

# CVC Newsletter

September 2003

Countryside Veterinary  
Clinic, Ltd.

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## Feline Immune Deficiency Viruses

Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and feline leukemia virus (FeLV) belong to a family of viruses known as retroviruses. The most infamous retrovirus is HIV, which causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in people. The major characteristic of retroviruses is that they decrease the ability of the immune system to fight infections. Humans and dogs cannot catch FIV or FeLV from cats, nor can they develop AIDS through exposure to FIV-positive or FeLV-positive cats. Only cats are susceptible to these diseases. FIV is not spread by casual contact between cats; it is passed via the infected saliva to another cat through a bite. FeLV can be spread from an infected cat's saliva, urine, blood or even casual contact through a screen. Also, an infected mother can pass these viruses to her unborn kittens or through her milk while nursing. Cats can be infected with either disease without showing any physical signs for a long period of time. It is important to test new cats or kittens before introducing them to the cats which are already in the household (that have previously tested negative for FIV and FeLV). To date, there is no cure for FIV or FeLV infections. Some cats infected with FeLV may revert to a FeLV-negative status, but others remain infected for life. The FIV status of a kitten can change up to approximately six months of age. Your veterinarian can provide supportive care and treat some of the secondary illnesses that may develop as a result of these diseases. After establishing that a cat is not infected with FIV or FeLV, your veterinarian can administer vaccinations to protect against these diseases.

## Animal Arthritis Has Many Causes

Animals and humans can be stricken with arthritis, an inflammation of the joints that can impair mobility and cause pain and stiffness. Although simple wear and tear from the aging process is the primary cause of human arthritis, animals can also develop arthritis in several other ways. Developmental and degenerative diseases, joint injuries, infections, and autoimmune disorders can all lead to arthritis symptoms in pets. Large dogs are most prone to developing arthritis due to their heavier weight and their susceptibility to developmental bone problems such as hip dysplasia and elbow dysplasia. Symptoms of arthritis in animals include lameness, refusal to bear weight on a limb, stiffness, irritability due to discomfort, and a reluctance to play. Treatment is aimed at reducing inflammation. This can be achieved through prescribing a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug such as Rimadyl, Deramaxx or Zubrin and improving joint quality with Cosequin, a holistic arthritis medication. In addition to the use of pharmaceuticals, treatment options may also include physical therapy, massage therapy, and acupuncture. Most arthritic pets can lead comfortable lives with successful pain management.



### Pet of the Month

#### Duncan

My pet is special because he rings a bell when he has to go to the bathroom. He acts like a mother to all the other animals. Our dog is a 2 year old Doberman Pincher. We got him from the Doberman Rescue. Our dog is a great dog and he senses when there's not such good people coming and pushes up against us to guard us and bark to let our parents know they're coming.

To submit your pet for "Pet of the Month" visit our website at [www.countrysidevetpets.com](http://www.countrysidevetpets.com).



## CVC Team Announcements

### Congratulations!

Brandy is this month's "Employee of the Month". Brandy's primary role as Animal Care Taker is to ensure a pet's needs are met throughout their stay with us. Her main responsibilities include watering, feeding, cleaning, providing opportunities for bathroom and exercise breaks as well as monitoring and reporting any changes. Brandy's commitment to patient care is displayed daily in a pleasantly focused manner. Brandy consistently exceeds this dedication by enthusiastically assisting both the technical and veterinarian team in an instant. To show appreciation Countryside Veterinary Clinic awards Brandy "Employee of the Month".

#### Anniversaries

An	3 years
Kendal	2 years
Kathy	1 year

#### Birthdays

Valerie	September 1
Patti	September 1
An	September 10
Kaitlyn	September 30

#### New Team Members

none this month

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To: Our Valued  
Countryside Veterinary  
Clinic Clients

