

## FOXTAIL INFORMATION SHEET



### **PAWS**

Symptoms:

Limping,  
Painful paws  
Licking feet  
Swelling between toes,  
Often the areas have an open draining wound (referred to as drainage tracks),  
Check for swelling and redness between the toes and between the pads on the bottom of the feet

What to do:

Come in for an exam, possible drop off if ok'd by a doctor, or possible surgery schedule for the next day

No appts:

Clip the area with clippers, not scissors, to allow air to the area  
Soak the paw in warm water and Epsom salts to try to draw out the foxtail (FT)  
Schedule for the next day preferably a morning appt  
Emergency Clinic

### **EARS**

Symptoms:

Scratching at ears  
Head tilt  
Ears seem painful when rubbed

Can occur while treating ears for another problem: ears become painful when applying medication or cleaning  
Shaking head or rubbing face on the floor  
Odor or discharge from ears

What to do: Come in for an exam

Do not clean out or apply medications – may push FT down farther

No appts: Check with doctor  
Emergency Clinic

Not removing: Can cause severe ear infections

Possible aural hematoma from shaking head

Possible puncture of the ear drum which can lead to permanent hearing loss and possible permanent inner ear disease (head tilt)

## **NOSE**

- Symptoms: Big snorts and sneezes  
Often the owner sees the pets snort up the FT  
Nose Bleeds  
Rubbing paws at face or nose  
Shaking head  
Occasionally the pet will sneezing the FT out  
They can also slide down the back of the throat and be either lodged or swallowed
- What to do: Come in for an exam  
Most likely will need an anesthetic  
If the nose is bleeding: apply an ice pack and pressure to stop the bleeding- sometimes ice and pressure will not stop the bleeding, bring in pet – do not put anything in the nose
- No appts: Check with doctor about dropping off for an exam and possible sedation  
Emergency Clinic

## **THROAT**

- Symptoms: Often happens to pets that eat grass  
Snorting/ Reverse sneezing if in tonsil region  
Coughing with a big gagging noise (try to rule out kennel cough)  
Coughing often followed by vomiting
- What to do: Come in for an exam  
Most likely will need anesthetic
- No appts: Check with doctor about a fit in or drop off  
Emergency Clinic

## **EYES**

- Symptoms: Eye shut, weeping, painful, red, swollen around eye area  
Usually seen in only one eye  
Rubbing head with paw or on the floor  
Often the FT can be seen in the eye – do not remove
- What to do: Come in as soon as possible – very important  
Do not remove FT – removing it can cause more problems  
If the owner has already removed it, the eye should still be check for an ulcer  
Do not apply any medication into the eye without first checking with the doctor – some medications can make a potential ulcer worse
- No appts: Check with doctor about a fit in or drop off  
Emergency Clinic

## **VAGINAL AREA**

Symptoms: Frequent and/or painful urination

Licking area

Scotting

Swelling

What to do: Schedule appointment – need to rule out a urinary tract infection

No appts: Come in today or the next day

## **PREPUCE**

Symptoms: Frequent and/or painful urination

Licking area

Swelling

What to do: Schedule appointment – need to rule out a urinary tract infection

No appts: Come in today or the next day

## **BODY**

Symptoms: Often starts as an opening – usually never seen – then an abscess forms

Drainage Tracks

Swelling

Painful regions

Severe cases – surgery on original abscess but FT never found can create a migrating FT – re-abscesses in same or different areas

What to do: Come in for an appointment

Will need an anesthetic

No appts: Check with doctor about fit-in or drop off appts

Check temperature – if no fever – check with doctor about putting pet on the surgery schedule for the next day