

PET TRIVIA

A cat can be either left-pawed or right-pawed.

- A. true
- B. false

What percentage of owners have more pictures of their pet than their significant other?

- A. 50%
- B. 39%
- C. 27%

How many bones does a cat have in its body?

- A. 206
- B. 230
- C. 325

What is the name of the dog on the Cracker Jack box?

- A. Bingo
- B. Millie
- C. Scrappy

Answers on page 4...

Notes from Dr. Ed

Dear BAC Client,

This past year has seen a lot of changes for our clinic and for Summit County. You may have noticed that the continuing clinic expansion and remodel is finally finished and the benefits were truly worth the wait.

We have expanded our total space by over 50% and an enlarged surgery room contributes to improved efficiencies and productivity during surgery. The remodeled waiting room, increased number of kennels, and specialty dentistry room all serve our goal of increasing client satisfaction and quality of patient treatment. We are excited to announce a date for our fall Open House: October 14 from 5:00

- 7:00 pm. We invite you to stop by and take a tour of the new facilities to see firsthand our improvements.

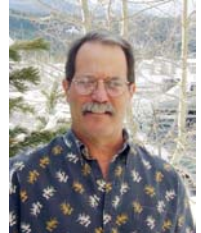
The challenges of the past year's economic situation are not lost on us here at the BAC. We understand that it is increasingly difficult for many of our clients to continue to afford the quality care their animals need. We recognize this challenge for our clients and thank you each of you for your continued support of the BAC. We hope that the article here about pet insurance provides valuable information on affordable alternatives for pet care.

After several years of consistent staffing we have lost several staff members to school and personal moves. We wish them the best of luck in their

future adventures. As a result we will be hiring several new staff members in the coming weeks, so we encourage you to stop by the Open House and get to know the new faces at the BAC.

We wish you all a safe and productive late summer and fall season.

*Dr. Edmund Hastain
Owner, BAC*



Pet Insurance—Benefits & Risks

Although a standard in the human health industry, pet health insurance is a relatively new idea that is gaining traction in the veterinary community.

Similar to your personal health insurance, pet insurance provides protection for your animal during routine veterinary visits or during a major illness, surgery or emergency.

The most importance difference to note with pet insurance is that all payments work on a reimbursement program. You will still be required to pay your normal vet bill, which you will then submit to the insurance company for reimbursement.

Different plans provide different levels of coverage, with differing co-payments, deductibles and restrictions. Many plans allow you to choose the veterinarian of your choice.

Plan cost ranges from approximately \$5.00 a month to upwards of \$80.00 a month depending on scope of coverage. Plans are available for dogs, cats, birds and exotics.

Some common misconceptions about pet health insurance are that it is more expensive than human health insurance, that you should wait until your pet is older or has health issues before buying or that pet insurance is only for cats and dogs. In reality, pet health insurance can be very affordable and a useful resource to ally the sometimes costly pet medical bills.

Some good questions to ask when you're evaluating a pet insurance company:

- ♦Does the company have stability and proven success?
- ♦Are you offered policies with clear renewable terms?

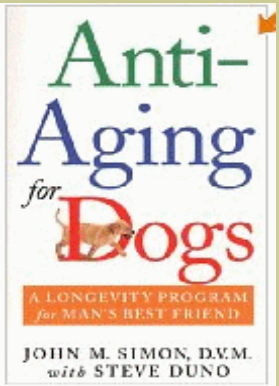
- ♦Do you understand how reimbursements are determined?
- ♦Does the company believe in routine care for your pet?

Some useful resources for pet health insurance include:

- PetInsuranceReview.com
- PetInsurance.com
- ASPCAinsurance.com
- GoPetPlan.com
- PetCareInsurance.com
- PetsBest.com

Review the sample chart below to compare plans and benefits from some popular providers...

Good Reads:
Anti-Aging For Dogs
A Longevity Program for Man's Best Friend



by John M. Simon, DVM

(Pet Insurance cont...) **Rate & Benefit Comparison Chart**

Insurer	Plan	Monthly rate	Features	User Rating
Pets Best	Accident B	\$5.75	\$200 deductible. Cover accidents to 80%. No illness coverage	7.58
Pet Plan	Bronze	\$7.70+	Covers all accidents, injuries & illnesses inc. hereditary conditions for the life of the pet. \$200 deductible, 80% claims reimbursement (100% reimb available for additional premium).	9.39
Pet Plan	Silver	\$8.62+	Covers all accidents, injuries & illnesses inc. hereditary conditions for the life of the pet. \$200 deductible, 80% claims reimbursement (100% reimb available for additional premium).	9.39
Hartville	Accident Only	\$8.99	\$100 deductible. Covers accidents to 80%. No illness coverage. All breeds eligible!	5.77
Pets Best	Accident A	\$9.92	\$75 deductible. Cover accidents to 80%. No illness coverage	7.58
Pet Plan	Gold	\$9.63+	Covers all accidents, injuries & illnesses inc. hereditary conditions for the life of the pet. \$200 deductible, 80% claims reimbursement (100% reimb available for additional premium).	9.39
Pethealth	Accident Only	\$9.95	\$50 deductible; Up to \$2000 for selected accidents. No illness coverage	3.94
VPI	Standard	\$13+	\$50 deductible. Pays 90% of approved claim per Standard benefit schedule.	4.89
Pet Assure		\$13.95	Not insurance, but a membership plan where participating veterinarians & animal hospitals offer 25% discount to members	7.75
Embrace	Budget Conscious	\$14.99+	\$500 annual deductible, 20% coinsurance, \$5,000 annual maximum, no per incidence limits. Does not cover prescription drugs, dental illness, or wellness. Does cover accidents & illnesses, genetic & chronic conditions	9.11
PetFirst	Core Basic	\$24.95	\$50 deductible for accidents and illnesses. Covers accidents and illnesses to \$7,000; advertising & reward to \$250; Kennel fees to \$250;	8.71
Hartville	Basic	\$16.61	Covers accidents and illnesses; spaying and neutering; free lost pet recovery tag.	5.77
Trupanion	Standard	\$16.77+	All policies pay 90% of your actual veterinary bill for any accident or illness, including hereditary and congenital conditions. Deductibles and premiums are adjustable to meet the pet owner's needs and affordability.	8.65
VetInsuranceUS	Standard	\$17.63+	All policies pay 90% of your actual veterinary bill for accidents or illnesses. Deductibles and premiums are adjustable to meet the pet owner's needs and affordability.	8.65
Pets Best	Basic	\$20.75	\$200 deductible. Cover accidents and illnesses to 80% Optional wellness coverage for additional fee.	7.58
VPI	Superior	\$21+	\$50 deductible. Pays 90% of approved claim per Superior benefit schedule. Additional cancer protection available.	4.89

Data courtesy of www.petinsurancereview.com. The BAC does not endorse any pet insurance brand.

CANINE INFLUENZA—Frequently Asked Questions

What is canine influenza?

Canine influenza is a highly contagious respiratory infection of dogs that is caused by a virus. The canine influenza virus is closely related to the virus that causes equine influenza and it is thought that the equine influenza virus mutated to produce the canine influenza virus. Symptoms of canine influenza mimic kennel cough but are generally more severe.

Do dogs die from canine influenza?

Fatal cases of pneumonia resulting from infection with canine influenza virus have been reported in dogs, but the fatality rate (5% to 8%) has been low so far.

How widespread is the disease?

The first recognized outbreak of canine influenza in the world is believed to have occurred in racing greyhounds in January 2004 at a track in Florida. From June to August of 2004, outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported at 14 tracks in 6 states. Between January and May of 2005, outbreaks occurred at 20 tracks in 11 states (AZ, AR, CO, FL, IA, KS, MA, RI, TX, WV, and WI). Infection has also been confirmed in pet dogs in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington State, and Washington, DC. There has been one known outbreak in Summit County.

How is a dog with canine influenza treated?

As with any disease caused by a virus, treatment is largely supportive. Good animal care practices and nutrition assist dogs in mounting an effective immune response. In the milder form of the disease, a thick green nasal discharge, which most likely represents a secondary bacterial infection, usually resolves quickly after treatment with a broad-spectrum bactericidal antimicrobial. In the more severe form of the disease, pneumonia is thought to often be caused by bacterial infection, and responds best to hydration (sometimes via intravenous administration of fluids) and a broad-spectrum bactericidal antimicrobial.

Is there a vaccine available?

Yes, there is a vaccine for canine influenza. We recommend the vaccine for animals that are frequently kennelled or at high risk for exposure. Ask about vaccine options at your next appointment.

PETS OF THE MONTH

JULY: LuLu BAC Office Cat



AUGUST: Captain Ed Hastain



SEPTEMBER: Frankie Annie Turri



Visit the BAC online to submit YOUR pet to be the next PET OF THE MONTH!

BreckenridgeAnimalClinic.com

SUMMIT COUNTY EMERGENCY GROUP: Serving Summit County's Pets After Hours

As many pet owners soon find out, pet emergencies are not always easily scheduled during standard office hours. The Summit County Emergency Group is a local co-op group consisting of all four of Summit County's local veterinarian practices who have established an after-hours on-call schedule to serve Summit County pet emergencies. This allows consistent emergency coverage in the area while allowing the veterinarians flexibility of schedule and some time away from the on-call phone. If you have an after-hours emergency, please call our standard office number at 970.453.0821. Your call will automatically be transferred to the veterinarian on-call for that day.

HEALTH WATCH

THE AGING DOG...

Like people, dogs are individual in the way they age. Certain breeds, mixed breeds, and, in general, smaller dogs tend to live longer. A small dog of less than 20 pounds might not seem to show any signs of age until she is 12 or so. A 50-pound dog won't seem old until about 10. Larger dogs begin to show their age at 8 or 9.

With the right care, it's not uncommon for dogs to live to 14 or 15 these days. Using established guidelines to determine when your dog might qualify as a senior will help you to understand changes in behavior or to anticipate a change in health status. On the basis of your knowledge, you will be better able to identify and approach health problems at an early stage, when they may be more easily treated.

Tufts University published the following guidelines for defining a senior dog: "The point at which a dog qualifies as 'aged' varies. Veterinarians generally consider small dogs to be senior citizens at about 12 years of age, while large dogs reach the senior stage at 6 to 8 years of age. This roughly corresponds to the 55-plus category in people."

One of the first signs of aging

is slowing down. It will take your dog longer to get up and get started from a lying position, longer to climb stairs (one at a time, rather than two). Some of these changes are natural, but it is important not to overlook changes that may be symptoms of a condition needing treatment.

Never assume that a change in behavior or habits is simply due to old age; it may be due to a treatable condition. An excellent example is that cited by Dr.

Robin Downing, DVM, who reports: "Molly wasn't leaping on and off the beds anymore, and she didn't want to go for long walks. Her family was worried that this dog had just suddenly succumbed to old age, but when I did a geriatric workup on her, we discovered Molly had a thyroid condition and arthritic back pain.

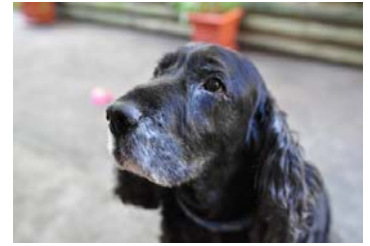
A maintenance prescription of thyroid replacement hormone, pain and anti-inflammatory medication and Molly was back in business. In fact, three years later, her owners tell me Molly is more active than she's been in years!"

Diseases occur in older dogs that are not usually seen in young dogs, such as arthritis, diabetes, Cushing's disease, cancer, and liver diseases. Blood tests done

by a veterinarian will screen for many of these diseases, which is the reason that your veterinarian will do such tests during an annual visit. However, you can also be instrumental in keeping your older dog healthy by:

- ♦ keeping his weight down (through good nutrition and regular exercise).
- ♦ keeping his teeth clean (next to obesity, periodontal disease is the one most commonly seen in the vet's office).
- ♦ getting him to the vet for regular check-ups.
- ♦ being observant about symptoms that might indicate a health problem and getting prompt and appropriate veterinary attention.

Other factors that influence your older dog's aging process and that may determine the age-related problems she may eventually have are:



- ♦ Genetic Background—Some breeds are known to have specific health problems. Golden Retrievers and large breeds, for example, are known to develop arthritis in back and hips as they age.
- ♦ Nutrition—Good nutrition will retard the aging process.
- ♦ Illnesses & Disease—A serious illness or disease can shorten a dog's life.

A Dog's Age in Human Years

Age	Up to 20 lbs	21-50 lbs	51-90 lbs	Over 90 lbs
5	36	37	40	42
6	40	42	45	49
7	44	47	50	56
8	48	51	55	64
9	52	56	61	71
10	56	60	66	78
11	60	65	72	86
12	64	69	77	93
13	68	74	82	101
14	72	78	88	108
15	76	83	93	115
16	80	87	99	123
17	84	92	104	Red numbers = senior Blue numbers = geriatric
18	88	96	109	
19	92	101	115	

Recommendations for Veterinary Attention for an Aging Dog

At the BAC, we recommend that you begin a geriatric screening for your dog at an appropriate age. This is related to your dog's size as follows:

Up to 15 lbs: Begin screening at 11 years

16-20 lbs: Begin screening at 9 years

51-80 lbs: Begin screening at 8 years

Over 80 lbs: Begin screening at 6 years

In general, a geriatric screening of your dog will include: (1) a thorough, hands-on physical exam; (2) blood tests; (3) possibly an electrocardiogram; (4) ultrasound or x-rays.

BAC Open House!

Explore our remodel & expansion.

*You are cordially invited to visit the
Breckenridge Animal Clinic on*

October 14, 2008

5:00 — 7:00 pm.

*Tour our new facilities
and meet and greet the staff.*

***Please RSVP to
info@breckenridgeanimalclinic.com
Pets Welcome!***

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: **Reiko Kemp, Office Manager**

If you've been coming to the BAC for any length of time, then you've certainly met our Client Administrator and Office Manager, Reiko Kemp. Reiko has been at the BAC since 2000 and is an integral part of everyday operations at the clinic. Her primary responsibilities include checking patients in and out, scheduling, billing and managing the front office.



Reiko and husband

Reiko was born and raised in Eugene, Oregon and holds a BA in Psychology with certificates in Drug & Alcohol Education and AIDS Education from the University of Oregon. As expected, she is an obsessed U of O Ducks fan.

Reiko moved to Breckenridge in late 1995, where she met her husband Fred. They now live in Placer Valley with their two boxers Mosely and Fisher, cats Ozzie and Brodhi and an aquarium full of fish. Reiko lives for gardening, cooking, music, books and has recently developed quite an obsession with tattoos.

Pet trivia answers: 1: A, 2: B, 3: B, 4: A

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