



# Pet Gazette

Spring

2013

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## Coral Feline Wellness Center

### At the Cat Nap Inn

Coral Veterinary Clinic is proud to announce the opening of Coral Feline Wellness Center at the Cat Nap Inn. We recently built a cats only exam room at the Cat Nap Inn. This building is directly across the parking lot from our main clinic, on the other side of the training field. The address is 9580 Cypress Lake Drive. The door to the left enters the lobby of the Cat Nap Inn, where we have offered full service cat boarding and grooming for many years.

Once you enter the lobby you will notice that it is a "Dog Free Zone." The exam room is directly to the right as you enter. This cats only lobby and exam room is quiet

and will provide a much more relaxing veterinary experience for our "scardey cats" and fearful feline friends. To further enhance the comfortable atmosphere we have Feline Facial Pheromone Diffusers (Feliway) plugged into several outlets in the exam room as well as the waiting room. This pheromone helps relax fearful or stressed cats.

If your cat is fearful or is stressed easily by barking dogs and the high activity level of our waiting room at the main clinic, then the Coral Feline Wellness Center will offer your kitty a more calming visit to the vet.

You can make an appointment for your feline

friend with the Veterinarian of your choice by calling our receptionist at the main clinic (239)481-4746. We will continue to treat all sick and hospitalized cats at the main clinic. Cats will also continue to go to the main clinic for surgical and dental procedures, and imaging procedures such as x-rays and ultrasound.

So when your feline needs its annual wellness exam or routine vaccines, call and schedule him/her a more peaceful and relaxing visit to the Coral Feline Wellness Center and offer your feline friend a more positive veterinary experience.

### Did you know:

- We now have a "Dog Free Zone", to make your stressed feline more relaxed during its visit!
- Coral Veterinary Clinic will soon be one of a very few Certified Feline Friendly Practices in Florida!!
- You can make an appointment at the new Coral Feline Wellness Center by calling (239) 481-4746!

For more information see our webpage:  
[www.coralvetclinic.com](http://www.coralvetclinic.com)



# Cats Need Vaccines, Too!

Many cat owners are under the mistaken belief that cats don't get sick as much as dogs, and the "indoor" cats don't need vaccines. Because of these misconceptions, we veterinarians see cats much less often than dogs. When we do see cats for a suspected illness, they are often much sicker than their owner realized. In many cases, the illness could have been detected months, if not years earlier with regular visits to the vet.

The cat vaccine misconception is often about what is considered an "indoor" cat. Cats that spend time in a ground-level screened patio or who go into the yard occasionally with their owners are not strictly "indoor" cats! Preventable diseases such as feline leukemia, feline immunodeficiency virus (feline AIDS or FIV), rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and pneumonitis (feline Chlamydia) can all be spread via respiratory secretions, sharing food and water bowls, and nose-to-nose contact. Respiratory secretions and nose-to-nose contact can occur with infected cats through screens. And of course, even indoor cats make the occasional escapes outdoors. Even two cats hissing through a screen can spread diseases.

Knowledge and research about vaccines are constantly evolving. With our increasing emphasis on feline health, Coral Veterinary Clinic is proud to announce the availability of two new feline vaccines. PureVax Feline Rabies vaccine is a new feline-only Rabies vaccine that uses recombinant DNA for increased safety. Some cats have a genetic predisposition for tumor for-

mation. While the risk for vaccine-associated tumor formation is low (less than 1 in 10,000 cats), it is believed that non-adjuvant vaccines make chances of tumor formation even lower. We still carry Imrab Rabies vaccine, since we use it for dogs and ferrets as well as cats, and it is licensed to be protective for 3 years. The drawback of the PureVax for cats vaccine is that it is only licensed for 1 year at this time, and is more expensive. Therefore the trade-off is increased safety with the PureVax versus lower cost and 3-year convenience of Imrab. Discuss the differences with your Veterinarian to make an educated decision for your cat.

Feline Leukemia Virus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) are both in the family of Retroviruses, as is human HIV virus. Both diseases have no cure, and are chronic, debilitating diseases for cats. An effective yearly vaccine for Feline Leukemia has been available for years, and its use has actually lowered the incidence of the disease. There has been an effective vaccine for FIV for several years, also. It has not been used by most veterinarians, because of one major problem. All of the readily available tests for FIV could not distinguish between a cat vaccinated for FIV and a cat infected with FIV. Think of the case of FIV vaccinated cat who escapes from the home, or it abandoned and ends up in a shelter or a vet clinic. The first thing that the shelter or clinic worker does is scan the cat for a microchip. If the cat has a microchip, the owner can usually

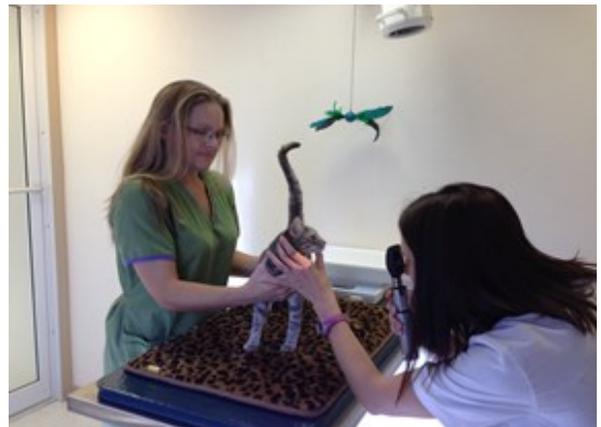
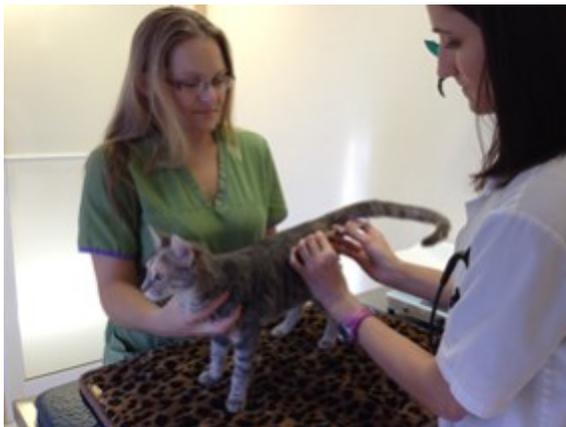
be found. If no microchip is found, then the cat is tested for LeLeuk and FIV. An FIV vaccinated cat will test positive for FIV, while the FeLeuk vaccinated cat will test negative for FeLeuk. This scenario, in the past, could lead to healthy, FIV vaccinated cats being euthanized.

A recently developed blood test at Auburn University Vet School can now distinguish between an FIV vaccinated cat and an FIV infected cat. Because of this test, veterinarians can be much more comfortable giving the FIV vaccine. This is very good news, because FIV has now become much more common in American cats than Feline Leukemia.

Boehringer Ingelheim has developed a combination Feline Retrovirus vaccine against both Feline Leukemia and FIV viruses. Coral Veterinary Clinic is recommending this vaccine annually with the following requirements. The cat must have a microchip, and it must be tested FeLeuk/FIV negative prior to giving the vaccine for the first time. The microchip would help protect the cat if it gets lost and ends up in a shelter or a vet clinic. Pre-testing before vaccination would detect those asymptomatic Feline Leukemia or FIV infected cats prior to vaccinating them. If the cat is FIV positive, we could then send out blood for the Auburn test to distinguish between an infected versus FIV vaccinated cat.

This is a complicated subject, and the vets here at Coral Veterinary Clinic are here to answer your questions about your cats' vaccines, and give you the most current recommendations. It's all part of our new emphasis on keeping

**Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is on the rise!!! Protect your feline companion today!!!**



# Doctors Corner

## Endoscopy

We are proud to say we now offer endoscopy to our clients and for our patients. What is endoscopy you ask? Literally it means looking inside. We prefer to explain it as looking inside the body with the use of an endoscope.

An endoscope allows for a less invasive way to look at things, retrieve biopsies, remove foreign bodies, and determine what may be a better approach to resolving an underlying problem.

The endoscope has a light source, a long flexible tube and a camera. The long flexible tube can be used to look down the esophagus, into the stomach and even into the first part of the small intestine. The alternative is going the other direction allowing us to look into the rectum and up into the colon. The long tube also has a channel that long slender instruments may be introduced so that we may be able to take biopsies or retrieve things from these small spaces.

The patient does need to be prepared for anesthesia as in other surgeries. Making sure they have been

fasted and are healthy enough otherwise to partake in the procedure. We may also use laxatives or enemas to empty the colon just as we would need to undergo as if you or I were having a colonoscopy.

Although it may be found that a conventional surgery is necessary to fully correct a problem some of the conventional surgeries may be prevented using the endoscope. With this as a possibility the patient only has to undergo the anesthesia and subsequent recovery may be a matter of minutes compared to two or more weeks where an incision is deemed necessary. This makes using the endoscope much less invasive and much less traumatic on the patient.

So next time your pet has gotten into or eaten something it shouldn't have or may have cancer ask your Veterinarian if the endoscope may be used to help in the process of getting your pet back to health.

Dr. Kirk Andazola

## Feline Heartworm Disease

Most people think of heartworm infection as a disease in dogs. But heartworm infection was first reported in cats more than 85 years ago. Recently Clinician's Brief Veterinary Journal reported a 20% prevalence of heartworm exposure in Florida in cats.

Heartworm disease is an infection caused by the parasite *Dirofilaria Immitis*. Transmission occurs when a mosquito bites a cat, thereby injecting infective heartworm larvae. The larvae travel into the chest and set up in the vessels of the lungs after 3 to 4 months. There they develop into mature male or female worms by 8 months post transmission. However, significant injury can result from the presence of both the larvae and adult heartworm. New worms and also dying worms can set up acute inflammation of the lungs and cause significant and permanent lung damage. This leads to the term "Heart Worm Associated

Respiratory Disease" (H.A.R.D.) Current heartworm tests may not detect the heartworm presence in early cases or if all the worms are male worms.

Some cats will present with sudden symptoms, such as collapse, labored breathing, vomiting, convulsions, blindness, or tragically, just sudden unexplained death. Other cats show chronic signs, such as, coughing, vomiting, lethargy, difficult breathing. We have seen cats suffer for years with H.A.R.D.

At Coral Veterinary Clinic, we strive to prevent heartworm infection in both outdoor and in-

55% of reported heartworm positive cats are "Strictly Indoors"!!!

door cats. We know mosquitos hitchhike on or around humans as they enter the home (even 3<sup>rd</sup> floor apartments and above!!) And we certainly do find cases of heartworm positive tests in our indoor patients. Meril labs reported that of the heartworm positive cats, 55% lives "strictly or mostly indoors." And if your cat is the one debilitated by H.A.R.D., it doesn't matter that heartworm disease is less prevalent in cats than in dogs.

### **DON'T TAKE THE CHANCE!**

Ask us about the safe products, Revolution or Heartgard for cats for your feline family friend.

Dr. Brenda Corbin



Hershey



Fort Myers Office  
9540 Cypress Lake Drive  
Fort Myers, Fl. 33919  
Phone: 239-481-4746  
Fax: 239-481-1060

Email: info @coralvetclinic.com

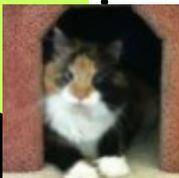


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## Did You Know?

### **Coral Veterinary Clinic Offers Dental Cleanings & Extractions**

The doctors and technicians can maintain your pets' oral health from routine prophylaxis to more complicated fillings and extractions, along with digital dental radiography. Call today and schedule a dental cleaning!

**Take a bite out of dental disease!**



**Seasonal  
Tip**

**Backyard Safety**

Many people spend extra time sprucing up their lawns and gardens during spring and summer. Remember, most plant food, fertilizers, and pesticides are harmful to your pet! Keep cats and dogs away from all lawn care products!