

Bear Valley Paws Issue 7
Sept/Oct 2006
Bear Valley Veterinary Clinic
5600 W. Dartmouth Ave #105
Denver, CO 80227
303-985-3316



We are proud to be accredited by the
American Animal Hospital Association!
For after hour emergencies call
Central Vet Emergency Services 303-874-7387

**Our next canine dental day for
anesthesia-free cleanings:
Sept 13, Sept 25, Oct 11**

From the Doctor

The **Labrador Retriever** and Lab mixes are the most popular breed of dog in both the United States and the United Kingdom, and at Bear Valley Veterinary Clinic. The breed is exceptionally friendly, intelligent, and good natured, making them excellent companions and working dogs. Labrador Retrievers are known to be one of the fastest learning breeds of dog and respond well to praise. They originated from Newfoundland and thought to have descended from the St. John's Water Dog (no longer in existence). Their otter-like tails and webbed toes make them excellent swimmers. Many fishermen originally used the Lab to assist in bringing nets to shore. They are, however, prone to several medical conditions including chewing objects. Many Labs are notorious "chowhounds"; they will eat anything that isn't nailed down, and are experts at manipulating soft-hearted humans into giving them treats/extra food/table scraps/etc (Lab owners consider their pets masters of 'seal puppy' eyes). The Lab owner must carefully control his/her dog's food intake to avoid obesity and its associated health problems. Labrador life expectancy is generally 12 to 13 years. Common Lab health issues are: hip dysplasia, obesity or ingestion of foreign objects (rocks, toys, clothing), and luxating patella. Obesity tends to increase the risk factors for hip dysplasia, diabetes, and arthritis. The best diet plan is to offer your dog regular exercise (more than just having free run of the back yard), and feed consistent amounts of premium dog food with minimal treats and no table scraps.

Pet Obituaries

Samantha R. Mister Man R. Bentley F.
Trixie B. Dusty C. Miss Kitty A.
Shaq N. Charlie L.

Pet Activity Ideas

Most cats are obese and don't get the activity that they need. Since there are limited activities for owners to do with their cats here is something that will give them some exercise and let them have some fun too. Use a laser pointer for them to chase. They love to chase the moving light. Flash lights work well too.

Many dogs like to swim, but lakes and ponds can have some parasites in them that can infect your dog. So take them to a swimming pool that is designed just for dogs. Swimming is great exercise for dogs as well as therapy for dogs with arthritis and they will love it.

Contact **CRCG** at **303-762-SWIM (7946)** for more information.

Did You Know? By Norman Briggs CVT

The Trick-or-Treat Season is just around the corner for people, but pets should not join in. Chocolate contains a chemical dangerous to dogs (and cats) named Theobromine. The different kinds of chocolate contain different levels of Theobromine. Baking chocolate has the most, followed by dark chocolate, and milk chocolate having the least. A 20 pound dog can develop serious Theobromine poisoning after eating just one ounce of baking chocolate or 2 ½ ounces of dark chocolate. Theobromine can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, tremors, seizures, abnormal heart rhythms and death in severe cases. The only treatment for chocolate poisoning is to let the chocolate work its way out of the body, which can take four days. If the chocolate was just eaten, it may be possible to induce vomiting; otherwise one to four days of hospitalization will be required for recovery. It would be much better to buy the pets their own holiday treats and keep the candy out of reach.

Pet Birthdays

Sammie R.	Mittens H.	Inky S.
Petie K.	Lily K.	Wendy II H.
Gracie B.	Snickle M.	Taisen D.

And so many more, we couldn't list them all. To get on our e-mailing list for special birthday giveaways, contact our office with your e-mail address.