

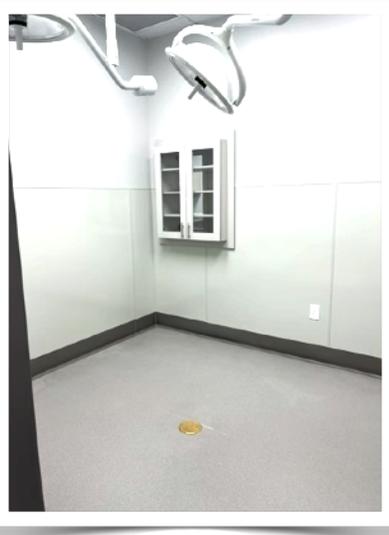


# Care's Pet Gazette



## Building for the Future

As many of you have seen we are under construction. Care Animal Hospital has been in the middle of an expansion and full remodel. While it may be a bit noisy and cramped at the moment we are hoping to be finished by April. Our new facility will allow us to better care for you and your pets. Stay tuned for updates along with details regarding our upcoming Open House when construction is completed.



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## What's New

Deer populations in North America have exploded over the past century rising from a few hundred thousand to over 30 million. This is in large part due to reforestation and reintroduction efforts, lack of natural predators, adaptability and an ability to live alongside humans. With the rise in deer, we have seen a currently there are 28 types of ticks present in Colorado with the Rocky



Mountain Wood Tick is the predominant tick in the state. The Rocky Mountain Wood tick populations peak in the spring through the early summer months. These ticks spread a condition called tick fever which is characterized by fever and fatigue. Thankfully, this viral disease is typically self limiting and pets recover with supportive care and time. Other more concerning diseases, such as Ehrlichia, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Anaplasmosis and Lyme's, are rare, as the species of ticks that spread these conditions are not well established in Colorado yet. Though it is likely just a matter of time before these tick species become endemic in Colorado. Due to the expanding population of ticks in Colorado, year-round flea and tick prevention is the best way to protect your dog. A new class of oral flea and tick preventatives called isoxazoline have been shown to be safe and highly effective and preventing fleas and ticks. Isoxozoline products include Simparica, Nexgard and Bravecto. Please reach out to Care Animal Hospital if you have any questions regarding how best to protect your pup!

### FACT OR FICTION WITH PROFESSOR HAMBONE

There is an accurate blood test for diagnosing food allergies in our pets.

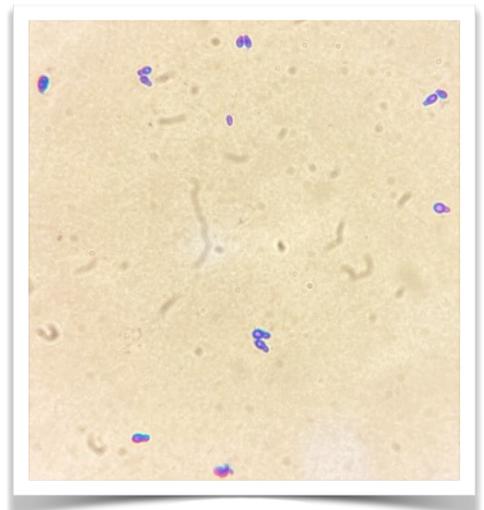
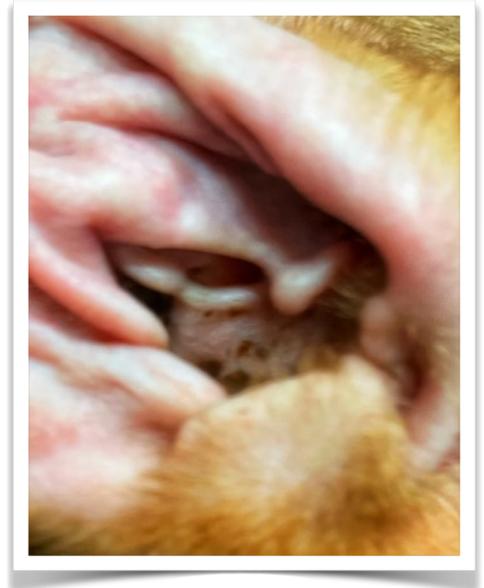
**Answer: Fiction**

While there are many commercial blood tests to identify food allergies, these test are unreliable, misleading and not recommended. Instead a prescription diet trial using a novel protein or hydrolyzed diet for 8-12 weeks is best way to diagnose food allergies and sensitivities. The most common food allergies according to recent research are to Beef, Chicken, Dairy, Eggs and Lamb.



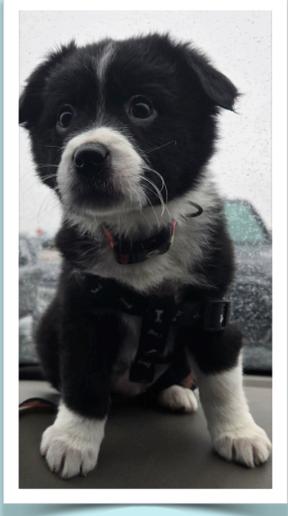
## Condition of the Month: Ear Infections (Otitis Externa)

If you have ever owned a dog, there is a pretty good chance that you have dealt with at least one ear infection. Ear infections are extremely common in our dog population and can result in dirty, stinky, and itchy ears. The scratching involved with ear infections causes microabrasions which create an environment where normal bacterial and yeast will overpopulate. Diagnosis requires a cytologic examination of the ear debris and identification of any organism (typically yeast or bacteria) using a microscope. The top photo shows mild debris in a dog with an active ear infection. The photo below shows the microscopic results of the cytology from that debris. You can see the round purple structures, which are budding yeast (*Malassezia*). Treatment of ear infections typically consists of a topical therapy as well as controlling any underlying allergies. These allergies can be environmental or food. With environmental allergies there can be a seasonality to it or it may be more year around in rare cases. Please reach out to Care if your dog is experiencing any clinical signs of allergies (itchy ears, inflamed itchy skin, paw chewing).



### PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Do you have a an exceptionally photogenic pet? If so send us your best picture. If we feature your pet in the next newsletter you will received a \$25 credit on your account. This month we are featuring one of our own. Meet Rutabaga. She is a 9 week old Australian Shepherd mix. Ruti loves her new family of dogs, cats and children and her favorite food is goose poop!



## Nutrition: Raw Diet

Nutrition is a charged topic with a lot of passionate opinions. Few topics raise hackles more than discussion involving raw diets. Recently the number of commercially available raw diets have exploded. Unfortunately, the science just does not support the feeding of raw diets. As of now there is no data to support any benefit of a raw diet. Proteins, starches and vegetables are generally more digestible and



their nutrients more bioavailable when lightly cooked. Raw diets can contain bones which can fracture teeth, damage the gastrointestinal tract and act as a possible foreign body depending on size. There is also significant bacterial risks associated with these diets. One study showed that out of almost 200 raw diets tested 25% contained either Salmonella or Listeria vs less than 0.1% if regular commercial dog foods. Another study showed animals fed raw diets shed antibiotic resistant E.coli at significantly higher rates. Based on what we do know the doctors at Care Animal Hospital and most veterinary nutritionists do not recommended feeding a raw diet. If you do choose to then consider lightly cooking, being extremely cautious when handling it, ensure it is complete and balanced and consider those that have undergone High Pressure Processing or HPP as