

# GULF COAST VETERINARY CENTER



October 2022

## A RECENT SUCCESS

Imagine an adorably small grey and white kitten that never played with his toys or other kittens. Now imagine this same sad faced kitten with a distended round belly. First thought, intestinal parasites! However, he had been frequently dewormed, and the fecal floats were negative. Second thought, FIP! But there wasn't much fluid in his belly and luckily his bloodwork did not fit the picture for FIP. His bloodwork was ran twice and the only trending parameter was a low totalT4 (thyroid gland hormone). In pets, total T4 can become low secondary to other illnesses. But what if Griffin is truly hypothyroid? A follow up test was submitted that measured the free T4 as well as the TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone). Low and behold the results were consistent with primary hypothyroidism! Griffin was diagnosed with congenital hypothyroidism, a very rare condition. This kitten will be treated with thyroid hormone supplementation lifelong. Once the hormone is regulated, he should be much happier and ready to play like a real kitten!

-Dr. White



Griffin

Fall is arriving here in Florida, and it may not get as cold as some states, but we will soon be noticing the changes in weather.

## Things to help you and your pets with the change of climates and events here in the next few months

- We are currently in the midst of hurricane season and there are tons of different things you can do to prepare for this. If you know bad weather may be coming, be sure to stock up on at least a weeks' worth of food, water, medications, and calming aids. It can also help to have potty patches handy/ extra litter and boxes for our furry family members. Don't forget lots of toys and treats to keep them occupied. This is also a good time to make sure your pets Microchip information is up to date.
- Fall celebrations such as Halloween and Thanksgiving are approaching fast, which often means new guests and or family over for visits. Remember to let guests know if your pet has any allergies/ strict diets. There are many hazards such as chocolate, raw bread dough, cooked bones, and fruits and vegetables that could be life threatening to your pet. Ask your Dr. about our list of safe vs toxic foods for pets
  - Be sure to make your holiday arrangements with your daycare, pet sitters, or dog walkers NOW. With all the holidays coming so close together it's always good to be one step ahead. Take your time to plan out what you need to make things less stressful on both you and your furry family members. This would be the time to make sure all your current vaccinations are up to date and if they are not, give us a call so we can get you on our upcoming schedule!



Q: Can I return my medication if I no longer need it?

A: Unfortunately, in the state of FL it is a law that we can not allow return of prescription meds.

Q: Can I pick up monthly prevention without having an exam?

A: As long as we have a up to date heartworm test and exam within the year you are able to get what you need!

*“If you are a dog and your owner suggests that you wear a sweater suggest that he wear a tail.”*

*-Fran Lebowitz*



**DOG THANKSGIVING FOOD SAFETY**

If you are wanting to share your Thanksgiving dinner with your pup, here is a list of safe and unsafe foods to ensure your pet enjoys their meal:

<p><b>SAFE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turkey</li> <li>Pure Pumpkin</li> <li>Plain Yams</li> <li>Sweet Potatoes</li> <li>Plain Carrots</li> <li>Plain Green Beans</li> <li>Plain Potatoes</li> <li>Plain Cranberries</li> </ul>	<p><b>UNSAFE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bones</li> <li>Turkey Skin</li> <li>Nuts</li> <li>Grapes or Raisins</li> <li>Onions and Garlic</li> <li>Chocolate</li> <li>Scallions or Chives</li> <li>Alcohol</li> </ul>
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**Spotlight Pet!**  
 Meet Athena, she is a 15-week-old husky mix. Athena has 4 siblings at home and her favorite treats are whatever her brothers are eating! She has a handful of friends (including all of us in office) but her best friend is her mama. This sweet girl loves toys and enjoys singing the songs of her people in her spare time 😊

**Spotlight Employee!**  
 This is Ari, she is a one of our vet technicians here and has been with us for almost 2 years!  
 Ari's favorite part of the job is getting the opportunity to care for and love on your pets; she always goes above and beyond to be sure your pet's visit is as positive and happy as she can make it 😊

**PET SAFETY TIPS FOR A Happy Howliday**

The holidays come with a number of risks for dogs. Rather than dashing to the vet, spread holiday cheer with these safety tidings and tips.

<p><b>AVOID THESE FESTIVE FOODS</b></p> <p>Keep your dog jolly by keeping these foods out of their bowl.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Sweet Snacks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popcorn, cookies, desserts, mints, chocolate, syrups</li> <li>• Xylitol, a common sugar substitute</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Table Scraps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fatty trimmings</li> <li>• Bones</li> <li>• Onions, garlic, spices</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Nuts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macadamias and walnuts</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>STAY OUT OF TINSEL TROUBLE</b></p> <p>Make your home a wagging wonderland by avoiding these dangerous decorations.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Christmas Trees</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep ornaments high and out of reach</li> <li>• Wait to put out tempting gifts</li> <li>• Don't use additives in water</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Decorations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gift wrap</li> <li>• Tinsel</li> <li>• Ribbon</li> <li>• Candles</li> <li>• String lights</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Holiday Plants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poinsettias</li> <li>• Holly</li> <li>• Mistletoe</li> <li>• Pine</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Christmas Trees</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep ornaments high and out of reach</li> <li>• Wait to put out tempting gifts</li> <li>• Don't use additives in water</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Decorations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gift wrap</li> <li>• Tinsel</li> <li>• Ribbon</li> <li>• Candles</li> <li>• String lights</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Holiday Plants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poinsettias</li> <li>• Holly</li> <li>• Mistletoe</li> <li>• Pine</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**NEED HELP?**  
 If you have questions, call your vet. If you suspect your dog has poisoning, call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: (888) 426-4435

**Have a safe and happy holiday!**  
 VISIT [puppyspot.com](http://puppyspot.com)

**Imaging Special!!!!**

For the months October through December, we will be offering an imaging special. We have two imaging packages to choose from. The first radiographic imaging, with this package you will receive 3 radiographic views and consultation results from a board-certified radiologist within 24 hours. The second is our ultrasonography package, this package offers a full abdominal ultrasound from our veterinarians and consultation results from a board-certified veterinarian. Please contact the office at either location for more details regarding this quarterly special! (813)-476-3979 or (813)-771-2311

**CONTACT US**

Linebaugh: (813)-746-3979  
 6902 Linebaugh Ave Tampa, FL 33625  
[Gevcfloirda@gmail.com](mailto:Gevcfloirda@gmail.com)  
[www.gulfcoasttampa.com](http://www.gulfcoasttampa.com)  
 Gunn Hwy: (813)-771-2311  
 6180 Gunn Highway Tampa, Fl 33625

