

# INDIAN TRAIL ANIMAL HOSPITAL MUTTROPOLITAN



SPRING 2024 // ISSUE 10

## SPRING CELEBRATIONS

This spring we have many things to celebrate.

First, we have our newest offering at the hospital, Librela, a new osteoarthritis pain management treatment.

We also would like to honor the Spokane Humane Society and their Parade of Paws, a yearly walk benefiting shelter animals.

Finally, we have a very special story featuring one of our patients, Dujo, a 3 year old chihuahua mix.



Earlier this year, he survived a harrowing encounter with coyotes. His owner wanted to share his journey from the initial attack through his eventual recovery. We are so grateful to see Dujo well. It reminds us all of our purpose here at ITAH.

Also in this issue, a few tips about flea and ticks as well as some information on our orthopedic offerings and prescription diets.

We hope that the coming months offer you many things to celebrate as well! But if you are struggling to find something, check out of calendar of interesting events on the next page.

## FEAR FREE TIPS

How to check for fleas and ticks the fear free way:

Start when your pet is already comfortable, calm and relaxed.

Check for ticks like you are giving your pet a massage, starting in the least sensitive area and working towards more sensitive areas.

Remember to check the head – ears, lips, mouth; body – under their collar, armpits and groin; and legs – even in between toes.

Remember to give high value treats, toys or praise as you go to reinforce your pet's positive behavior.

For more Fear Free tips, visit [www.fearfreehappyhomes.com](http://www.fearfreehappyhomes.com)



# CALENDAR OF INTERESTING EVENTS

## MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

## APRIL

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## MAY

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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## JUNE

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23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

### March: Adopt a Rescued Guinea Pig Month

1 – National Aardvark Week

7 – Sock Monkey Day

20 – Dogs in Yellow Day

### May: Be Kind to Animals Month

6 – Dog Anxiety Awareness Week

16 – Sea Monkey Day

29 – Snail Day

### April: National Frog Month

8 – Pygmy Hippo Day

10 – Hug Your Dog Day

26 – Hairball Awareness Day

### June: Social Petworking Month

1 – Parade of Paws

20 – Ugliest Dog Day

25 – National Catfish Day

For more fun holidays, check out [www.nationaltoday.com](http://www.nationaltoday.com)

Did you celebrate a holiday with your pet? Send pictures to our Facebook or Instagram!

# NEW OFFERINGS

## LIBRELA

Last issue, we highlighted one of our newly available arthritis treatments for cats, Solensia. We are happy to announce that the dog version is now available!

Librela, which has been used for several years in Europe, has been FDA approved in the United States for treatment of osteoarthritis pain in canines.

Like it's feline counterpart, Librela is a once monthly injection that is administered by a veterinary professional. Librela is the first and only anti-NGF monoclonal antibody therapy. It is metabolized and eliminated like naturally occurring antibodies with minimal involvement of the liver or kidneys.

When first beginning treatment with Librela, we recommend receiving two doses before assessing for improvement. Sometimes, dogs see improvement after the first dose but some need longer to respond.

Librela can help no matter the cause of pain – whether it is from injury, breed or body weight.

If you have noticed any signs of arthritis pain in your dog, like limping after exercise, stiffness or slowness to rise or lie down, then give us a call to schedule an appointment and see if Librela is right for you!



Librela<sup>™</sup>  
(bedinvetmab injection)

## ORTHOPEDIC SURGERIES

What are orthopedic injuries? These are sometimes referred to in human medicine as “sports injuries” because they usually occur during intense activity. The most common injury we see in dogs occurs in the cranial cruciate ligament, or CCL. This ligament is similar to the human ACL, or anterior cruciate ligament. The CCL helps stabilize the knee joint while the dog is bearing weight. CCL injuries cause pain and lameness and the ligament itself cannot regenerate if it is fully torn. In those cases, surgery may be the best option.

There are several approaches to a CCL repair surgery. The two procedures that we offer at Indian Trail Animal Hospital are referred to by their acronyms CBLO and TTA. We are happy to have a doctor that specializes in orthopedics so that

we can offer these procedures to dogs in need.

CBLO, CORA based leveling osteotomy, stabilizes the joint by preventing forward movement of the tibia in the absence of the cruciate ligament. This is achieved by cutting and rotating a piece of the upper part of the tibia and then securing it in place with a plate and screws. CBLO is often used in larger dogs or when a dog's specific anatomy rules out a TTA procedure.

The TTA procedure (tibial tuberosity advancement) is similar to the CBLO in that it involves cutting the tibia. The front part is cut and then moved forward, separating it from the rest of the bone. A spacer is placed in between the two pieces of bone, and everything is secured with a plate and screw. This procedure allows the patellar ligament to better stabilize the joint.

## WHY A PRESCRIPTION DIET

During a trip to the vet, you may have been offered a prescription diet as part of your pet's treatment plan. If you have wondered what the benefit is or if it is really necessary, then you are not alone. We hear many questions about prescription diets. Here are a few reasons why we recommend them.

The most important thing to remember about prescription diets is that they are backed by a great deal of science and research. These diets have been scientifically proven to do what they claim on the bag.

Prescription diets are used to help manage a variety of conditions from arthritis to bladder

stones. In some cases, they can even reduce or eliminate the need for other medications.

Backed by veterinary nutritionists, you can also be assured that these foods are safe and that they meet all your pet's nutritional needs. And when you are feeding a higher quality diet, often you don't need to feed as much, reducing how much food you are buying and how much waste you end up needing to scoop!

We carry Hill's Science Diet in our hospital, but may recommend other brands based on your needs. We love Hill's because of their dedication to veterinary clinics and their support of shelters across the US.



## DUJO'S STORY

Dujo's story, in his owner's words:

Dujo has a big brother, Ollie, and a big sister, Loona... They do their best to keep the coyotes away from the neighbor's chickens. Well, early one morning, Dujo decided to help out. He usually just pops out quickly in the morning to do his business and then comes right back in... I was drinking my coffee and saw him heading straight for the woods, straight into the coyote zone! I ran faster than I thought I could in my oversized slippers, jumped the barbed wire fence just in time to see the coyote pursuing him.

Poor little Dujo got snatched up by the coyote and I chased them (screaming like a mad woman) for about 100 yards! The coyote finally dropped him and I wasn't sure if he was still alive, he was completely in shock! The coyote and I had a standoff until he realized I wasn't going to let Dujo become his snack - neither were Ollie and Loona! Ollie chased the coyote away (our hero!! He did get chomped right on the booty, but he's ok!)

My sister and I hopped in the car and started making calls as we headed into town. It was before 7am so we thought the emergency vet would be our only option. I left a voicemail at ITAH and got a call back in minutes. We headed that way and they were there waiting for us when we arrived!



Continued on the next page – WARNING: there will be graphic images of his injuries and surgery.



## DUJO'S STORY CONTINUED

This is what happened once Dujo arrived at Indian Trail Animal Hospital:

On February 19th, 2024, around 6:30am, we got a voicemail from Jessica saying that Dujo was attacked by a coyote, and that they were headed towards the emergency clinic, but they were hoping we would be able to get Dujo seen here. We promptly called Jessica back and had her head our way to be assessed. Just after 7am, Dujo and family pulled up and rushed inside!



Our treatment team was waiting for Dujo, and they promptly got him back into the treatment area and began oxygen support. A few moments later, Dr. Armstrong arrived. He was filled in on the situation and got to work on assessing Dujo's wounds. Later he spoke with Jessica and her sister and informed them that Dujo's injuries were substantial and potentially life threatening: he had wounds to his back, neck and abdomen.. We recommended radiographs be taken and that surgery would be needed.



Dujo's owners consented to our treatment plan and our team began cleaning his wounds. Dr. Armstrong found that Dujo had pneumothorax, which is the presence of air or gas in the cavity between the lungs and chest wall, causing collapse of the lung. The coyote had taken a large chunk out of his back, exposing the muscle layer, and left puncture wounds in his neck and abdomen.



After all the grass and debris was removed from his wounds, our team began surgery. Dr. Armstrong closed up the large chunk and the smaller wounds around his neck and abdomen, then placed a drain tube to ensure that any excess fluid did not build up inside the wound.

## DUJO'S STORY CONTINUED

After 3-4 hours in surgery, and a long recovery later in our oxygen chamber, Dujo was sent home to his family.



The next day Dujo returned for continued care and was already doing so much better! Thanks to the success of Dr. Armstrong's surgery, Dujo's wounds have fully healed, and he did not have to have multiple surgeries. We are so thankful that Dujo's owners were quick to bring him in and that Dr. Armstrong was able to get started on treatment right away. Because of that, Dujo was given a second chance at life!



We are excited to hear that Dujo is living his best farm life with his loving family! Due to his braveness and courage, Dujo received a purple heart of courage from the ITAH family.

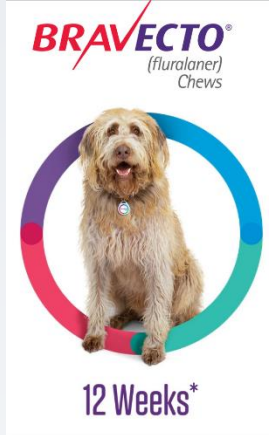
Thank you, Dujo! We love you!





## FLEA AND TICK SEASON IS HERE

Worried about fleas and ticks? We are here for you! Both dogs and cats are covered by our preferred flea and tick preventative, Bravecto. For dogs, it is administered as a treat and lasts for 12 weeks. For cats, it is applied topically to the skin on the back of their neck and also lasts for 12 weeks.



## UP NEXT:

- The latest ITAH news and offerings
- More fear free tips
- Fun in the sun and a look at outdoor enclosures for cats
- Congratulations to our Dr. Tara O'Farrell on her first baby, due in June!



# AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

*"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."* - Mother Teresa

## SPOKANE HUMANE SOCIETY PARADE OF PAWS

Coming this June: The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Parade of Paws! Sponsored by the Spokane Humane Society, this 1-2 mile walk takes place every year in support of local shelter pets.

The event starts at 6607 N Havana at 9:00 am. If you don't want to walk, you can just stop by to enjoy the music, food and vendor fair.

Visit the [Parade of Paws](#) website to register!

