

## CAUTION FOR DOG OWNERS AT THE BEACH: SAND IMPACTION RISKS<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Carly Fox, senior veterinarian at the Schwarzman Animal Medical Center, warns dog owners about sand impaction risks at the beach. Sand impaction, a blockage in the intestines from ingested sand, can occur when dogs play fetch, dig, drink beach water, or eat sand. Symptoms like vomiting, refusal to eat, and lethargy typically appear 12 to 48 hours after beach exposure.

Unlike other obstructions, sand impaction is usually treated medically with fluids, walking, and antinausea medications, avoiding the risks associated with surgical removal. Preventive measures include rinsing off toys and avoiding fetch directly on the sand to keep dogs safe.

## HEARTBURN MEDICATION COULD BE KEY TO FIGHTING CANCER & IMMUNE DISORDERS IN DOGS<sup>2</sup>



Researchers at Texas A&M VMBS discovered that proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), commonly used for acid reflux, might enhance chemotherapy effectiveness in dogs by inhibiting cancer cell proton pumps (V-ATPases). These pumps create acidic environments aiding cancer growth and resistance to treatment. Combining PPIs with chemotherapy could improve outcomes.

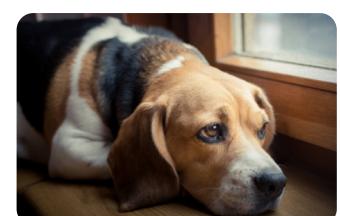
PPIs also affect immune cells, potentially impacting their disease-fighting abilities, making timing crucial in cancer treatment. Ongoing clinical trials aim to determine if PPIs reduce adverse effects in dogs with mast cell tumours. This research builds on similar studies in human medicine, highlighting PPIs' broader therapeutic potential.

## INSIGHTS INTO GERIATRIC MEDICINE AND MORE<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Monica Tarantino, DVM, MBA, co-founder of the Senior and Geriatric Dog Society (SAGDS), focuses on improving senior dog care by addressing chronic illnesses and quality of life issues. She highlights the importance of recognizing subtle behavior changes as indicators of canine cognitive dysfunction and encourages early conversations with pet owners about their dogs' aging process. Dr. Tarantino also emphasizes the need for comprehensive chronic pain management plans and provides resources like [petlosscommunity.com](http://petlosscommunity.com) for anticipatory grief support. She advises new veterinarians to embrace uncertainty and maintain transparency with clients to foster trust and continuous learning.

## EVALUATING AGING PETS: ADDRESSING FRAILTY<sup>3</sup>

With pets living longer due to advancements in medicine and nutrition, veterinarians are increasingly dealing with senior and geriatric animals. A key emerging concept is frailty, characterized by increased vulnerability to health issues. This can manifest as weakness, exhaustion, and cognitive impairment, similar to human frailty.



Veterinarians are developing a Frailty Index (FI) for pets to assess their condition and predict outcomes. Current research aims to create effective frailty metrics for cats and dogs. Signs of frailty include weight loss, decreased mobility, and cognitive decline. Simple, low-tech assessments like timed walking tests and client surveys can help identify these issues.

Intervening early can manage or even reverse frailty, enhancing the quality of life for aging pets. This holistic approach is gaining traction in veterinary medicine, offering better care for our senior companions.

## BEST IN SHOW: FIRST FEMALE WINNER<sup>5</sup>

Sage, a four-year-old all-black miniature poodle, won "Best in Show" at the 148th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. She is the first female winner since 2020 and the fourth miniature poodle to claim the top prize. Sage was handled by veteran Kaz Hosaka.



## EMPLOYEE WELLNESS: HEALTH CHAKRA, DENTAL CHECK-UP

We are thrilled to share that on May 10th, 2024, our Pune team at Clover Hills Plaza experienced a fantastic initiative towards employee wellness, thanks to our collaboration with Health-Chakra.



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