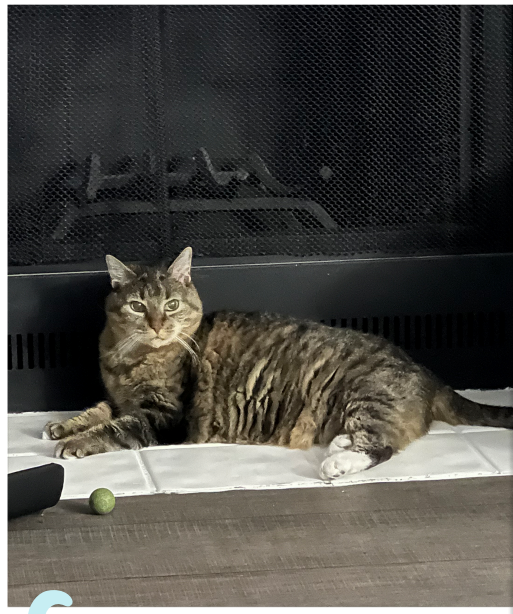




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Lexi at home



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Lexi's Diabetes Dilemma

BY SANDRA IRURUETA, DVM

Lexi is a 12-year-old spayed female cat. She has been a patient at Animal Hospital of Dunedin for 4 years. When Lexi first came to our hospital, she had diabetes and her owner was treating her with insulin daily. Similar to diabetes in humans, this involves injecting insulin one to two times daily. It also typically includes close monitoring of blood sugar levels. After some time, Lexi started acting out when her owner would give her insulin. ... *Continued on page*

1

FEATURED

New AHOD Docs!

2

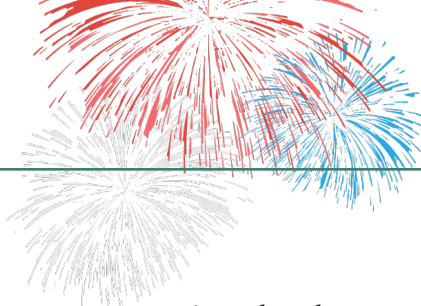
WHAT'S NEW?

2 New AHOD Docs to Join the AHOD in July!

3

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...Diabetes Dilemma Cont...

Lexi would hide from her owner and she would become aggressive when her owner would try to give her the insulin. Fortunately, unlike humans, some cats with diabetes can go into remission after treatment for some time and the owner was able to stop giving Lexi insulin injections at home. One day, Lexi was brought in because she wasn't acting like herself. After some testing we discovered that Lexi's diabetes was no longer in remission. Lexi's owner did not like the effect that the insulin injections had on her and Lexi's relationship previously and her work schedule would make it difficult for her to give the insulin on the strict schedule it requires. Traditionally, the only alternative to insulin has been another medication used in humans to control blood sugar levels, but it is not very effective in pets. There is a prescription food that can help control the release of sugars as it digests that can help with diabetes control and occasionally this works well enough for some pets. So, Lexi's owner started her on this diet. It unfortunately did not control her blood sugar enough.



Luckily for Lexi and her owner, a few new developments have come out for diabetic cats in the form of oral medications, Bexacat and Senvelgo. With some guidance from the internal medicine specialist, Dr. Cuyper, we discussed using one of these options for Lexi. There were some criteria that had to be met in terms of lab work to ensure that this was a good fit for Lexi and the medication is labeled for use in newly diagnosed patients that have never been on insulin previously. However, with Lexi's case of having been in remission and off insulin for over one year and the strain that the treatment was having on the bond that Lexi and her owner shared, it was determined that this would be a good candidate for extra-label use. Extra-label use means that the medication is being used in a manner that is not on the label and has not been tested for safety. Often, when we use medications that are used in human medicine, we are using the medication in this manner.

Lexi has now been on Senvelgo, the liquid oral diabetes medication for 6 months. Her monitoring has gone well and her blood sugar levels are in a much better range. Lexi's owner says Lexi is happy and doing great at home. She is even playing sometimes now like a kitten! Their bond is intact and Lexi does not mind taking her oral medication. We are so happy that we were able to find a solution for Lexi and her owner and now have some new experience with Senvelgo for diabetes control.

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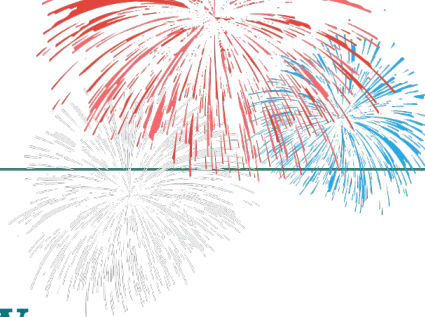
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WHAT'S NEW? TWO NEW VETS TO JOIN THE AHOD TEAM IN JULY!

The Animal Hospital of Dunedin is growing and we are excited to announce the addition of not one but TWO new veterinarians to our awesome doctor team. **Both starting on July 15** these docs are excited to meet you and your wonderful pets! Read on to learn more about both doctors...



Dr. Hannah Delger is joining The Animal Hospital of Dunedin as an Associate Veterinarian. She received her undergraduate degree in Animal Sciences from Louisiana State University in 2020, followed by her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2024. Dr. Delger has a passion for preventative care and surgery.

She began her career in the veterinary field in 2014 as a kennel technician during a summer job in high school. She continued to grow in her role and became a technician by the time she started veterinary school in 2020.

Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, Dr. Delger spent eight years in Baton Rouge pursuing her education. She moved to this area to enjoy the beaches and nature that Florida has to offer, along with her fiancé, her orange tabby, Toast, and her terrier mix, Dany. In her free time, she enjoys exploring the local beaches, farmers markets, breweries, and wineries.



Dr. Elise R. Gutierrez grew up in a Border town in South Texas. She had many pets growing up and always dreamed of helping animals. Dr. Gutierrez attended Texas A&M International University and graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. During this time, Dr. Gutierrez used all her spare time to volunteer at local shelters and veterinary hospitals.

Dr. Gutierrez attended St. George's University, on the beautiful island of Grenada, to study Veterinary medicine. Although she was a dedicated student and maintained her studies, she always made time to enjoy the beautiful beaches and breathtaking hikes. She was historian for the Herpetological society and volunteered with Ocean Spirits to aid in Leatherback sea turtle conservation. Dr. Gutierrez graduated with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in June of 2024. Her special interests include exotic animal medicine and integrative medicine. Dr. Gutierrez is elated to use her knowledge to assist the pet owners of this community and treat all their furry and scaly friends. She also hopes to volunteer with a local wildlife rescue in her free time.

Dr. Gutierrez recently moved to Clearwater, FL, near the ocean of course! She brought her Dog Ginger, her cat Olivander and her snake Nagini. In her free time, Dr. Gutierrez enjoys long walks on the beach with her dog, painting, going to concerts and finding the best food and cocktails in town. Dr. Gutierrez is looking forward to future opportunities to explore tropical destinations and their creatures too!