



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

From the Doctor By Carola Stevenson DVM

The German Shepherd Dog (GSD) is a popular breed of dog that is known for their ability to be trained for protection and obedience. They are in the working class of dogs, routinely used for Search and Rescue, Police Dogs and Guide Dogs. They are a large dog with powerful jaws and strong teeth. Over-breeding and lack of genetic screening of the GSD can not only lead to problems with health, but can also lead to aggressive tendencies. Similar to other large breeds of dogs, German Shepherds are prone to elbow and hip dysplasia. Other health problems sometimes occurring in the breed are von Willebrand's disease, skin allergies, bloat, perianal fistulas, immune system disorders, and a variety of other problems. They have an average lifespan of ten to thirteen years. I have personal experience with the German Shepherd, as I have one of my own. Bengal is a white, short hair shepherd with a pink nose. His personality is non-fearful, non-aggressive, but vocal about pain, and aloof. He has had the unfortunate luck of having multiple health problems including Allergies, Hip Dysplasia, Lumbosacral Disease, Bladder Stones, Hypothyroidism and West Nile Virus. He is now 10 ½ years old and takes 5 medications twice a day to improve his quality of life. Semiannual exams are very important in all pets, especially those like the German Shepherd with numerous aging predispositions.

Caring For Your Pets' Teeth

By Lindsay Auricchio

Dental care is an important part of your pets' health. Without proper care and yearly dental cleanings, teeth can get infected and cause other serious problems. There are several ways to take care of your pets teeth. The most effective thing to do is brush the teeth daily with toothpaste made just for pets. They come in a variety of flavors. Most pets don't mind this but for those who do, there are some other options that make taking care of their teeth easy. There is an oral rinse that can easily be squirted into the pet's mouth along the gum line daily or a product to add to the water bowl. These products keep tarter and plaque from building up, are anti-bacterial and improve the smell of the breath. Bad breath = Infection. We also offer a dental diet that you can add to your pet's food. This product is specially formulated so that when they bite down on it, it scrapes away the tarter that's built up on the teeth. All these products mentioned can be used on both dogs and cats. For dogs only, there is a rawhide chew with an enzymatic cleaner that cleans the dogs' teeth as they chew. Also for dogs, we offer an anesthesia free dental cleaning once a month. Please call to schedule an appointment.

These products don't take the place of annual dental cleanings but can lead your pet on the road to a healthy mouth, and healthier internal organs!

Did You Know? By Norman Briggs CVT

There is a relatively new threat to your dog's health named Canine Influenza. Canine Influenza was first identified at a dog race track in 2004. By 2005 this disease had spread to many other states including Colorado. Some cases were in owned dogs, but all cases were traced to race tracks, shelters, humane societies, pet stores, rescues, and boarding kennels.

Canine Influenza is so new that almost all dogs will have no immunity to the disease. About 80% of those infected will get sick, and the other 20% will not; but still will be contagious. The symptoms for Canine Influenza can be so similar to "Kennel Cough" that these dogs may be treated as if they had "Kennel Cough". This treatment does not work well against Canine Influenza, and the infected dog may progress to the serious variety of symptoms. The serious variety includes fever and pneumonia from secondary infections. Studies show 5% to 8% of dogs with the serious form of influenza die from the disease.

There is currently no vaccine for Canine Influenza. The treatments for Canine Influenza are I. V. fluids and good nutrition during hospitalization, and powerful antibiotics to tackle the secondary infections.

What can you do? Be aware that no human has ever been infected with Canine Influenza. Know that the virus is transmitted in close dog to dog contact situations by respiratory secretions, and by contaminated surfaces. You can vaccinate for "Kennel Cough" so that if your dog gets a cough we will know to treat it more aggressively. Contact any kennel or day care facility you may use and ask to be informed of any coughing incidents. Lastly, contact us immediately if your dog begins to cough.

Pet Birthdays

- | | | |
|------------|------------------|--------------|
| Sadie E. | Agatha Raisin P. | Jingles R. |
| Daisy M. | Ginny W. | Snooby S. |
| Big Mac A. | Stella C. | Chocolate P. |

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

Pet Obituaries *...you will never be forgotten*

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Sara B. | Prince H. | Apollo H. |
| Cochise S. | Bodhi M. | Oswald P. |
| Guinness K. | O'Mally M. | DoDo L. |

**Our next canine dental day for
anesthesia-free cleanings:
Nov 8, Dec 13**