



#### West Chelsea Veterinary Welcomes

#### Dr. Courtney Maeda



Dr. Courtney Maeda was born and raised in Hilo, Hawaii. She left her island home for "the main land" to attend Beloit College, in Wisconsin, where she graduated in 2000, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry. Dr. Maeda went on to earn her veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine in 2004. After graduating, she entered directly into private practice, in New Jersey, where she hit the ground running to care for her furry patients. Before joining the team here at West Chelsea Veterinary, Dr. Maeda worked for two years at The Humane Society of New York. While there, she greatly enjoyed the rewarding work of treating animals on their way to permanent homes. Her special interests include surgery and new puppy and kitten visits, where she has the opportunity to get to know a pet and their family early-on, and be a part of their treatment throughout their lives. Dr. Maeda's hobbies include hanging with friends, visiting family in Hawaii, finding good, new restaurants, and spending time with her own kitties. She lives in Manhattan with her three cats, Scooter, Patches and Lowell.

#### "The Dog Ate My Homework", and Other Interesting Household Objects!

They say "the cat swallowed the canary", but what about a dog swallowing a pair of panty hose or a hearing aid? It's true. An unusual list of pets' most commonly swallowed objects proves our furry friends really may eat just about anything-some may surprise pet parents.

#### Top Ten Most Commonly Swallowed Objects

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Socks      | 6. Chew Toys |
| 2. Underwear  | 7. Corn Cobs |
| 3. Panty Hose | 8. Bones     |
| 4. Rocks      | 9. Hair Ties |
| 5. Balls      | 10. Sticks   |

"While it may seem strange that a pet would actually swallow some of these items," says Dr. Jennifer Mlekoday, veterinarian and West Chelsea's Co-Chief of Staff, "pets that ingest any foreign body could land themselves in a serious medical situation and put their owners in a potentially costly and heartbreaking position."

SOURCE: Veterinary Pet Insurance Co. (VPI)

A foreign body is anything ingested other than a pet's own wet or dry food. "While some objects can pass naturally, others have a tendency to become compacted or lodged in pets' gastrointestinal tracts, resulting in pain, vomiting, or internal injury. In those cases, surgery may be an immediate necessity," says Dr. Mlekoday. "It's not just the big stuff either," she says, "even things that seem too small to do damage, can. Individual items, that are small, can obstruct the narrow portions of the small intestine, especially if stomach acid is unable to break them down."

#### **Signs a Pet May Have Ingested a Foreign Object:**

- Repeated Vomiting and Dry Heaving
- Sensitive or bloated stomach, pain to the touch
- Continued stretching or attempting to get comfortable
- Extreme Lethargy/Not eating



"Pet owners who suspect their pet has swallowed a foreign object should bring them in to see their veterinarian as soon as possible," urges Dr. Mlekoday.

#### **So, what can pet owners do to keep their pets safe?**

Dr. Mlekoday's best advice for pet owners is to "give pets as much supervision as possible. Take a good look around the pet's environment, using the pet's point-of-view. Make sure personal items aren't left lying around at a level where pets can gain access to them. When your dog's rawhide or chew toy becomes small enough to swallow, just throw it away. Also, watch the sidewalk when out for a stroll. Tempting sidewalk foreign bodies can include discarded wrappers, popsicle sticks, and even half-eaten fried chicken meals. When visiting the dog run, take one lap around before setting your dog free. Check the area for items that don't belong and pick up any toys or balls your dog could swallow."



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