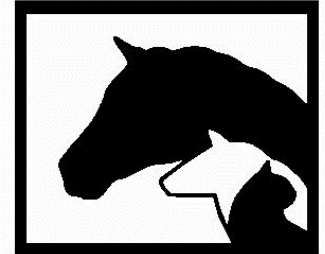




Kern Road Veterinary Clinic Newsletter

September 2016



Old Cat, Skinny Cat?

Written by: Dr. Lauren Gnagey, DVM

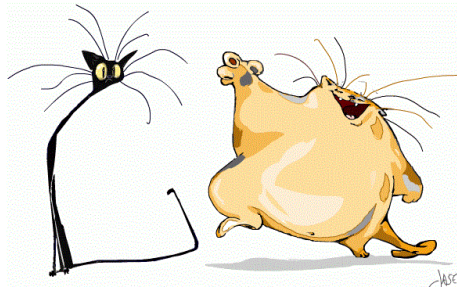
Cats can often seem to be low maintenance pets, but in reality they are great at hiding problems. As time passes, are you noticing that your once chubby friend has started to slim down? This could be a sign of a medical issue. Annual exams and blood work on older kitties can help identify certain problems before they become severe and can help prolong good quality of life for your cat.

So, what are we looking for? There are three main concerns in older cats with weight loss. Kidney disease is very common in cats, and if it is identified in its early stages, diet changes can be made to slow the progression of the disease.

Diabetes can also develop with age in cats. The final concern for older cats is thyroid disease, which increases the metabolism and causes changes to blood pressure. While these three conditions look similar from the outside, they are in fact quite unique and require different treatments. Diagnosing these conditions is done using information from physical exams and testing, which may include bloodwork, analyzing urine, and x-rays.

If your cat is over 10 years old, or experiencing any of these symptoms, we recommend scheduling an annual

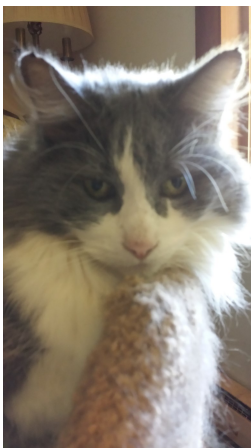
check up exam and blood work for your friend. If we can identify a developing condition before it becomes a problem, we can develop a plan to keep your cat healthier longer!



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Special points of interest:

- *Small Ruminants*
 - *New things at Kern Road*
 - *Acupuncture*
 - *Equine deworming*
 - *Welcome to Dr. Howard*
 - *Halloween Safety*



Success Story: Meet Mitzie!

Meet Mitzie, an 11yr old cat owned by Hope Gilkeson. About a year ago she started losing weight rapidly, developed a heart murmur and started to withdraw from her owner. Mitzie had bloodwork done and it was determined that she was hyperthyroid. She started an oral medication called felimazole, to control her

thyroid levels and she is back to her normal self.

Mitzie comes in to the clinic twice a year to make sure that her thyroid levels remain normal so she can continue to enjoy life with her owner.

Halloween: Your Pet's Worst Nightmare

As Halloween approaches, we need to take into consideration the dangers and threats this time of year provides our pets.

Pumpkins: Rotten pumpkins are toxic to pets! Make sure to throw them in the garbage and not just in the yard to decay.

Candy: Be careful where you stash the stash! Chocolate, hard candies, xylitol, etc. are all bad for pets!

Ding Dong: Does your dog or cat get scared when people come over? With the constant door bell and knocking on Halloween, make sure your pet is kept away from the door. Talk to us about anxiety medications for your pet!



Costumes: If you are dressing your pet up for Halloween, make sure that he/she will tolerate it and can move freely while in their festive garb.

Candles: Colder weather means we love lighting candles, especially inside jack-o-lanterns. Consider using battery-operated tea-lights to avoid a fire-frenzy.

Decorations: Some animals just can't resist getting tied up or knocking over decorations. Be aware of what your decorations are made of, especially if they are breakable or if your pet likes to eat things they shouldn't!

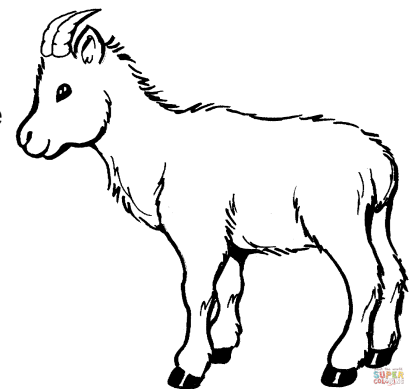
Call us if you have any questions regarding Halloween safety for your pet.

Gearing your goats (and other small ruminants) for Winter

By: Dr. Erin Howard, DVM

Even though it seems that our fall season has just begun, it is not too early to begin preparing your goat, sheep, llama or alpaca for the long winter months that are coming. Nutrition is an important management component during winter, as most animals will be transitioning from pasture grazing to forage feeding/confinement. Forage should make up the bulk of a small ruminant's diet, and quality may differ depending upon the life stage of the animal (maintenance vs pregnant, etc.). Insuring that the forage has adequate protein is also important as this is necessary for normal rumen function. Protein can be over-supplemented and cause problems, so care needs to be taken with giving high protein forage or grains and consulting your veterinarian is recommended. Access to a clean, fresh, NON-FROZEN water supply at all times is essential! Breaking out the water tank heaters or changing buckets frequently can help make sure your animals don't go without water.

Performing fecal egg counts is also an important management step when the seasons change – intestinal parasites are among the leading cause of death in small ruminants, and can go unnoticed until the animal is very ill. Having fecal samples analyzed by your veterinarian is essential to determine if your animal needs deworming, and just as importantly, what anthelmintic (de-wormer) to use. Female goats and sheep are in general short day breeders (alpacas are induced ovulators thus season is not a factor, but should not be bred in times of extreme cold stress), therefore awareness of age, housing situations with uncastrated males, etc. is important during the winter months. With some forethought, keeping your small ruminant healthy and happy during the winter should take little effort while going a long way for your animals.





Equine Acupuncture: The what to know and when to do's

Written by: Dr. Iris Foote, DVM

Did you know Kern Road Vet Clinic is now offering Equine Acupuncture? Dr. Iris Foote has her certification from the Chi Institute of Veterinary Acupuncture.

What is acupuncture you might ask? Acupuncture is using a needle to stimulate specific points along the horse's body to release natural pain relieving molecules (called neurotransmitters). These points are a collection of nerves, blood vessels and other cells such as mast cells and there are over 150 points located all over a horse's body!

What can acupuncture be used for? Due to the pain relieving properties it is often used to treat sore muscles and arthritis. However, it can also be used to help diarrhea, Cushing's disease, heaves, uveitis, laminitis and much more. Herbal formulations are occasionally recommended with acupuncture to help increase the effect of a treatment.

A typical acupuncture treatment takes approximately 1 hour to perform, but some horses may take longer especially if they do not like needles. During that time the doctor will look at the tongue, scan the horse for pain,

and perform the treatment. It is recommended to perform 3 treatments prior to evaluating if acupuncture is helping. However, many horses show improvement after just one treatment. It is not recommended to sedate a horse for treatment as it can decrease the effectiveness. If you have questions regarding acupuncture and if it might help your horse, feel free to call the office and ask to speak with Dr. Iris Foote.

Things happening at Kern Road Veterinary Clinic

Lyme Disease

Did you know that dogs can get Lyme disease? Did you also know that there is a vaccine available? The number of cases of Lyme disease in dogs has been increasing in our area so we will be recommending the vaccine to those pets at risk. Ask us about protecting against ticks and your pet's risk of Lyme disease during your next visit.



New Kern Road Services!

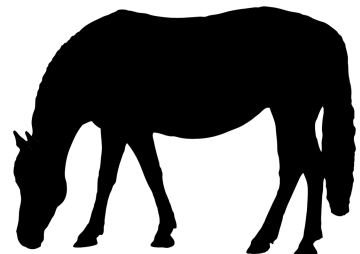
As you might gather from the article above, we are now providing Equine Acupuncture services performed by Dr. Iris Foote. She has her certification in Veterinary Acupuncture from the Chi Institute of Veterinary Acupuncture.

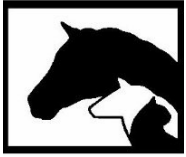
Dr. Erin Howard also adds a whole new range to our services- small ruminants. This includes sheep, alpacas, goats, and llamas. She works Monday-Wednesday so please give us a call to schedule your appointment!

We are still offering *Wellness Plans*. Please contact the office if you would like more information .

Importance of fall fecal check and deworming.

Unfortunately, there is no "one size fits all" deworming program. Every horse's situation is different, even for those within the same barn or the same pasture. An effective deworming program needs to consider a number of factors, including: age, location, season, travel, pasture load and pasture pals. The two parasites of most concern to horses are the small strongyles (encysted strongyles, cyathostomes) and tapeworms. In young horses the parasite of biggest concern is the ascarid (roundworms). The best way to determine the deworming schedule for your horse is to involve your veterinarian and to perform fecal egg counts (FEC) to determine the propensity of individual horses to carry high, medium or low worm burdens. An individualized deworming program can save money and allow the use of less dewormer. This is especially important as we head into the winter months. Let's make sure that your horse is being properly taken care of!





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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



Welcome to Dr. Howard!

Kern Road Vet Clinic welcomed a new veterinarian in June of 2016— Dr. Erin Howard. Dr. Howard graduated from Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2009. She has special interests in emergency medicine, internal medicine, and rehabilitation/physical therapy, as well as adding small ruminant (sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas) medicine and surgery to Kern Road's services. She will be in the clinic Monday, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays and is very excited to be a part of the Kern Road Family!

