



# SUMMER



Gwinnett Animal Hospital  
NEWSLETTER 2016



## ANXIETY in dogs

Anxiety is “the anticipation of future dangers from unknown or imagined origins that result in normal body reactions associated with fear”. The most common visible behaviors are elimination (i.e., urination and/or bowel movements), destruction, and excessive vocalization (i.e., barking, crying).

There are many situations that may cause anxiety in dogs. A few common examples include loud noises, new places or people, and being left alone.

Most phobias and anxieties develop at the onset of social maturity, from 12 to 36 months of age. Old-age-onset separation anxiety may be a result of declining mental capacity or memory in elderly dogs.

The condition can range from mild (i.e. trembling) to moderate (i.e. salivating, voiding), to severe (i.e. panic to the point of physical harm).

There are many effective treatment options to help relieve your pet’s anxious feelings including conditioning, body wrapping, herbs, and medication.

If you feel that the above symptoms describe your dog, please schedule an appointment with one of our doctors to get you pet the help s/he needs.

## Feline Hyperthyroidism



Feline hyperthyroidism is a common disorder in cats resulting from excessive thyroid hormone. The disease occurs in middle-age to older cats (usually > 10 years) without sex or breed predilection.

- **Symptoms:** weight loss is the most common indicator of an overactive thyroid. Other signs may include poor hair coat, rapid heart rate, voracious appetite or thirst, anxiety or nervousness, diarrhea or vomiting, and vocalizing.
- **Diagnosis:** The condition is easily diagnosed on physical exam and by testing for excessive levels of thyroid hormone in the blood.
- **Treatment:** The three common options include anti-thyroid medication, surgery, and radioiodine therapy.
- **Prognosis:** Generally good. Cats with severe disease involving many organ systems may be more complicated, however most cats respond well to treatment.

### “Dog Day Afternoon” pupcakes

- ♥ 4 cups dry dog food
- ♥ 1 cup wet dog food
- ♥ 1 cup mashed sweet potato
- ♥ 1 cup mashed ripe banana
- ♥ 1/3 cup rice syrup
- ♥ 1/3 cup canola oil
- ♥ 1 apple, finely chopped



- 1) Preheat oven to 350°F
- 2) Mix all ingredients except apple (add water if mix is too dry)
- 3) Stir in apple
- 4) Fill baking cups in muffin tins
- 5) Bake for 15-20 min. (until toothpick in center comes out clean)
- 6) Remove and allow to cool

Remember:

It's never too early to make your pet's boarding reservations!



Meet a GAH team member:

VALERIE!

Val is originally from San Antonio Texas, and now lives with her family in Loganville. Val graduated from Ashworth College, and aspires to become a physical therapist. She joined our kennel staff in 2014, and entertains your pets in our kennel by singing Disney songs. When not taking tons of photographs of her dog, two cats, and leopard gecko, she enjoys reading, crafts, and gaming.



## ALLERGIES!

Summer can be a miserable time for allergies—both for humans and their animal friends alike.

Unlike people who sneeze and have itchy eyes, animals tend to show their seasonal allergies in their skin, feet, and ears. Animals can be allergic to most of the same allergens as humans: grass, pollen, dust, and bugs like fleas and mosquitoes.

Common symptoms of allergies include licking or chewing the feet, rubbing or shaking the ears, or itching all over. Without appropriate treatment, this can lead to painful skin irritation and skin and/or ear infections.

There are many different ways to combat your pets discomfort, including antihistamines, supplements, medicated shampoos, prescription medications, and allergy shots.



*Friends don't let friends itch!  
Ask for some relief today!*

