

WHEAT RIDGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL'S

Furry Free Press



wellness care • surgery • dentistry • senior care • 24-hour emergency hospital • nutrition • specialty services

Annual Exams—Not Just for Vaccinations!

Tom Adducci, DVM

Our pets are living longer, healthier and more comfortable lives than ever before. Vaccinations, modern medicines and improved diagnostic capabilities (blood work, radiographs, ultrasounds, CT/MRI scans, etc.) have played a key role and are readily available and common place in today's veterinary practices. Unfortunately, many pets do not receive the benefits of these advances as they are often not examined by their family veterinarian for years at a time. A common misconception is that if a pet is kept in its own backyard, is always indoors, or is not having an obvious problem, it does not need to see a veterinarian. The pets are not brought to the veterinarian until they become ill and "have a reason to see the vet." Many of the health problems we see at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital can be detected with a routine physical examination and simple cost effective diagnostics. Early detection in the disease process often enables us to cure or at least control the problem before it advances into a much more serious state. At Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital we strongly recommend an annual physical examination (and bi-annual exam for older pets). This enables us to do a complete and thorough physical exam which may will enable us to detect health issues that need further evaluation.

The physical examination typically includes looking at the pet's overall body condition and muscle tone, listening to the heart and lungs, checking the eyes, ears, teeth and gums, palpation of the abdomen and the skin, checking for masses or tumors, palpation of lymph nodes, and often a digital rectal examination. Weight and diet are

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also discussed, along with reviewing any supplements or medications the pet may be taking. A fecal examination is often performed to look for parasites and a blood panel and urinalysis are commonly done to look for signs of systemic illnesses.

Recently an 8 year old neutered male Labrador Retriever was brought into Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital for his annual examination. He was not due for any vaccines, but came in for his physical examination and fecal test. He was in very good shape, except for some masses that we had detected under his skin during the physical examination. These three masses felt almost identical and they were very soft and movable. The owner had noticed these and assumed they were just "older dog" fatty deposits (lipomas). We suggested a simple and quick test called a Fine Needle Aspirate, in which we obtain a sample of each mass and look at the cells under a microscope, checking for possible cancer. The owner agreed to this quick test and we got our samples.

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Remember to talk to your veterinarian about any changes in your pet's health.



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Appointment Hours:

Mon - Fri: 9 am to 9 pm

Sat & Sun: 9 am to 5 pm

24-hour Emergency Hospital

Annual Exams continued:

Upon microscopic examination of the cells, two of the masses were indeed lipomas, but the other had suspicious and abnormal cells.

We discussed this with the owner and decided to have a pathologist at Colorado State University check the sample. A few days later, we got our results and it was determined that the mass was indeed cancerous and was a very aggressive type of tumor. Surgery was immediately scheduled and the mass was removed. Because of the early detection of the mass on physical examination, we were able to completely remove the tumor before it was too large or spread to deep tissues. No other treatment was necessary. If this mass would have gone undetected, or assumed it was just a lipoma like older dogs get, this tumor would have grown and/or spread to other places in the pet's body, making removal and treatment much more difficult and costly.

Regular veterinary visits and examinations are a vital part in keeping your family member healthy and happy! As always, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

In The Spotlight: Ben



Ben is a sheltie border collie mix with tons of energy! He loves to play at the dog park when he is not practicing agility with his owner. Ben has been coming to Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital since he was a puppy. He is always energetic and a great patient.

Meet Our Team



Jennifer A. Ginn, DVM, DACVIM Board-Certified in Internal Medicine

Dr. Jennifer Ginn earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Tufts University in 2005. She completed a small animal internship at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital, and then a residency in internal medicine at the University of Wisconsin in 2009. Dr. Ginn earned her board-certification in 2009, and remained at the University of Wisconsin as a clinical instructor and a research fellow. Her research focused on screening dogs with lymphoma for mutations in a gene that has been associated with lymphoma in people.

Dr. Ginn has special interest in endocrinology, gastrointestinal disorders, and autoimmune disease. In her spare time, she enjoys running, skiing, biking, and hiking, and would like to pick up a few other activities as well. She is thrilled to be in Colorado with her husband Daniel, along with their two dogs Oquirrh and Frimley, and five cats!



Daniel S. Foy, MS, DVM, DACVIM, DACVECC Board-Certified in Internal Medicine and Emergency and Critical Care

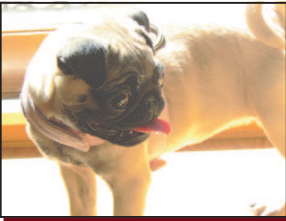
Dr. Daniel Foy graduated from Tufts University Veterinary School in 2005. He moved to Colorado and completed a one-year internship at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital before moving to Madison, WI to complete residency training at the University of Wisconsin. He became board-certified in internal medicine in 2009 and board-certified in emergency and critical care in 2011. Although he enjoys many facets of both internal medicine and critical care, his special interests lie in gastroenterology, infectious disease, and renal injury.

In his free time, Dr. Foy enjoys running, hiking, skiing, and photography. He and his wife, Jenn, also enjoy spending time with their two dogs, Frimley and Oquirrh, and many feline co-habitants.

Happy Birthday!



Nicklaus, 16 years old
Nicklaus joined his family on Christmas day almost 16 years ago. He is a happy, healthy boy who stays young by picking on his 2 cat housemates.



Penelope, 3 years old
Penelope will be three on December 26th. She was abandoned at just one day old, but today she is happy, healthy, and she loves barking at her two pug brothers.



Olive, 5 years old
Olive was adopted from a rescue in Minnesota. She recently had her tail amputated due to happy tail, which is caused by repeat trauma to the tail. She has had a great recovery.

Mushroom Toxicity

Shannon Jordan, DVM

Of all potential problems pet owners anticipate their pets to encounter, the ingestion of wild mushrooms probably would not rate very high on most lists. However, wild mushrooms can be a really big problem for anyone who eats them – including the family dog. Mushrooms sprout seemingly overnight and many are harmless, but some, like *Amanita phalloides*, are deadly. If no one sees the dog eat mushrooms, it may not be suspected until it is too late.

There are a variety of symptoms associated with mushroom toxicity. Depending on the type of mushroom and the amount ingested, the symptoms can range from mild gastrointestinal upset (e.g. vomiting and diarrhea) to death. There are about 6000 known types of mushrooms of which only about 60 are poisonous and potentially deadly. Several hundred more can cause mild to severe physical distress. There are eight categories of poisonous mushrooms and they are categorized based on their specific type of toxin and the effects of the toxins. Some are so dangerous they only have to be touched to be harmful.



Amanita phalloides

The symptoms of mushroom toxicity in a dog can occur within several minutes to several hours following ingestion. The signs may include vomiting, diarrhea, cramps, loss of coordination, decreased appetite, increased thirst, abdominal pain, nausea, salivation, lethargy, seizures, and coma. Some symptoms associated with mushroom toxicity may only be seen several hours or days later as a result of liver and kidney damage. Your veterinarian will typically evaluate liver and kidney values at the time of suspected ingestion and then continue to monitor every 24-48 hours as needed. You should inform your veterinarian if you observe any abnormal signs in your dog.

If you suspect your dog has ingested mushrooms and it is showing any signs of poisoning, get it to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Treatment depends on the type of mushroom – if it can be identified. Unfortunately, there is no specific test for mushrooms. If you think your dog may have consumed mushrooms, try to get a sample of the mushroom to help aid in identification. Place any available material in a paper bag or waxed paper. Do not use a plastic bag and do not refrigerate it until it can be examined. Assume all mushrooms are poisonous.

Treatment includes making your dog vomit, administering activated charcoal to help absorb the toxins, IV fluids to help flush the toxins from the body, managing seizures or tremors, and treating kidney or liver damage if necessary. With treatment, the overall prognosis is typically good – especially if stomach decontamination (e.g. making your dog vomit and stomach washing) is initiated within hours of ingestion. It ultimately depends on the amount of mushrooms ingested and the toxicity of the mushroom.

There is no adequate home care for poisonous mushroom ingestion. If you suspect your dog has eaten a dangerous mushroom, contact your veterinarian immediately. The best way to prevent ingestion of poisonous mushrooms is to keep your dog away from mushrooms. Periodically check your yard and remove any mushrooms and do not allow your dog to roam the neighborhood, woods, or hiking trail unattended.

Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital Pet Food Drive



Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital will be collecting pet food donations for the Food Bank of the Rockies. Bring new, unopened cans or bags of pet food to our hospital November 21st through December 2nd.

Santa is coming!

Tuesday, November 29th from 6-9pm

Have your pet's picture taken with Santa just in time for the holidays! For a donation of pet food you will receive a disk of your pet's photos to take home with you.



Our Pharmacy is Now Open!

Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital has recently added an online pharmacy to make ordering your pet's prescription and food safe and easy!

- Competitive pricing
- Free shipping on most orders over \$39
- Prescription and non-prescription diets
- Orders are delivered straight from the distributor and are guaranteed to be made in the US

Log on to www.wheatridgeanimal.com and click on the Pet Portal link to log on to your account. If you need assistance regarding your Pet Portal account, please speak with a receptionist.

You can now like us on Facebook!

