



# PVPC Newsletter

Winter 2025 Issue

*Highway 50 Christmas  
Tree Alert!  
If you haven't already,  
go check out our candy  
cane tree before it's too  
late!*



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## Pancreatitis

As the holidays roll in everyone settles into holly jolly moods while hustling around to prepare for gatherings with loved ones. Then usually right when the hustle is beginning to feel endless, pets in the family will break out with upset tummies. Vomiting, diarrhea, decreased appetites, lethargy... The whole shebang! Why is it that both dogs and cats suddenly get uncontrollable diarrhea and vomiting during the holidays? Well, one of the most common answers to that question is a bad case of pancreatitis.

For those who do not know, pancreatitis is the inflammation of the pancreas. This condition can be very mild which often means there is higher chance of recovery. However, the worst case scenario of pancreatitis can be life-threatening which can have a guarded prognosis especially if untreated. Regardless of the severity of the pancreatitis, it can be very uncomfortable due to abdominal pain in both cats and dogs causing them to become very quiet and have low energy. In addition to abdominal discomfort and lethargy, common symptoms of pancreatitis include fevers, vomiting, diarrhea, and decreased appetite. Profuse vomiting and diarrhea as well as inappetence can lead a patient to be dehydrated. In severe cases, the abdomen may appear distended due to the intestinal tract being so irritated. The causes of pancreatitis in a cat and dog can be for many reasons including obesity, inherited genetics, certain medical conditions, and even some medications. The most





common reasons for pancreatitis in pets during the holidays is because of dietary indiscretion. During the holiday season, it's all too easy for pet owners to want to share all of the comfort foods and treats with their pets. While this may not seem like such a big deal at the time, even the smallest amount of human food can cause severe stomach upset.

The treatment for pancreatitis can vary depending on the severity and typically needs to be diagnosed with bloodwork and abdominal imaging. So, the first recommended step is to schedule an appointment with your veterinarian if any of the above symptoms are displayed by your pet. In mild cases of pancreatitis, patients will often be prescribed oral anti-nausea medication, antacids, a bland diet, and medication to help firm up any loose stool. In severe cases of pancreatitis, the treatment plan typically includes hospitalization with intravenous fluid therapy as well as injectable forms of anti-nausea medication and antacids.

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## New Year, New Hours!!

Join us as we ring in the new year with new office hours! As of January 3, 2026 we will be open on Saturdays from 8am until 5pm.


We hope this takes some of the weekday pressure off of those pet owners who are unable to make it in between work and/or school hours. Please give our office a call to schedule your appointment today!

## Rabies!



Let's talk rabies! When we think rabies, we think Cujo and although Stephen King dramatized the disease for entertainment purposes, rabies is certainly something to be fearful of. Fortunately for us, rabies is not something we see every day at PVPC; however, with the wildlife in our town the disease is certainly present in El Dorado County.

For those who do not know, rabies is a fatal viral disease that affects the central nervous system. It is most commonly transmitted through the bite of an infected animal, but can also be transmitted by coming in contact with the saliva and brain tissue of an infected animal. Unfortunately, rabies can only be diagnosed by testing



the infected brain tissue of a deceased animal or human.

The symptoms of rabies in our pets often start with changes in their personality and/or behavior. These changes often involve a normally friendly pet becoming aggressive or a quiet, shy pet suddenly becoming outgoing. Next after behavior changes, a pet with rabies will develop neurological symptoms and other physical symptoms. These neurological signs generally include uncoordinated walking and seizures while other physical signs will include fevers and lethargy as well as excess drooling and difficulty swallowing. Being that encountering rabies is not an every day occurrence here, the risk of exposure becomes out of sight, out mind for many of us. The fact of the matter is the wildlife that live in our hometown places all pets at risk of exposure to this deadly disease. This is especially true for pets who live outside only or live part time outdoors. "Barn" cats and active guardian dogs frequently come in contact with wild life which then transfers exposure risk to humans. Unfortunately, exposure to rabies is inevitable while living in rural parts of the world, but that doesn't mean reducing the spread is impossible. The most effective way to reduce the risk of spreading the rabies virus is to keep all pets current on their rabies vaccinations. For some, this can seem like a hassle to keep up current vaccines on pets due to the inconvenience of having to drag them to the vet. We in veterinary medicine totally understand that especially for

outdoor pets and even cats that get scared easily; however, we promise the vaccines are necessary for the wellbeing of your pets and yourselves. If you are ever concerned about vaccinating your pets with a rabies vaccine or unsure if you should give your pets a rabies vaccine then it is always highly recommended that you consult with your regular veterinary office. A staff member can offer education regarding the risk of rabies exposure as well as advise you in what the right decision is for the health of your pet.



As we close on yet another year, our PVPC family would like to extend our gratitude to our community for your continued trust and dedication to our hospital. We would not be what we are today without the support of all of our beloved clients. We look forward to the many years ahead as we continue to grow, but for now here's to the upcoming new year!



## Welcome to the Family!

As we close out the Winter edition of the PVPC newsletter, we'd like to take a moment to welcome a brand new face to our PVPC team.



Joanna has only been with us since October 2025, but her quiet demeanor has been the perfect fit for our team. Although she is young, our practice is not her first time in veterinary medicine. Joanna enrolled herself into a veterinary technician program through Carrington College and while enrolled in the program, she received her initial training there then graduated in 2021. Since then, Joanna has work experience as a CSR as well as assisting for about the last five years. This long term experience makes her a great asset for our team!

Joanna grew up in Sacramento, but has lived in El Dorado County for the last three years. When not at work, Joanna loves to hike with her two crazy Dobermans.

For the time being, you will see Joanna most at the front desk so we encourage everyone to give her a warm welcome as you come in.

## Noodle's Notes



Hello all! As we close this season's newsletter I just want to remind everyone that Valentine's Day chocolates are not pet friendly and they should never be shared with your furry friends. Some of those goodies out there can actually be toxic and cause some major stomach upset in pets. If you think your pet has dabbled in any V-Day treats always make sure you call my peeps to get professional medical advice. They know the right steps to take and they will gladly guide you through them.

Anywho, be safe everyone! Toodles for now!

## Dental Month

Don't forget that February is dental month! PVPC will be offering a dental special discount on ALL dental procedures for the entire month of February. This discount will be catered to individual patient needs. Hopefully this will help those who have preexisting dental health concerns as well as help those preventing dental problems in the future. Please call our office so we can assist you in getting your pet on the schedule for a pre-anesthetic appointment!



BE  
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VALENTINE:  
→ eyes on