

# THE LAKEWOOD LATEST



## WHATS NEW

Happy Fall! It has been an incredible adventure to welcome Dr. Ireland to the Lakewood team as our third veterinarian! Welcome to our new clients and patients. We are so happy you are part of Lakewood.

October is National Dental Hygiene Month, and we're celebrating with a special promotion on dental cleanings. A healthy smile is a happy one, and we're dedicated to keeping your pets' pearly whites in tip-top shape. Please keep your eyes peeled for our announcement!



**It's not just about white teeth!**

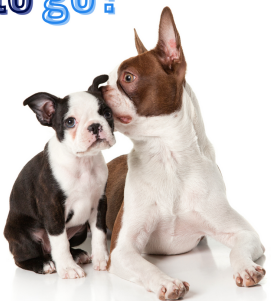
We're here to help prevent periodontal disease in your pet(s).

Call to learn more about our pet dental services!

Be sure to ask about our dental discount!

**Psst... want to know where to go?**

Refer your friend to us and you'll both get a credit on your account as a thank you!



### New Patient Spotlight



NAMI



KODA



WINNIE

# 5 Ways

## to Keep Cats Hydrated

Dehydration in cats can quickly turn dangerous. Here are a few ways to make drinking more fun:

### 1 Get creative!

Test out different materials and locations. Many cats prefer stainless steel bowls with a wide, shallow design. Place in calm, quiet areas away from food bowls and litter boxes.

### 2 Use a water fountain.

### 3 Add a spoonful of low-sodium broth to their water bowl or dry food.

### 4 Offer moisture-rich canned food.

### 5 Clean and refill water bowls daily.

## Is your cat dehydrated?

*Try the skin test.*

Gently pinch the skin over the shoulder blades. If the skin slowly settles back into position or remains “tented” instead of snapping back into place, your cat could be dehydrated.





# Case Study: Faint of Heart

By Dr. Andrew Olson, DVM

Dogs can faint just like people, and sometimes fainting is caused by a problem in the heart. Below are three examples of dogs evaluated at Lakewood Animal Hospital for fainting that were determined to be caused by a sick heart.

## The Heart

A dog heart has four chambers just like people. The four chambers work in rhythm by squeezing and pumping blood all around the body.

## The Rhythm

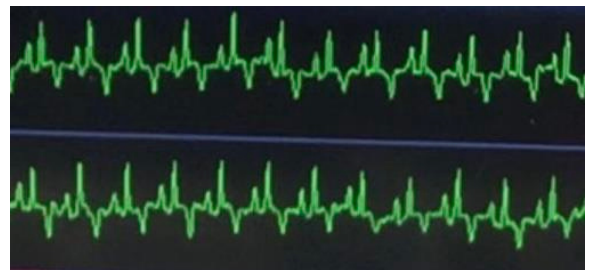
The left upper chamber has a group of cells that set the heart rate called the sinus node. The sinus node is the pacemaker for the heart. It starts every normal heartbeat with an electrical pulse that causes the upper chambers to squeeze and fill the lower chambers. The same electrical pulse travels downward towards the lower chambers through another group of cells called the AV node. Once the pulse travels through the AV node, it causes the lower chambers to squeeze and pump blood away from the heart to the lungs and body. The heart relaxes to fill and squeezes to pump.

## Fainting

If a problem develops with the normal rhythm of squeezing, blood isn't pumped properly to the lungs, the rest of the body, and the brain. When the brain doesn't get enough blood flow, fainting can happen.

## Measuring the Rhythm

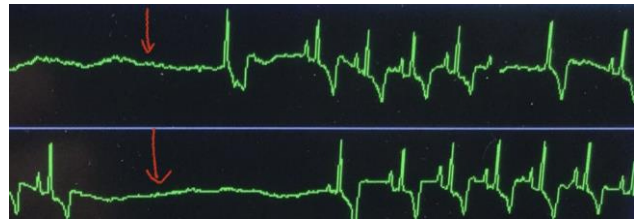
We can measure the electrical pulses in the heart easily by using an electrocardiogram, often referred to as ECG or EKG. An ECG traces the electrical pulse described above and can reveal problems that may be happening. ECG traces are recognizable from popular media and sometimes even on your smartwatch. Here is an example of a normal ECG. The small upward curve is the sinus node pulse through the upper chamber. The high, sharp upward point is the pulse moving quickly to the lower chambers. The high, sharp upward point is the pulse moving quickly to the lower chambers.



*See next page for examples of ECG of fainting patients.*

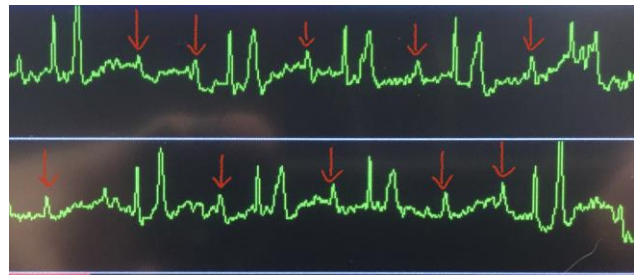
### 1) Sick Sinus Syndrome

Sometimes dogs will develop a problem with the sinus node where it intermittently or permanently stops sending the electrical pulses. If there is no electrical pulse, there is no heartbeat. Dogs will develop a very slow heart rate, sometimes with long pauses. If the pauses are long enough, fainting can occur. See the following example illustrated with red arrows. The red arrows point to a long pause in the ECG tracing that show where the sinus node is not starting the electrical pulse. In some cases, you can treat this condition with medications that stimulate the sinus node. Other cases will require an artificial pacemaker surgically implanted to correct the rhythm.



### 2) AV Block

Sometimes dogs will develop a problem with the AV node where it doesn't allow the electrical pulse to travel through to the lower chambers correctly. There are different types of AV block ranging from a slower transmission of the electrical pulse to a complete blockage of the pulse. These dogs will also develop a slow, often irregular heart rate. In the more severe types, the heart rate will slow down enough to cause fainting. The following example is a dog with high-grade second-degree AV block with many pulses failing to go through to the lower chambers. The arrows point to small upward curves made by the SA node without a corresponding high, sharp upward point because they are being blocked. In mild or intermittent cases, we can treat this condition with medications that stimulate the AV node. Most cases of persistent blockage will require an artificial pacemaker surgically implanted to correct the rhythm.



### 3) Ventricular Premature Contraction (VPC)

Sometimes the lower chambers of the heart will abnormally contract or squeeze by themselves before being directed by the sinus node. This not only starts an abnormal electrical pulse that radiates incorrectly through the heart, but the heart also squeezes when it should be relaxing and filling. The premature squeeze doesn't pump enough blood, and if it happens repeatedly, fainting can occur. Dogs with VPCs will have an irregular heart rate, often times with bursts of rapid heart rate. The area between the red arrows in the following ECG shows VPCs in this dog. The tracing spikes are wide and bizarre caused by the improper pulses. We can treat this condition with medications that help stabilize the heart muscle and prevent abnormal contractions.



**Treatment Success:** All three of the patients above were presented to Lakewood for fainting and all three are being treated successfully. Two are taking daily medications and one has a permanent artificial pacemaker!





## STAFF PET FAVORITES FOR BONES

Does your dog love bones? Check out some of our staff pet options to keep your pet happy and their mouth smelling fresh! We do recommend following these guidelines when picking out bones for your pet:

**The Shin Rule:** This means that if the object/treat/toy would hurt you if you banged it on your shin, then it is too hard to give your pet because it can fracture his/her teeth. This means we should NEVER give real bones, antlers or hard Nylabones!

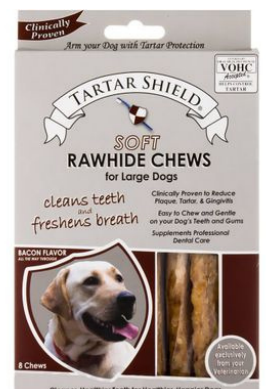
**VOHC Approval:** The Veterinary Oral Health Council has given its seal of approval on many dental chews. This is a good guideline for products that have shown efficacy in removing and controlling tartar. Visit <http://www.vohc.org/> to see the most up-to-date list of approved products!

**Pearl: Purina Dental Chewz**

**Amelia: CET Hextra Chews**

**Star: Greenies**

**Sadie: Tartar Shield Dental Bones**



# Client Appreciation Week

OCTOBER 2ND-6TH, 2023

JOIN US FOR TREATS, RAFFLES,  
GIVEAWAYS, AND MORE!



## WIN ME!

- Cat Tree
- Dog Boredom Buster Basket
- Cat Boredom Buster Basket
- \$75 All Fur Grooming Gift Card
- \$500 Lakewood Credit

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## UPCOMING CLOSURES

- We will be closed Thursday November 23rd, 2023 and Friday November 24th, 2023 for Thanksgiving. We will re-open at 8:00 AM on Monday November 27th, 2023

