



# Pine Meadow Newsletter

Spring 2017

Pine Meadow Veterinary Clinic, 850-477-2194  
550 West Nine Mile Road, Pensacola, FL 32534  
[www.pinemeadowvetclinic.com](http://www.pinemeadowvetclinic.com) [contactpmvc@gmail.com](mailto:contactpmvc@gmail.com)

## Seasonal Atopy (Inhalant Allergies)

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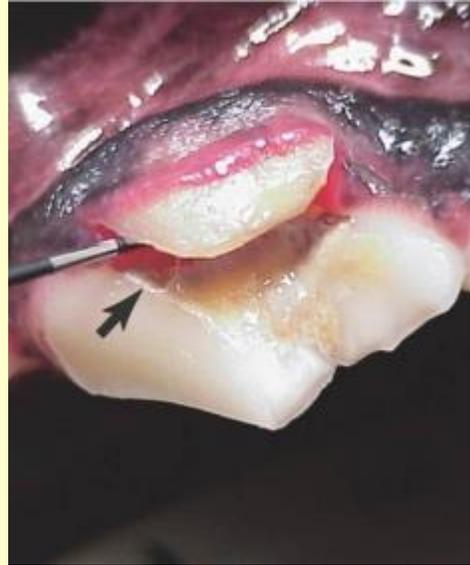
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Seventy percent of skin issues seen in pets are allergy related. Allergies occur in many species but are most common in dogs. There are five common allergies which include flea allergy, inhalant/atopic allergies, food allergy, contact allergy (such as with shampoos or perfumes), and bacterial hypersensitivity. Allergens can be found in many forms, including pollen, animal dander, plants, insects, and molds. Atopic inhalant allergies are an overreaction to airborne allergens by the immune system. This overreaction can cause dogs to lick or scratch all over, but many dogs will focus mainly on the face, feet, groin and armpit area. As a result, secondary yeast and bacterial infections are common and they often lead to hair loss, odor, and further irritation of the skin. Multiple treatments are available for atopy which include Apoquel, corticosteroids, antihistamines, fatty acid supplements, and a new non-steroid monthly allergy injection called Cytopoint. There is also a veterinary dermatologist available upon referral at the Veterinary Emergency Referral Center in Pensacola that can offer specialized allergy testing and a treatment called immunotherapy. Please call or schedule an appointment for more information on how we can help your itchy pet.



## Slab Fractures

A slab fracture is when a tooth breaks vertically along the tooth. This occurs when an animal chews on hard objects such as bones, rocks, or hard toys. This kind of break occurs mostly in dogs as they tend to chew on these hard objects more than the typical cat would. The four canine teeth and the upper fourth premolars are the most common teeth to fracture in this manner. Slab fractures can be painful and problematic for dogs as the fracture can allow bacteria to cause an abscess or an infection of the gums around the tooth. Treatment for this type of fracture is extraction of the tooth and requires general anesthesia. Slab fractures can be difficult to find so your pet should have a dental examination by a veterinarian if any of the following symptoms are noted: firm swelling beneath the eye, reluctance to chew, red inflamed gums. Call us to schedule an exam today!



## Parvovirus

Canine parvovirus (“parvo”) is a deadly disease that affects puppies mainly between the ages of six weeks to six months. It is highly contagious from dog to dog and is typically transmitted through fecal-oral exposure. There are two forms of the disease; the intestinal, the most common, and cardiac. Dogs that contract parvo will characteristically all show the same symptoms, which include: fever, vomiting, diarrhea (often bloody), abdominal pain or discomfort, lethargy, and weight loss. Most dogs can survive infection with aggressive veterinary care and hospitalization; however, parvovirus can be fatal.

Parvovirus can be prevented through vaccinations. It is recommended that all puppies receive parvo boosters every 3 weeks until they are 15-16 weeks of age to ensure protection. Thereafter, dogs should be revaccinated on an annual basis. If a dog is showing any of the symptoms listed, an in-house parvovirus test can be performed at our office. Results of the parvo test are usually available within 10-15 minutes.



## Spays and Neuters

Spaying and neutering your pet can have many benefits including reducing the chances of your pet developing certain diseases and illnesses, reducing erratic behavior, saving on the cost of health care overall, and even help reduce the number of stray pets euthanized annually.

Several illnesses can occur more commonly in pets that have not been spayed or neutered. Females may develop mammary tumors and/or a pyometra, which is a potentially life threatening infection of the uterus. Males may develop testicular cancer, prostate cancer, prostatitis (inflammation of the prostate), or certain types of hernias. Some of these diseases or illnesses can be fatal and others may require costly surgery and medications. By spaying or neutering your pet, these risks can be minimized and in some cases, eliminated completely.

Spaying or neutering can also reduce erratic behavior that is sometimes seen in unaltered pets. Many pets will spray or mark, roam/runaway, bark excessively, show aggression, or mount when not spayed or neutered. Cats and male dogs are primarily known to spray or mark their territory, but female dogs can also demonstrate this behavior. All of these behaviors can be reduced and often prevented completely by spaying or neutering. However, the response in behavior change is affected by the amount of time unaltered. The longer a pet is unaltered, the more difficult it can become to change or resolve certain behaviors as the behaviors become habit.

For most cats and dogs, 4-6 months of age is the ideal time to spay or neuter in order to avoid the negative behaviors and medical risks associated with unaltered pets. However, it may be advisable to delay surgery in certain circumstances. Therefore, you should consult with your veterinarian to determine the best age to spay or neuter your pet.





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## Upcoming Events & Hours

April is Feline Wellness Month!

April 14<sup>th</sup>- Good Friday- We Will be OPEN!

May is Military Month- 10% off products and services for active/retired military with ID

May 29<sup>th</sup>- Closed Memorial Day

July 4<sup>th</sup>- Closed

