



# Creature Features

## Client Newsletter

Lil' Chick Pet Sitters

www.lilchick.com

aj@lilchick.com

### Dog's Eye View

Dogs are red-green color blind so they see a brighter and less detailed world when compared to humans. Their peripheral vision is better than humans, but distance is not judged quite as well. Dogs excel at night vision and the detection of moving objects. This is a rough guesstimate of what a dog and human might see when viewing a color band.



- **Detail or Acuity** Dogs' estimated eye for detail is (roughly) 6 times poorer than in an average human.
- **Night Vision** Dogs have much better night vision partly due to a structure called the *Tapetum Lucidum*. This is a reflective surface behind the *retina* (area including the light sensitive cells) that reflects light back through it (gives the eerie shine at night).
- **Sensitivity to Movement** Dogs are better able to detect movement.

### Pet Facts

- Many hamsters only blink one eye at a time.
- An iguana can stay under water for 28 minutes.

### Scratch-Resistant Dogs

All dogs love a good scratch behind the ears, but if you notice Fido's incessantly scratching or biting at his skin, or you notice a rash or bald spot, he may be suffering from one of these common problems:



- **Atopic dermatitis:** allergic skin disease caused by hypersensitivity to common inhaled substances such as house dust mites
- **Flea allergy dermatitis:** allergic reaction to fleas or flea saliva
- **Skin allergies:** triggered by contact with, or inhalation of, an allergen
- **Demodectic mange:** occurs when *Demodex canis* mites (which are transferred from mother to pup in the days following birth) rapidly multiply due to a weak immune system of the pup
- **Bacterial and yeast skin diseases:** typically accompanies other skin diseases; caused from an overabundance of skin oils
- **Fungal skin disease:** caused by fungal spores in soil, other animals, bedding and brushes

### Veterinary Pet Insurance

Many pet owners have heard of pet insurance, but most assume the cost is expensive and will rarely use it. However, pet health insurance can be paid on an annual or monthly basis and an insurance policy for a dog runs only about \$20 a month. depending on the age of the dog. Coverage includes diabetes, broken bones, diagnostic tests, lab fees, x-rays, surgical procedures, hospitalization and some prescriptions. Deductibles vary per company but most are around the \$50 price range. Optional vaccination and routine care coverage is available as well for a small additional monthly fee with some companies. This coverage includes discounts on dental scaling, spays or neuters, coverage for your yearly vaccinations, as well as discounts on heartworm and flea preventions. Claims are very easy to file and some veterinarians will accept pet insurance as payment in advance. If they do not, simply pay the vet, send in your claim with receipt and the insurance company will reimburse you. Pet insurance gives owners piece of mind knowing that if an emergency arises their pet will receive the utmost care without a large expense. [www.best.com](http://www.best.com)



Proud Member of:  
The National Association of  
Professional Pet Sitters  
[www.petsitters.org](http://www.petsitters.org)

## What Cat Owners Need To Know About Feline Leukemia

I have heard so many pet owners ask the question "Does my cat really need their feline leukemia vaccine?" The answer is yes. Feline Leukemia infected cats are found worldwide and the virus adversely affects the cat's health in many ways. It is the most common cause of cancer in cats. It causes weakened immune systems and may cause various blood disorders. The virus is shed in high quantities in saliva, and nasal secretions. Cats transfer the virus by bite wounds, urine, feces and milk from infected mothers as well as during mutual grooming and not always but possibly by sharing mutual litter boxes and feeding dishes. Some signs your cat may show if infected include loss of appetite, weight loss, pale gums, persistent diarrhea, eye conditions, neurological disorders, skin and bladder infections, fever and enlarged lymph nodes. What cats are at the greatest risk of infection? Kittens born to infected mothers, cats allowed outdoors, cats living with infected cats and cats allowed on screened lanais. Remember, even if your cat is strictly an indoor cat there is always those mishaps where the cat escapes for the night or the stray cat in the neighborhood just won't leave and that's all you need to open your cat up for the possibility of infection. So when getting your cat's vaccinations remember that the disease is called Feline Leukemia so any feline has the possibility of becoming infected and that's all I need to know to make sure my cat is safe.



## Sitter's Corner

### Lil' Chick Pet Sitters ...

#### That Rascal-ly Rabbit!

If your rabbit ingests toys, switch to a different type of toy the rabbit won't eat or provide one that is safe to chew such as these:

- Handleless paper bags and cardboard boxes for crawling in, scratching and chewing
- Cardboard paper towel or toilet rolls
- Untreated wicker baskets or boxes full of shredded paper, junk mail, magazines, straw or other organic materials for digging
- Yellow pages for shredding
- Cat, parrot or baby toys that roll, can be tossed, chewed or hit
- Kitty condos, tubes, tunnels and trees work well
- Plastic rainbow Slinky
- Toys with ramps and lookouts for climbing and viewing the world
- Dried pine cones
- A (straw) whisk broom
- A hand towel for bunching and scooting
- Untreated sea grass or maize mats
- Colorful, hard plastic caps from laundry detergent and softener bottles. They have great edges for picking up with their teeth, make sounds when they collide and the grip ridges molded into the plastic make neat sounds when rabbits dig at the cap

## Questions & Answers

### Is Eating Grass Good for My Pet's Digestion?

Dogs commonly eat grass, and there are several explanations offered for this behavior. One explanation is that wild canids (wolves and fox) eat the entire animal when they catch it. Since they eat many herbivores (plant-eating animals), they end up eating a lot of grasses and plants in the intestines of these animals. In addition, they have been known to eat certain berries and other plant material. So, dogs may eat grass because, in reality, it is a normal part of their diet.

Many times, dogs will vomit after eating grass. Did they eat grass to make them vomit? Or did they vomit because they ate grass? It is a mystery, but it seems some dogs may eat vegetation when they have an upset stomach.

The third reason—they just like it. Some dogs have certain species of grass or plant material they will search out and eat.

In any case, grass eating is basically a normal behavior, and is not of concern unless the dog does it excessively.



## Pet Facts

- There are only two animals with blue tongues, the Black Bear and the Chow dog.
- "Eat like a bird?" Many birds eat twice their weight a day.