



Oakwood News

OAKWOOD VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Winter 2009

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! Every January, millions of people make New Years Resolutions to start the year off in a different direction. Many will commit to healthier eating and more physical activities. What about your four-legged friend? Why not include them in your healthy living plans and



take them with you on those walks? This issue is packed full of information about parasites. While focusing on your healthy living for the new year, don't forget about your pets' health. This is an important topic that can help keep you and your family healthy for years to come.

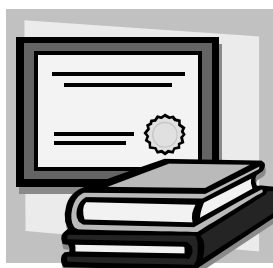
Dr. Cozzens Returns from Winter Break

We all missed Dr. Cozzens during his 10 week holiday break. We are thrilled he is back working three days per week. In addition to traveling and spending time with children and grandchildren he also found time to attend an educational seminar in Florida. Please find more information below.

Dr. Cozzens Attends Continuing Education Seminar

Dr. Cozzens attended the Florida Veterinary Medical Association's 79th Annual Conference this past October. He received 16 clinical education credits while attending lectures on a variety of subjects such as: Allergies; Dermatology (skin conditions); Ear Disease; New Advances in Pain Management; and Medical and Surgical Treatment of Eye Disease.

It is important at Oakwood Veterinary Hospital that our doctors attend these educational seminars so that we may continue advancing the care available to our patients. We use this training to continue to learn and stay current with new treatments and techniques which allows us to bring you superior and up-to-date service.



Thank you for calling Oakwood...

You may have noticed some new voices answering the phone or faces greeting you up front at the reception desk. Please be patient while we cross-train our entire staff to assist clients on the phone and at the reception desk. We are hoping that by training our "back-room" staff to assist "up front" with phone calls and client visits, we will be better at decreasing your wait time when phone call and pet visit volume is high. Thank you for your patience during this training period.



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People, Pets, & Parasites

Answers to Your Questions About Parasites to Keep You and Your Pets Healthy

Q: Why should I control parasites for my pet year-round?

A: Due to the large number of internal and external parasites and the high risk of pet infection, controlling parasites year-round is the most reliable way to ensure the highest level of health for your pet and well-being of your family. Year-round prevention is the most effective way to control cat and dog parasites and the diseases they can carry.

Q: Why can't I treat my pet for parasites just during the summer months?

A: Parasites can infect your pet any time of year. While external parasites, such as fleas and ticks, may be less of a problem during Michigan winters, internal parasites (worms) can be present year-round. That's why it's important to consult with your veterinarian to implement a year-round parasite control program.

Q: What kind of internal parasites or worms can infect my cat or dog?

A: There are a number of intestinal worms that can infect dogs and cats, and they vary according to the species. In general, these include tapeworms, roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms, and they are very prolific. In fact, one worm can produce more than 100,000 eggs per day, which are then passed in the pet's stool and spread throughout the area the pet roams. Once in the environment, these eggs can remain infective and present a health risk for your pet and to humans for years.

Q: How does my dog or cat get intestinal worms (tapeworms, roundworms, hookworms, whipworms)?

A: Dogs and cats are most commonly infected when they ingest (eat) intestinal worm eggs that have been passed through the feces of an infected dog or cat. Tapeworms can be transmitted to pets that ingest fleas or other intermediate hosts, such as small rodents, that carry tapeworm larvae. Some worm species can be transmitted to puppies and kittens through the mother's placenta and milk.

Q: How can my veterinarian determine if my pet has intestinal parasites (worms)?

A: Most intestinal parasites can be diagnosed through a physical examination and the microscopic analysis of your

pet's stool. Your veterinarian can conduct the examination and fecal tests to determine if your pet has worms and then prescribe the appropriate treatment and/or preventive program.

Q: If my dog or cat has intestinal worms, how can these parasites infect humans?

A: Roundworms are the most common intestinal parasite of pets and the most likely to be transmitted to humans. Humans can accidentally ingest infective worm eggs that have been passed through the pet's feces and are then left in the environment. The eggs hatch in the human's intestinal tract, and the immature worms travel to various tissues in the body, including the eyes and brain, causing serious infections.

Q: Are heartworms a parasite I should be concerned about for my pet?

A: Yes. Heartworms can be a very serious problem for your pets, especially those in mosquito-infested areas, as mosquitoes are a vector and intermediate host for the pest. Heartworms can kill or seriously debilitate pets that are infected with them. That's because heartworms live in the bloodstream, lungs, and heart of infected pets. Your veterinarian can do a blood test to determine if your pet has heartworm disease. A year-round intestinal parasite preventive program is most effective at keeping pets free of parasites, including heartworms.

Q: Can heartworms that infect my dog or cat also infect humans?

A: Rarely will heartworms infect humans. However, human cases of heartworm infection have occurred.

Q: How can I reduce the risk of parasites infecting my family?

A: You can reduce the risk of parasitic infection by eliminating parasites from pets through year round prevention and periodic testing; restricting access to contaminated areas, such as sandboxes, pet "walk areas," and other high-traffic areas, and practicing good personal hygiene. Disposing of pet feces on a regular basis can help remove potentially infective worm eggs before they become distributed in the environment and are picked up or ingested by pets or humans.

-source Companion Animal Parasite Council

Most Popular Pet Names of 2008

Fluffy has given way to Lucy, while Rover has been replaced by Chloe. Are they pets, or people? You need look no farther than the names people are selecting for their pets to prove how much a member of the family we consider our pets.

Veterinary Pet Insurance, the nation's largest provider of pet health insurance, scoured its database of more than 466,000 insured pets to find the most popular dog and cat names of 2008. But the company didn't stop there--it also gathered lists of the most unusual names.

- source MSNBC

Top dog names Top cat names

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. Max | 1. Max |
| 2. Bailey | 2. Chloe |
| 3. Bella | 3. Tigger |
| 4. Molly | 4. Tiger |
| 5. Lucy | 5. Lucy |
| 6. Buddy | 6. Smokey |
| 7. Maggie | 7. Oliver |
| 8. Daisy | 8. Bella |
| 9. Sophie | 9. Shadow |
| 10. Chloe | 10. Charlie |

Most unusual dog names

1. Rush Limbark
2. Sirius Lee Handsome
3. Rafikikadiki
4. Low Jack
5. Meatwad
6. Peanut Wigglebutt
7. Scuddles Unterfuss
8. Sophie Touch & Pee
9. Admiral Toot
10. Spatula

Most unusual cat names

1. Edward Scissorpaws
2. Sir Lix-a-lot
3. Optimus Prrime
4. Buddah Pest
5. Snoop Kitty Kitty
6. Miss Fuzzbutt
7. 80 Bucks
8. Sparklemonkey
9. Rosie Posie Prozac
10. Toot Uncommon

Parasites and Your Family

In the past, "Heartworm" preventives were typically only recommended during the warm months of the year (May-November). That continues to be the recommendation for mosquito-transmitted parasites today. But did you know that all current monthly "heartworm" products also prevent our most common intestinal parasites?

Intestinal pet parasites such as roundworms and hookworms are transmissible to people. Parasites that can be shared between humans and animals are called "zoonotic" parasites. People, especially children, can become infected by contacting their pets feces unintentionally. An infected pet can shed thousands of parasite eggs into their environment, "seeding" their own yard, and also community parks and other public areas. Pets become infected themselves by direct contact with infected pets or ingestion of contaminated materials (shared toys, soiled grass, direct ingestion of fecal matter). A very high percentage of puppies and kittens have intestinal worms. Young children are especially at risk as they play with these new pets.

Using broad-spectrum parasite preventatives on a monthly basis year-round is the best way to protect all family members.

How common are zoonotic infections? Thankfully they are rare. But, while the number is low, many of these infections can be devastating, resulting in significant illness. If your pet is diagnosed with intestinal parasites, make sure everyone uses good hygiene by washing hands after contact with infected pets.

While we can't easily prevent exposure with contaminated pets or materials, we can minimize parasites in our pets and protect our human family by worming pets regularly. Using broad-spectrum parasite preventatives on a **monthly basis year round**, is the best way to protect all family members. Even in Northern Michigan, year-round monthly parasite prevention is recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC), American Heartworm Society, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), along with the doctors and staff at Oakwood Veterinary Hospital. Ask our staff for more information or visit the websites of the above organizations.

Steps to Prevent Roundworm & Hookworm Infection

- Have puppies and kittens dewormed by your vet at an early age and test stool samples periodically.
- Start or keep your pets on a preventive medication program that treats and controls these intestinal worms year round.
- Learn to recognize and avoid possibly contaminated soil, sand, plants, and other objects.
- Keep play areas, lawns, and gardens around your home free of animal waste.
 - Bag and dispose of pet feces.
 - Cover sandboxes when not in use.
- Obey leash laws in public areas such as parks.

-source Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

How a Pet becomes Infected with Intestinal Parasites

Your pet can become infected with intestinal parasites through many routes, including:

- Drinking contaminated water
- Coming into contact with other infected animals
- Coming into contact with feces containing parasite eggs or larvae
- Swallowing fleas carrying the infective stage of tapeworms (the pet may swallow a flea when he bites or chews at his skin due to flea infestation)
- Nursing from an infected mother
- Eating a rodent or other animal carrying the infective stage of a parasite

source: American Animal Hosp. Assn.

Physical Signs of a Parasite Infection

Healthy, well-fed pets may have an intestinal parasite infection without showing any physical signs, but keep an eye out for these changes:

- Change in appetite
- Soft Stool/Diarrhea
- Intestinal gas
- Bloated abdomen/belly
- Weight loss/failure to gain
- Coughing
- Skin irritation and itching
- Rough or dry coat
- Overall poor appearance

source: American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)

Did You Know?...

- Heartworm can affect cats exposed to the outdoors, as well as dogs.
- Heartworms can infect your dog or cat but are 100% preventable.
- 34% of dogs in the US are infected with gastrointestinal parasites (worms).
- An estimated 11,000 people in the US are infected with roundworms yearly and 7% of US children test positive for exposure
- Between 1 and 3 million people are infected with hookworms each year
- 244,000 dogs in the US are infected with heartworm every year.
- Fleas can give tapeworms and other parasites to your pet.

-source Companion Animal Parasite Council

VetToons

by Mark Parisi





First Dogs Match Up

With the Obama family ready to move into the White House, the question on many minds is what dog are they bringing with them? How well do you know past First Dogs?

See if you're up on your executive "best friends" by matching the President with First Dog.

- President**
1. Abraham Lincoln
 2. Warren Harding
 3. Franklin D. Roosevelt
 4. Dwight Eisenhower
 5. Lyndon B. Johnson
 6. Gerald Ford
 7. Ronald Reagan
 8. George H. Bush
 9. Bill Clinton
 10. George W. Bush

- First Dog**
- A. Buddy, Chocolate Lab
 - B. Him and Her, Beagles
 - C. Laddie Boy, Airedale Terrier
 - D. Liberty, Golden Retriever
 - E. Fido, dog
 - F. Heidi, Weimaraner
 - G. Rex, King Charles Spaniel
 - H. Fala, Scottish Terrier
 - I. Spot, Springer Spaniel
 - J. Millie, Springer Spaniel

Answer: 1E, 2C, 3H, 4F, 5B, 6D, 7G, 8J, 9A, 10I



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M. Drew Henshaw, DVM
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Hours

Monday– Friday

Reception Hours
7:30-5:00
Doctor Hours
8:00-12:00 and 2:00-5:00

Saturday

Reception and Doctor Hours
8:00-12:00



Emergencies

Should an after-hours emergency arise, simply call our regular phone number and our answering service will provide you with the Emergency On-Call veterinarian's contact information. This service is available evenings, weekends, and holidays.