



The Straight Poop

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Latest Scoop	1
Info Feature: Pet Obesity	2-3
Kamper Profile: Gabe Jones-Capouch	3
Photo of the Month	4
Kamp K9 Web Site	

The Latest Scoop

Open House 2009

Well, as you might already know from a previous email, our June Open House was a bit of a washout due to heavy rain all that day, so we're giving it another try, on July 12th, which is also a Sunday, from 11am-3pm. Hopefully no one will need to wear a raincoat this time!



Office Facelift

In preparation for the open house, we did some sprucing up in our office. We'd been thinking for a while about two-toning the walls. A color as close to dried mud as possible was chosen (for obvious reasons), and this is the result.



We had also toyed with the idea of having some kind of art work painted on some of the walls. The front counter wall provided a nice, obvious canvas; the art was done by Jo Curtis, (whose golden retriever Molly has been previously profiled in The Straight Poop) who came up with the idea of having our Dog/Cat/Tent logo on the wall. The idea for the doghouse façade on the gate was the brainchild of Dan O'Keefe, whose chocolate lab Abby comes here every week. Awesome! (It looks even more impressive in person!)



“Obese individuals don’t receive normal body signals that help regulate appetite & energy usage.”



Info Feature: Pet Obesity – New Knowledge

Like obesity in humans (both adult and child), obesity has become a serious health concern for pets, to an epidemic level. Not only is it a concern purely because of what we’ve known about it to this point (obese pets live shorter lives, and are more prone to heart and joint issues), but because of what’s been discovered recently through new research about the nature obesity and its previously unknown effects.

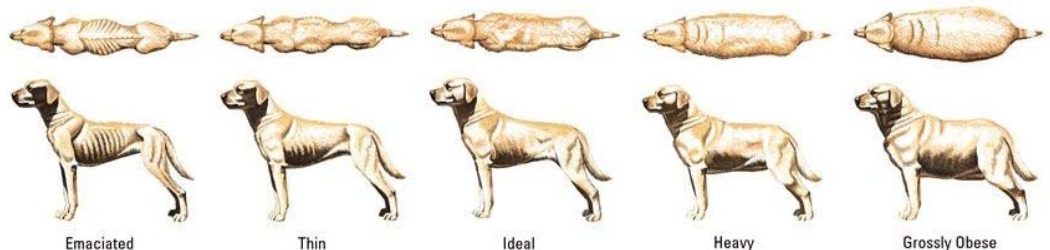
Let’s start with some causes. One highly contributing factor is, obviously, a lack of activity. This is more a predominant factor with dogs; cats have a less active lifestyle in general and thus require less activity. Dogs are designed by nature to move around daily – a LOT. If they can’t get any exercise, the pounds pile on. The other obvious factor is the amount of food our pets are getting. We sometimes tend to equate love with food, and when we see our pets obviously enjoying their meal, our minds, consciously or subconsciously, add just a little more to the bowl. However, the pet food manufacturers are also to blame. The feeding charts on their bags tend to recommend too much. They’re trying to sell more food, so it’s in their interest to bump up the charts a little. However, the results are often pudgy pals. The rich nutritional content of pet foods, particularly the high-end foods, also contributes. Dog and cat physiologies aren’t designed to handle large quantities of very rich foods, so if you’re not watching carefully, weight gain can happen very quickly. The bottom line: don’t trust feeding charts. Experiment with food levels and keep visual track of your pet. (Don’t be concerned with pounds.) There are two charts with this article designed to help you do just that.

The newest research has found that obesity affects pets at the cellular level. White fat does more than store and release energy; it also secretes cell-to-cell “communication” proteins. There’s a ton of techno-babble that can be distilled into a couple of fairly simple statements. First, obese individuals don’t receive normal body signals that help regulate appetite and energy usage. Those pets are getting messages from their brains to eat too much, because their brains aren’t telling them that they’re full, and at the same time getting a message to hold on to their fat, rather than use it for energy. Another result of this cellular activity: proteins are secreted by fat that increase resistance to insulin (diabetes is therefore a common result of chronic obesity), and increase inflammation.

Obesity is also a major contributor to osteoarthritis. Simply put, being fat is hard on the joints. When the damage to joints outpaces the body’s production of healthy joint bone and tissue, osteoarthritis develops.

Here’s another result: respiratory difficulty. Obese pets, when in the midst of physical activity, have breathing difficulties due to the constriction of their airways and a shifting of their diaphragms resulting from being displaced by so much fat. Obesity can also contribute to a collapse of the trachea (usually seen with exertion coupled with a cough).

Concluded on page 3





Kamper Profile: Gabe Jones-Capouch

They don't come much cuter than this guy. Meet Gabe, who is perhaps a Fox Terrier mix, cared for by Grace Jones and Patti Capouch of Portland. Gabe has been a client of Kamp K9 since August of 2005 (the old days, when Kamp K9 was Paw Prince Bed & Biscuit).

He comes to Maine via the south, but not in the typical way dogs from there make their way up here. He was in a car, and tossed out of it, along a road. (In my brain's universe, God has a very special place reserved just for them.) Grace happened to be driving behind when it happened, and picked him up. Thankfully he wasn't critically injured, and she made some attempts to have the cute, extremely good-natured youngster adopted, but nothing panned out, and he simply became a permanent member of the household.

Did I say he was good-natured? Gabe is a GREAT little dog. He has the personality and demeanor of a kindly, affectionate wise man. I once used the word "magical" to describe him; he's just got such a special air about him, a definite *je ne sais quoi*. Known to his proud moms' friends as "Buddha," he's the kind of dog who is very much liked by people who really don't like dogs.

Gabe will let you pick him up and carry him as long as you're willing, and as long as you're not interfering with his social life for too long. He'll let you place him in a spot and pose him, and he'll stay there for you. (Kamp K9's web site boasts a photo of one such pose; he's shown on the "Boarding" page lounging on his back. He stayed there through a few snaps of the camera and didn't move until he was told that he was all done.

He came to stay with us recently for the first time in a while, and it was SO good to see him.

"Gabe is the kind of dog who's liked by those who don't like dogs."



Ideal

Ribs Easily felt with slight fat cover
Tail Base Smooth contour with slight fat cover
Side View Abdominal tuck
Overhead View Well-proportioned waist



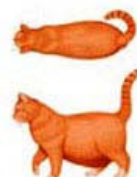
Overweight

Ribs Difficult to feel under moderate fat cover
Tail Base Some thickening, bones palpable under moderate fat cover
Side View No abdominal tuck
Overhead View Back is slightly broadened at waist



Obese

Ribs Difficult to feel under thick fat cover
Tail Base Thickened and difficult to feel under thick fat cover
Side View No waist, fat hangs from abdomen
Overhead View Back is markedly broadened



Pet Obesity *(concluded)*

It seems obvious and simple, then, to say that your pets need less food and more exercise, but those two things are the simplest and best ways to treat and/or prevent obesity in your pets.

Beyond that, if it doesn't seem like those two things are doing enough for your tubby tabby or pudgy pug, there are medications available to help.

We all know that being too fat is not healthy for ourselves. It might help you to keep the same attitude in mind for your little loved ones by simply drawing parallels between human obesity issues and those in animals.

They're very similar.

Discuss these issues with your vet. This article is incredibly short and very general. More details can be gotten from your pet's health care professional.

Kamp K9's Mission:

To provide pets with a safe, fun, comfortable and active haven for boarding, day care, & grooming, with the comforts of home, and without the stress of confinement.

Kamp K9

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pets are treated
like family!*

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Photo of the Month



On the Kamp K9 scandal sheet:

A May-December romance by the Kamp pool!

*Throwing caution to the wind, they didn't care who saw them together,
ignoring the paparazzi.*

That's all for now.

Thanks again as always for your support!