealthy teeth and gums. Rotten, broken, and

cracked teeth can contribute to an array of health problems including trouble eating, drinking and pain when playing with toys.

Many people also question why we have to put your pet under anesthesia in order to perform a dental procedure. Have you ever gotten your cat or dog to say "ah"? With any of our surgeries, we perform pre-surgery bloodwork to make sure the pet is healthy enough for the procedure. Once under anesthesia, the veterinarian can properly assess every tooth's health

and remove plaque and tartar from the healthy teeth and remove teeth if required. Licensed Veterinary Technicians monitor your pet's vital signs throughout the whole procedure. Dental surgeries are usually an outpatient procedure and can go home the same day! Please discuss your pet's oral hygiene with your veterinarian at your next visit. We are happy to answer any questions you may have.



105 Fowlerville Rd  
Fowlerville, MI 48836  
517-223-9618  
[www.kernroadvet.com](http://www.kernroadvet.com)



## Best Age to Spay/Neuter

You just got your new puppy/kitten, and now the next question is "when to spay or neuter?" We will usually neuter male cats as early as 4 months of age. This prevents marking behavior and the strong urine odor that comes with maturity in male cats. We are now waiting until 6 months of age or 6 lbs. to spay female cats in order to provide better pain medication post-operation. It is best not to wait much longer as female cats can have their first litter by 9 months of age!

For most dogs we recommend waiting until at least 6 months of age. For small breeds we are waiting to make sure all of their baby teeth have fallen out to

avoid a second anesthesia to pull retained baby teeth later. For large/giant breed dogs, new research has started to suggest a benefit to waiting until closer to 1 year of age so dogs are more skeletally mature before removing the influence of hormones on their bone growth. This may help decrease joint injuries later in life. It is also of benefit to wait until dogs reach a more mature size if they are going to have a gastropexy along with their spay/neuter so that the stomach is in a more natural position after surgery. If your female dog is in a heat cycle close to your spay date, please discuss the appropriate timeline with your veterinarian as it may change.



## “What should I feed my pet?”

There is one question that seems to come with every new pet- “what should I feed my pet?” There can be many right answers, but there are also a lot of wrong answers. Puppies and kittens under 1 year of age should be fed a puppy/kitten food to ensure they receive the appropriate vitamin, mineral and protein balance until they reach skeletal maturity. Large and giant breed dogs should be fed a Large Breed puppy food even longer, up to 15-18 months of age. These foods are balanced for a slower growth rate to prevent skeletal developmental disease. Substituting adult dog food does not provide adequate nutrition to these young big breeds while they grow.

The brand of food that is right for your pet may vary, but remember; the clerk at the pet store may not have any actual background in animal nutrition. What is a good food for one dog may not be right for another. Though there are many new “fresh” and “natural” foods on the market, many of these diets are formulated off of a recipe and have not gone through dietary feeding trials to determine

## “Oh, Baby!”

By: Dr. Erin Howard

As winter begins to fade and spring tempts us with warmer temperatures and longer days, lambing and kidding are in full swing for sheep and goat producers. Besides the joy of having lambs and kids to care for, extra attention needs to be taken to ensure that both mothers and babies remain as healthy as possible. Even though we are now having days reaching 40 and 50 degrees, the large fluctuation in temperatures can cause many animals to become stressed which in turn can make them more susceptible to respiratory infections, pneumonia, and intestinal parasite complications. Ensuring that animals have shelter to protect them from precipitation and windy conditions will help reduce the risk of hypothermia, weakness, and death in newborn lambs and kids.

Monitoring that water sources are still protected from freezing and that animals are receiving sufficient nutrition during colder days and nights is very important. Caring

for pregnant animals entails daily observation and diligence. Make sure does and ewes remain at adequate body condition, are tested and monitored for



By: Dr. Lauren Gnagey

digestibility of the nutrients. Historically, more established brands tend to have fewer recalls.



It is also important to measure how much you feed your pet with a measuring cup. This will make you aware of how much your dog is actually eating and easier to detect any changes in appetite. This can also help to develop a plan for weight gain or loss if needed.

If a certain food does not agree with your pet it is important to switch to a new food gradually. We recommend over the course of 5-7 days to give the GI tract a chance to adjust. Switching too quickly can lead to vomiting and diarrhea, even though the diet is appropriate. Sticking with one diet, once you have found the proper one is very important. Changing diets frequently can lead to more problems. If you aren't sure what to do, just ask! Every pet is different and has their own individual needs.

intestinal parasites with the help of your veterinarian, and appropriate vaccinations occur prior to giving birth.

When animals are giving birth, particular attention needs to occur to ensure that complications do not arise – if the dam is not progressing as she should, seeking veterinary attention as soon as possible will give the most chance of a successful birth with live lambs/kids. Newborn care is critical, and has a lasting impact on their future health. Keeping lambs and kids warm and dry, ensuring they receive adequate colostrum (first milk from the mother that is essential for establishing immunity), and dipping the navel in an iodine solution within 12 hours of birth are important management practices to perform, as is ear tagging, obtaining birth weights, and recording the sex of the lamb/kid.

Administration of a vitamin E/selenium supplement may also be advantageous to help prevent white muscle disease in areas that are selenium deficient – please consult with your veterinarian to see if this should be performed. Performing fecal egg counts on does and ewes 3-4 weeks after they give birth is also advised. Giving your newborns the best start possible will reward you with many months of entertainment as you watch them grow!



## Getting ready for show season



You've prepared all winter and now you're ready for your first show! There are a few things to consider before hitting the ring:

- Many medications involve a withdrawal time, especially sedatives for clipping. Leave enough time between body clipping and a horse show!
- Have you pulled your coggins yet? All horse shows will require a negative EIA test before you are able to compete. It is required for any travel outside of state lines as well as change of ownership!
- Spring vaccinations are a good time to make sure any travel/competition requirements are met! Remember you may have to booster mid-season to keep up-to-date.
- If you are traveling across state lines you need a health certificate that must be issued by a veterinarian. An exam is required within 30 days of travel to get the required paperwork. You will also need that negative coggins!
- Remember to re-pack your trailer! Buckets and a few gallons of water

are a must have when trailering. Also lead ropes, hay and a few emergency medical supplies are great to have close at hand.

- Have you discussed putting your horse on a preventative Ulcergard dose for a horse show? Studies show horses can develop ulcers within hours of travel and some horses benefit from a preventative stomach ulcer medication for trailering/competition.

Whatever your travel plans may be this season, it's best to be prepared! Please ask your veterinarian any pre-show season questions you may have!

## Things happening at Kern Road Veterinary Clinic

### Photos for the 2018 KRVC Calendar

Remember we are ALWAYS accepting photos for the 2018 Kern Road Vet Calendar. Our calendars typically come out in November/December but getting your photos in early means you only have to think about submitting them once!

Remember all the winter/snow pictures you just took of your pet around Christmas? We love those! Please email your photos to [info@kernroadvet.com](mailto:info@kernroadvet.com) and limit to 5 photos. This will help us make sure everyone gets their chance to be on a month's collage.



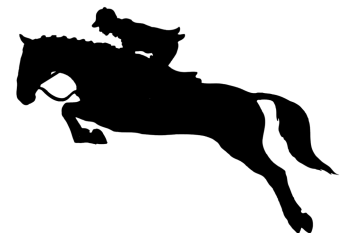
### Clinic Renovations

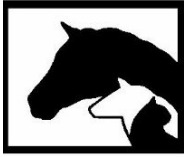
The New Year has brought lots of changes to the clinic! If you haven't had the opportunity to stop by yet, we have all new epoxy flooring, new paint, and new carpet!

We will continue to make improvements as the year progresses and we are excited to be able to update our appearance and continue to strive to provide the best experience we can for you and your pet.

### **Ulcers: Your horse could be at risk.**

Did you know that 2 out of 3 competition horses have gastric ulcers? This can have a big impact on how a horse performs at a show. Gastric Endoscopy's or "Stomach Scopes" can aid us in diagnosing ulcers and properly treating them. A gastric endoscopy is a procedure in which the horse is sedated, a scope is entered through nose and then swallowed down into the stomach. Once in the stomach, the tube can be adjusted and moved to see the lining of the stomach wall to check for ulcers. Your horse's stomach is relatively small and designed to continuously produce acid to digest small, frequent meals. In a natural setting, a horse would graze constantly to produce a buffer to help pass acid from the stomach. When horses are stalled with limited turnout and fed fewer, larger meals, acid levels increase. Higher intake of grain, stress from training, showing and traveling can stimulate acid pumps to increase acid. Once this acid increases, it can cause ulcers on the stomach lining. Have a discussion with your veterinarian about scoping and stomach ulcer preventative medicine during your show season.





## Kern Road Veterinary Clinic

105 Fowlerville Rd  
Fowlerville, MI 48836  
Ph-517-223-9618

*If you received this newsletter in the mail and would like to receive future correspondence electronically please provide us with your email address at [info@kernroadvet.com](mailto:info@kernroadvet.com)*



## Conferences Galore!

We love continuing our education and attending conferences is a great place to do that!

- Dr. Foote attended the American Association of Equine Practitioners.
- Dr. Howard, Jenni LVT, Kelly B LVT, and Michelle attended the Midwest Veterinary Conference.
- Dr. Esterline attended the North American Veterinary Conference.
- Kelly P, Kelly B and Margit attended Boehringer Ingelheim's Equine Continuing Education.
- Dr. Shrader, Dr. Gnagey and Rhonda LVT attended the Michigan Veterinary Conference.
- Dr. Hermann is attending the Western Veterinary Conference in March.

Everyone is very excited to institute their new knowledge into the clinic and their work. We enjoy staying on top of the newest information and technologies available.



SPEEDBUMP BarkBox