

# Capitol Illini Newsletter

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## Gastric Dilation & Volvulus: Warning Signs, Treatment and Prevention

Gastric dilation and volvulus (GDV), or more commonly known as bloat, is an acute life threatening situation. This condition is characterized by gastric dilation (expanding of the stomach) and gastric volvulus (twisting of the stomach without expansion). Both of these can happen on their own, but when they occur simultaneously, this disease can have a fatal outcome. What happens is the stomach fills with air and can rotate causing constriction of blood vessels and blood flow to many parts of the upper gastrointestinal tract and the spleen. GDV typically affects deep chested and/or giant breed dogs. There are several breeds "at risk" for developing GDV, which include German Shepherds, Irish Setters, Weimaraners, Standard Poodles, Dobermans, Bloodhounds, Rottweilers and Great Danes. Danes have a life-time risk approaching 40%, or 1 in 3 Great Danes will develop GDV!

When at home watch for these signs of GDV: vomiting multiple times or retching after eating, discomfort, restlessness, distended and/or painful to the touch abdomen. *This is an emergency situation and you should contact your veterinarian immediately!*

**Surgery and Prevention:** After stabilizing the patient the next step is surgery that will reposition the stomach and attach the stomach to the abdominal walls. This procedure may also require attention to the spleen, stomach and other organs that could have been permanently damaged by loss of blood supply. The preventative surgery is called prophylactic gastropexy and should be considered by owners of giant breed dogs.

Additional means of preventing bloat and GDV are to ask the breeder if bloat or GDV have been diagnosed in sire and dam or their litters. Feed good, name brand, highly digestible dog foods and do not feed before or after exercise, even if just running around in the back yard!

(The NAVTA Journal, Summer 2009)



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## Mentorship : Invaluable to our practice and recent graduates

As it comes time to graduate from vet tech or veterinary schools, it also becomes time to take the skills learned in the classroom and start performing them in the job setting. This may be a tough task for some however, the change can be made easier by participating in a mentorship program at a veterinary clinic prior to graduation. Capitol Illini has helped many new graduates begin their journey; doctors here are open to offering their time and experience to students. Mentorship helps you improve communication skills, learn to trust your team members around you and to gain experience in veterinary skills. It also helps new graduates adapt to how veterinary hospitals operate on a daily basis.

Listed below are just a few key things that are obtained during mentorship

#### Helps the Mentor:

Recruit new employees  
Learn the most current medicine from recently qualified colleagues

#### Helps the Mentored:

Gain knowledge from a practiced veterinarian  
Begin to think and manage independently

(Trends Magazine, 2/09)

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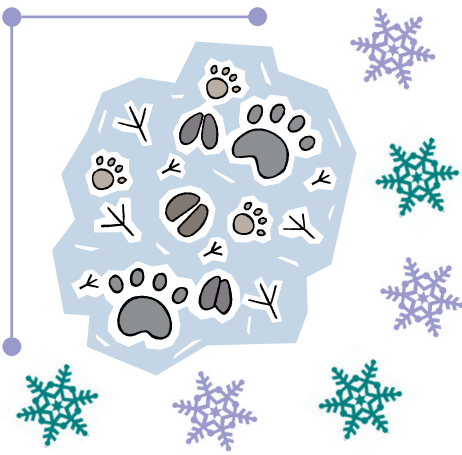
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## Close to Home: “Jordan” Smith—Fracture Repair

***Orthopedic  
Surgeons  
Rock!***

### Must have items:

#### Prepare your own Emergency Kit

It is no secret that our pets go everywhere with us these day, they are part of the family. No one wants to think of something happening to their pet, but is better to be prepared now than sorry later for not being able to help!

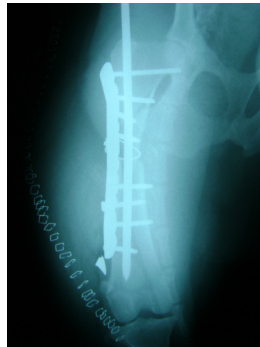
Here is a list of supplies that should be part of every emergency kit for our furry friends: sterile gauze or cotton balls, 3 days extra medications if pet is on any long term medications, mild anti-bacterial soap, Benadryl tablets, bandage scissors, bandage supplies to stop bleeding, sharp scissors, alcohol swabs, adhesive tape, thermometer, lubricating jelly, forceps/tweezers, razor blade, hydrogen peroxide, eye wash, large towel, extra leash, muzzle, and most importantly food and fresh water with a bowl to drink out of.

Don't forget to have everything written down in case you are unable to help. Someone else who can help needs to know all the information. Always carry a paper with information about your pet and their veterinary office. These important papers should include: Pet's name and medical history, owner's emergency information, veterinary information (name, location, phone number) and should also include phone numbers for local/nation poison control.

(CIVS CVTs 10/09)

Dr. Wright handles all the orthopedic cases at Capitol Illini. He does on average about 4-5 orthopedic surgeries a week. This is just one of the many that he has done to help save someone's beloved pet. This is the story of “Jordan” Smith (an 8 year old chow mix), who came to us as a referral that had been shot and the leg bone was fractured. Jordan's owners do not know how this happened, he came home limping. After the exam by Dr. Wright, Jordan's owners elected to do the surgery that would repair the right rear femur.

Jordan's surgery was about 2 hours long during which Dr. Wright placed 1 plate, 8 screws, 1 pin, an 18 gauge wire, and a



Above: Jordan's right rear femur after the surgery performed by Dr. Wright.

bone graft. Jordan was given a guarded prognosis due to the fact that the bullet could have caused nerve damage and/or possibility of getting infection into the bone.

After surgery Jordan had issues with defecating, which could be attributed to the medications he was on, and the fact that he could not get into his normal squatting position. However he had a good appetite and soon started to use the leg. About 1 month after the surgery, we saw Jordan for the pin removal. He is back to his energetic self, running around, and enjoying life!

(Dr. Wright's history notes 2009)

*“Our task must be to free ourselves.. By widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures & the whole of nature & its beauty.”*

—Albert Einstein  
(Physicist, Nobel 1921)

## Fun Facts: What our pets eat is really equal to this...

- 1 oatmeal cookie for a 20 pound dog = the same caloric equivalent as 1 hamburger or 1 entire chocolate bar for a person.
- 1 ounce of cheddar cheese for a 10 pound cat = the same as 3 1/2 hamburgers or 4 whole chocolate bars for a person.
- 1 hot dog for a 20 pound dog = the same as if a person ate 3 entire hamburgers or 2 whole chocolate bars.
- 1 potato chip for a 10 pound cat = 1/2 of a hamburger or 1/2 of a chocolate bar for a person.
- 1 ounce of cheddar cheese for a 20 pound dog = the same amount of calories as 2 1/2 hamburgers or 1 1/2 chocolate bars for a person.
- 1 cup of milk for a 10 pound cat = 4 1/2 hamburgers or 5 chocolate bars for a person.

(Provided by Hill's Pet Nutrition)



## Did you know we see exotics?

Dr. Armour is a member of The Association of Avian Veterinarians, The Association of Reptilian & Amphibian Veterinarians and The Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians.



## Toxin Product: Top 10 in Dogs & Cats

As we all know toxins are found everywhere; some are outside, but most believe it or not are found within our homes. According to ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) the list below contains the top 10 toxins for dogs and cat, with these toxins being on the list for more than 4 years in a row.

For Dogs:

1. Antifreeze
2. Ibuprofen
3. Chocolate
4. Ant/Roach baits
5. Rodenticides
6. Acetaminophen
7. Pseudo ephedrine- containing cold medications
8. Thyroid hormones
9. Bleach
10. Fertilizer

For Cats:

1. Canine permethrin insecticides
2. Other topical insecticides
3. Venlafaxine
4. Glow jewelry and sticks
5. Lilies
6. Liquid potpourri
7. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
8. Acetaminophen
9. Anticoagulant rodenticides
10. Amphetamines

If you have any of these products within your pets direct area, please make sure that lids are on tight, be aware of this and please just know what damage they can do to our loved companions. Most importantly if you suspect your pet got into any of these items, please call your vet of- fice in a timely manner, they will go from there.

(Veterinary Medicine, 3/2006)



## AAHA: Accredited veterinary teaching hospitals setting the standard



American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) would like to recognize many accredited veterinary teaching hospitals that are helping to set the standards of how facilities should operate.

There are 25 accredited veterinary teaching hospitals, 8 of which are found in the Midwest. These 8 accredited veterinary teaching hospitals (VTH) include: University of Illinois, Iowa State University, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, University of Missouri, The Ohio State University, Purdue University, and University of Wisconsin.

AAHA would like to congratulate and thank all 25 veterinary teaching hospitals for being accredited and with that they are exposing the students to the high level of expectations and highly qualified standards. It is proven that this helps to fully prepare the student to for the future that awaits them.

—J. Charlie Deutsch, AAHA student chapter president of the recently re-accredited University of Illinois.

(Trends Magazine, 02/2009)



*“Personally, I have always felt the best doctor in the world is the veterinarian. He can’t just ask his patient what is the matter— he’s got to just know.” -Will Rogers (1974)*



### Staff Member Corner

Meet Dorothy Wartenbe, one of our Certified Veterinary Technicians. Dorothy developed a relationship with the staff at Capitol Illini through a summer internship and then began to focus on becoming part of our team. She officially became part of the team member in July of 2008.

She works at our facility in Chatham. Dorothy shares her home with many furry little friends including her cat, Jewel and two rats, Missie and Blondie. Her most recent addition is Jaxon, her golden retriever puppy, whom she is training herself; he is doing great! In her free time she enjoys spending quality time with family and friends and enjoying time with their pets!

