

# The PAW Print

News for the families of our animal friends



## Drug Aids in Weight Loss for Dogs

By Dr. Amy N. Lutgen-DeWitt

Obesity is the most common nutritional disease in dogs today in the U.S. It causes many of the same health problems in dogs as it does in people, including osteoarthritis, insulin resistance, respiratory disease, and heart disease.

Only eight percent of owners succeed in reducing the weight of their dogs with diet and exercise alone. Frustrated dog owners and veterinarians now have a pharmacological crutch for getting that extra weight off of dogs. There is a new drug on the market called **Slentrol**. It is the **first FDA approved weight loss medication for dogs**. Slentrol works by suppressing the appetite, and to a lesser extent, decreasing the absorption of fat. This should not be thought of as the "magic pill" for weight loss but rather a means to jump start the weight-loss process. Sustained weight control requires a multimodal approach. A reduced-calorie diet and exercise are very important components for successful weight management. Monthly weigh-ins and evaluations by a veterinarian are also vital to ensure that the dogs are losing an appropriate amount of weight in an appropriate amount of time.

The bottom line is that a **successful weight loss program includes a complete change of lifestyle**. The goal is to be able to discontinue the medication after several months and maintain a healthy weight through a healthier lifestyle.

Please call our office today if you would like more information on our weight-loss programs for dogs. You could add years and quality to your furry friend's life.



**Molly, a patient at Eastside, recently started taking Slentrol. When we first met Molly, she was a 113lb. Labrador that could barely walk due to her weight. Now, three months later, she is down to 96lbs. Her owner is thrilled to see her back to her more energetic, tail-wagging, happy self.**

## Help for Dogs with Car Sickness



Does your canine friend dread getting into the car because of the nausea that will ensue? Does he or she have to ride in the front seat? Are you tired of cleaning up the mess caused by motion sickness or, more importantly, are you distressed by seeing your canine pal looking "green at the gills"? If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, then Cerenia may be the answer that puts you both at ease.

Cerenia, a pill manufactured by Pfizer, is the first **product approved specifically for dogs for the prevention of vomiting due to motion sickness**. Motion sickness affects many dogs that can become ill as early as five minutes after the start of a trip.

If even a short trip is a roller-coaster ride for your canine friend, contact our office to see if Cerenia is right for your pet.



## On My Mind

I have never been fond of spiders. When I was growing up, my brothers knew this and took full advantage of the situation at every opportunity. Ticks are a member of the arachnid family, and I guess that's partially why I have never been fond of ticks either.

Classification systems aside, **ticks can be a health threat to both us and our pets.** Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Ehrilicia are just a few of the diseases carried by ticks.

What measures should you take? Eliminating brush piles and foliage around the house, sticking to walking paths during peak tick season, and applying tick-control products can keep ticks at bay. Be sure to check your dog for ticks every time you return from a walk through woods or tall grasses. Check your pooch's ears, toes, and other hidden areas for sneaky ticks. Depending on where you live, your veterinarian may also recommend a vaccination against Lyme disease, which is transmitted by a certain species of tick.

As a general rule, **we recommend Vectra 3D** as our newest topical tick/flea-control product for dogs. We warmly welcome the fabulous USER FRIENDLY applicator and better price point for larger-than-average sized dogs. (The dog product **SHOULD NOT be applied to cats**, and should be allowed to dry thoroughly before allowing cats and dogs to mingle in dog/cat households.) Now is the time to act. Peak tick season in our area is just around the corner (April through August). Start tick control measures today.

With Regards (and great respect for spiders),  
**Laura Strong, DVM**  
Owner/Hospital Director

*Note: For more information about how to protect your family from unwanted parasites, contact us at 282-3855 or visit the Companion Animal Parasite Council's Website at [www.petsandparasites.org](http://www.petsandparasites.org).*

**Last summer, we diagnosed "Boomer" Fish with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, caused by a tick bite. With early detection, he was successfully treated. Boomer is shown here with his humans, Paul and Christine.**



## Professional Spotlight

In each *Paw Print*, we feature one of our dedicated team members. In addition to six veterinarians – **Dr. Piper Hays, Dr. Amy N. Lutgen-DeWitt, Dr. Andrea Parks, Dr. Alisa M. Powell, Dr. Susan Stanton and Dr. Laura Strong** – we have an animal-loving staff of more than 40 people at Eastside. In this Spring issue, we're throwing the spotlight on veterinarian Dr. Hays:

Dr. Piper Hays joined Eastside in 1995, fresh from the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine. She is a native of Phoenix, Arizona, and attended the University of Arizona as an undergrad.

Dr. Hays chose to stay in this area for a number of reasons. She prefers the seasons, trees, and greenery here, and was seeking a more rural lifestyle. She also likes the people here. At the time she moved, she did not have family ties drawing her back to Arizona, and since her boyfriend, Gary (now her husband), was equally interested in relocating, they are here to stay. It is common for newer graduates of vet school to change jobs once or twice in their first few years of practice. **Dr. Hays feels fortunate to have found the right place at Eastside from the beginning. The feeling is mutual.**



**Dr. Hays' loving pack at treat time.**

In addition to enjoying her veterinary duties, Dr. Hays is content in her rural Indiana setting with Gary, plus lots of dogs, cats, and chickens. Her hobbies include flower gardening, crocheting, bird-watching, and dog-agility training. Agility is a rapidly growing sport where dogs run through an obstacle course with the help of their trainers.

Dr. Hays' interest in agility began in 2001 with Rover, the "best brown dog ever," which led to the formation of her own training organization, Go Rover Go, in 2006. Go Rover Go offers introductory classes in agility with an emphasis on fun, safety, and teamwork. Assisting Dr. Hays with Go Rover Go is Eastside's own Katie Routh, our surgery assistant. For more information, visit [www.gorovergo.org](http://www.gorovergo.org). Dr. Hays has three Border Collies that perform agility at a high level, plus a Cairn Terrier, a Brittany Spaniel, and a St. Bernard, who just runs for the fun of it. Rover still plays, too. She said, "Rover may be older, he may be gray in the face, and his hearing not so good, but he is fit, and still has the best time. The grin on his face at the end of a run is real and priceless."

About her overall outlook, Dr. Hays said, "My main goal in life is to take care of my little part of the world."



## Veterinary Health Care Services

### Wellness Services

- complete wellness examination
- puppy/kitten wellness programs
- senior wellness programs
- nutritional counseling / weight loss programs

### Internal Medicine

- trauma and critical care
- diagnostic testing
- radiology
- ultrasonography
- screening for hypertension and glaucoma



### Surgical Services

- elective sterilization procedures (spay/neuter is part of responsible pet ownership)
- tumor removal/biopsies
- declawing
- urinary tract (removal of bladder stones/biopsies)
- orthopedic (fracture and ligament injury repairs)
- reproductive tract (c-sections, prostate)

Many surgical services are performed with state-of-the-art laser equipment. The usage of this technology minimizes pain, bleeding and improves patients' recovery time.

### Dental Services

- dental cleanings and wellness programs
- dental surgical procedures
- digital dental radiology



### AAHA accreditation

Eastside Animal Hospital is the closest AAHA-certified animal hospital to downtown Louisville and the only AAHA-certified hospital in Clark County, Ind. AAHA accreditation means that we voluntarily adhere to more rigorous standards, set by a board of peers, and we are reviewed on a regular basis.

## Perks at Eastside

Our primary mission is to provide a stress-free, safe, healthy environment in our home away from home. We have dedicated kennel staff that truly cares about our guests' experience. In addition, ALL animals that board, groom or bathe at Eastside are given a Capstar tablet to ensure that they stay (and leave) flea-free.

### Boarding/Doggy Daycare

**Small dog hotel** – (for dogs under 25lbs.) Great for house pets who are used to a more serene environment. Movies available for viewing, and dogs are hand-walked three times a day. Fleece blankets provided. (\$14.50/night)

**Standard dog accommodations** – Unusually large space for our more active, athletic guests. Total area per run is 3' x 16'. Guests have access to 12' of covered outside run space (weather permitting). Dogs do not have contact with each other. (\$14.50/night, for pets up to 100lbs, \$17.50/night for pets over 100lbs)



**Deluxe dog accommodations** – Space is great for extra-large guests or multi-pets. Area provides 50% more space than our standard run. (\$21.50/night - rate reduced for additional pets)

**Kitty Condo** – Standard 2+ x 2+ room equipped with resting bench. Movies are available for viewing and fleece blankets provided. (\$14.50/night)

**Kitty Penthouse** – Deluxe room-with-a-view accommodations. 5ft x 5ft room equipped with resting shelves and scratching post. (\$21.50/night - rate reduced for additional pets)

### Exercise & Training

**Strolls** – One-on-one leash exercise for your pet (5min/\$3.00)

**Playtime** – Individually tailored time that meets your pets' needs. Can include pool time, weather permitting. (10min/\$5.50)

**Manners Matter** – Designed for puppy and adult guests. One-on-one training in basic good behavior will include: sit, stay, down, come, and stand, as well as jumping up and door-darting prevention. (10min/\$5.50)

**Fitness Fun Package** – One-on-one athletic romps through our canine playground. Includes veterinary-supervised nutritional assessment and body condition score report. (10min/\$6.50)

### Grooming

Standard bath, brush out and pedicure performed by our kennel staff. (\$23.00 to \$27.00)

Professional clipping, bathing, and grooming performed by our groomers Polly and Carol Sue. (breed-specific quotes available)



# What's everyone BARKING about at Eastside?

## Microchipping discount continued! -

Eastside is extending our "20 years as an AAHA hospital thank you special" on HomeAgain Microchipping. Get your pet micro-chipped for the special rate of \$20 (normally \$40). The price does not include a one-time national enrollment fee. Give your cat or dog the gift of permanent identification.

## Total Parasite Control -

We recommend year-round parasite prevention/control for all dogs and cats in our region. While your pet may have a specific requirement, *Revolution* is our drug of choice for cats, and *Sentinel plus Vectra* are the drugs of choice for dogs.



## Flea Free environment -

By administering *Capstar* to our boarding and grooming patients, you can be assured that your pet is staying in a flea-free environment. This safe veterinary product has eliminated the need for toxic flea shampoos and dips. Your pet and the environment thank you.



1623 E. 10th Street  
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

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**PAID**  
Jeffersonville, IN  
Permit No. 55

## Creature Feature

Bomber is a hamster who lives at Eastside Animal Hospital, keeping watch over his domain (in the lobby) and peering out at clients as they come and go.

Bomber has lived at Eastside since last summer, when he traveled from Tennessee with Dr. Laura Strong and the rest of her family. While the Strong's were attending and competing in a horse show, they found him hiding in a horse stall. He had been released into the wild by his previous owner - not a good idea for hamsters. The Strong's and their horse trainer, Betsy Webb of the new Louisville Equestrian Center, couldn't leave the scared critter behind in the barn, so he moved into a cardboard box hotel and made the trip back home with them.

On the way back from Tennessee, the group stopped in Richmond, Ky., for a meal. Fearing that the summer heat would harm the hamster if left in the car, Dr. Strong informed the restaurant staff that she would be placing the box with the hamster in the shade near the front door. The staff, however, forgot to tell the manager. Another patron saw Dr. Strong placing the box near the front door, and nervously informed the manager, who, fearing a bomb situation, promptly called the police.

The "bomb," of course, was only a peaceful hamster, and Dr. Strong was able to communicate successfully with the manager before the bomb squad arrived. They all lived happily ever after (except perhaps the restaurant staff who neglected to tell the manager about the box).

And that's how Bomber got his name ... and new home among friends at Eastside.



**Bomber is a fairly well-traveled hamster with an eventful past involving the police. He now peacefully resides at Eastside, blissfully unaware that he entertains clients while going about his day.**



1623 E. 10th Street  
Jeffersonville, IN 47130  
812 282-3855  
[www.eastsideanimal.com](http://www.eastsideanimal.com)



## Directions to Eastside

### From I-65 North or South

Take Exit 1 onto Rt. 62 East (Jeffersonville). Rt. 62 is 10th Street. Eastside Animal Hospital is on the left about two miles from the I-65 exit (just past Clark County Auto Auction).

### From downtown Louisville (approx. 5 minutes from the bridge!)

Take the 2nd Street bridge and continue straight following signs for 31N and 65N. Stay to the right and exit onto 62 East (Jeffersonville). Rt. 62 is 10th Street in Jeffersonville. Eastside Animal Hospital is on the left about two miles from the I-65 exit (just past Clark County Auto Auction).