

“Pearls”
of
Veterinary Medicine



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Soy and hyperthyroidism

Soy can provide a highly digestible source of many essential amino acids in diets for cats or dogs. Soy does have a mild impact on thyroid hormones and can decrease absorption of iodine and contribute to a deficiency if dietary iodine is marginal. This is well-known in multiple species. However, there does not appear to be a clinically significant impact from commercial dry cat foods, with or without soy proteins, on feline hyperthyroidism. In fact, multiple studies have shown that consumption of dry food is **protective against feline hyperthyroidism**, compared to consumption of wet cat foods.

*Dorothy Laflamme, DVM, PhD, DACVIM et al.
JAVMA Jun 2022*

Importance of puppy socialization

Socialization must be a safe process. Puppies should not be taken to areas where unvaccinated dogs may congregate, such as dog parks. However, play time can be arranged with the dogs of friends and family members that are known to be well vaccinated. Puppy socialization classes can be invaluable because it is most beneficial for puppies to be allowed to interact with other dogs of their size and approximate age. A good class will require that all puppies have at least one vaccination, that puppies not be allowed to come to class showing any signs of illness, and the class location should have a substrate that is easily cleaned and sanitized. More dogs will end up euthanized in shelters due to unacceptable behavior than will die from contagious disease so there is absolutely **no**

excuse for telling clients to wait until their puppy has been completely vaccinated before beginning the socialization process. By then, it may be too late! At least one study has demonstrated no higher risk of disease in puppy's that attended puppy socialization classes. One study also demonstrated that most cases of parvo were seen in dogs that had not been properly vaccinated. In this population of dogs with parvo, none had become infected due to attending puppy class.

*Valarie V. Tynes, DVM, DACVB
Music City Vet Conf, 02:18*

Managing separation anxiety

It may be helpful to provide certain types of chew toys and activities to keep the pet occupied during the family's departure. The best toys are those that are highly stimulating and keep the pet's attention. Although many dogs will not chew their regular toys or eat when anxious or stressed, food-type chew toys (e.g., pig's ears, rawhide dipped in bouillon,) may be attractive. Tasty food treats, such as meat or cheese should be hidden inside toys and in packages that the dog must open, or hidden under bowls or boxes around the home in order to keep the pet busy. Reserving the dog's access to special treats to times when the family is absent may actually teach the dog to **look forward to the family leaving**. Leaving a radio or television on may help mask environmental noises that might enhance barking or destructive behaviors.

*Wayne Hunthausen, DVM
Fetch Kansas City 08:19*

Analgesia for spays

Dogs can be given preoperative hydromorphone (0.05-0.1 mg/kg, IM or IV) or methadone (0.1-0.25 mg/kg, IM or IV), as well as a preoperative incisional infiltration (i.e., line block; lidocaine 2%, 4-8 mg/kg, or bupivacaine 0.5%, 1-2 mg/kg). After the procedure, meloxicam (0.2 mg/kg, SC) can be administered. Cats can be given preoperative butorphanol (0.3- 0.4 mg/kg, IM; ideally followed by buprenorphine, 0.01-0.02 mg/kg, IV, during or after surgery due to the mild impact of butorphanol on pain) or methadone (0.1-0.25 mg/kg, IM or IV). A preoperative incisional infiltration (i.e., line block; lidocaine 2%, 2-4 mg/kg, or bupivacaine 0.5%, 1-2 mg/kg) can also be administered. Postoperatively, patients can be given robenacoxib (2 mg/kg SC).

*Kris Kruse-Elliott, DVM, PhD, DACVAA
Clinician's Brief, Jan/Feb 2022*