



Oakwood News

OAKWOOD VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Summer 2011

Oakwood Online Store

Have you tried our online pharmacy? Available exclusively to our clients, this secure, safe website allows you to order conveniently from home. All orders are reviewed by our veterinarians and become part of your pet's medical record. You also get the peace of mind knowing that the manufacturer's guarantee is in full effect and you are shopping local. All products are shipped free for orders over \$39. We strive to be price competitive to non-local online pharmacies. Just log on to our website at www.OakwoodVetHospital.com and



click on your "Pet Portal LOG IN." Once you log in, click on the "Shop Online" menu tab to get started. It's as simple as that! We appreciate your support of our locally owned business.

You can also order prescription refills to be picked up at the hospital using your Pet Portal. Please plan ahead for medication refills. Some medications need to be special ordered or require a doctor approval for refill so always request refills two days in advance so we have time to fill orders.

NOW, YOU CAN REACH OUR PRACTICE ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

Get a Pet Portal and stay connected with us – anywhere, any time. Access is fast, easy, and secure.

How to get started:

CLICK HERE

to give us your email address. We'll send your Pet Portal login information in the next few days.

Sign up and you can:

- Stay current on your pets' health schedule
- Request Rx refills
- Ask us questions
- Receive automatic reminders about future exams & vaccinations.
- Receive e-cards on your pets' birthdays

Stay connected with us. Get a Pet Portal – and make life easier.

Ancient cultures thought the bright Dog Star, Sirius, added its heat to the sun's for 40 days, intensifying drought and discomfort. Today, the **dog days of summer** run from July 3 to August 11, according to *The Old Farmer's Almanac*. Help your own dog beat the heat by keeping its bowl full of H₂O.

Ask the Veterinarian

Q: *Is it really necessary for my pet to have an annual heartworm test and fecal test for intestinal parasites? What about monthly heartworm prevention—I thought we didn't have heartworm disease "Up North"?*

A: We do have heartworm disease in Northern Michigan and even more commonly, pets can be silent carriers of intestinal parasites. It is vitally important to screen for intestinal parasites (fecal test) and for heartworm disease (blood test), as well as to keep pets on appropriate monthly parasite prevention year-round. Preventing heartworm disease is far less costly and dangerous to a pet than treatment. It is recommended that your pet should have these tests done yearly, even if you administer year-round heartworm and parasite preventatives. Though it does not happen commonly, some parasites carried by dogs and cats can be transmitted to humans. For more information, please refer to page three of this newsletter on parasites.

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Safety Tips for Paddling Pets

Does your dog love the water?

Use these tips to keep your dog safe and comfortable at water play.

If it is not safe for people, it is not safe for pets. Obey warning signs that say “Do Not Swim” or “Beach Closed”.

Make sure your dog can swim. Not all dogs are natural swimmers. Dogs with short legs, dense bodies, and a short or no tail have a hard time staying afloat. Dogs with flat noses have a hard time breathing in water. Dogs that are old or overweight tire easily. Introduce your dog to water gradually and in a situation where you have control.

Make sure the water is clean. Lakes, ponds and rivers may contain chemicals, sewage, algae, bacteria, or other bits and bugs that can cause trouble when they come in contact with your pet’s skin— or the inside of its stomach. Do not let your dog drink or swim in water that is not clean.

Consider the temperature. Cold water can quickly lower your pet’s body temperature and cause hypothermia. If it is too cold for you, it is too cold for your pet.

Give your dog a drink. Bring clean water from home, and offer it to your dog often. That way, it is less likely to drink water in pools, rivers or lakes that may be harmful or cause stomach trouble.

Avoid infections. If your dog is prone to skin and ear infections, talk to your veterinarian about whether your pet should avoid water, because moisture can encourage infections.

Watch for soreness afterward. Swimming is great exercise for a dog with arthritis, but your pet may be sore afterward. Talk to your veterinarian before you take your pet swimming.

Bring a first aid kit. Sharp objects underwater can cut your pet’s feet and legs. Carry a first aid kit that contains a disinfectant, an antibiotic ointment for superficial wounds and sterile bandages.

Make your dog wear a life vest. A life vest is important at Lake Michigan because pets can be pulled under by strong currents. When on a boat, a dog should wear a vest. Be sure the vest is on right and fits well; adjust the straps to make it snug but not tight.

End with a good bath. After a day in the water, bathe your pet with a mild shampoo to remove chlorine or contaminants. Use an ear cleaner and flush its eyes with sterile saline solution.

Turn in early. Do not be surprised if your pet is unusually tired after a day in the sun and water. You probably will be too! Get a good night’s sleep, and take it easy the next day.

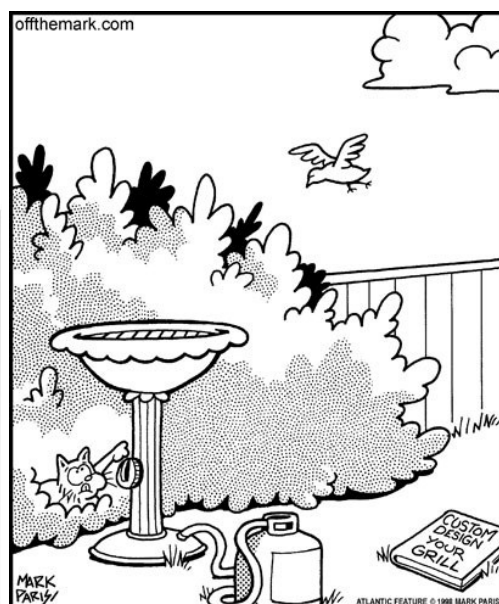
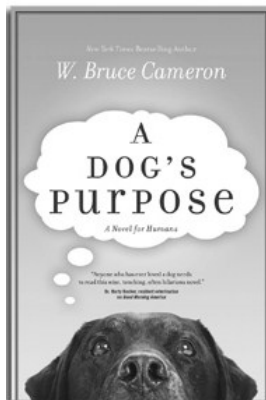
Summer Read

A DOG’S PURPOSE -- a novel for humans.

What if your dog never dies? What if dogs live multiple lifetimes, and remember all of them? What if every animal has a purpose, and your pet’s purpose is intimately bound to yours?

A Dog’s Purpose tells the story of a dog who finds himself reincarnated and decides there must be a reason, a purpose he must fulfill, and until he does so, he’ll continue to be re-born. The story is narrated by Bailey, a wise and funny dog who is very much...a dog

A Dog’s Purpose is funny, endearing, touching, uplifting, and as full of life as dogs themselves.





PARASITES AT A GLANCE

Parasites can cause a variety of health problems for your pet—and even death. One of the biggest concerns is the potential for them to spread to people. This handout lists common parasites in cats and dogs, the signs, detection, and whether they can spread to people—these are known as zoonotic parasites.

Veterinarians divide parasites into two main categories—external (ectoparasites) and internal (endoparasites). Fleas, ticks, and mites are ectoparasites. Endoparasites, such as heartworms or tapeworms, are often harder to detect but typically cause more severe disease. Here's a look at both:

	Signs and complications	Zoonotic	Detection
Ectoparasites			
Fleas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild to severe itching, hair loss, scratching, biting, and chewing Flea saliva hypersensitivity or allergy and resulting skin problems The transmission of tapeworms Anemia and possible death in young or small animals 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination of the animal for adult fleas or flea dirt (small black specks of dried flea feces)
Ticks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild local irritation to severe anemia Transmission of diseases to animals and people—Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and <i>Ehrlichia</i>, among others 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination of the animal
Mites and lice The three main types: sarcoptic mange, demodectic mange, and <i>Cheyletiella</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Itching, hair loss, dandruff or crusty lesions, and bleeding or oozing skin 	Some mites: Yes Lice: No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination of the animal and skin scrapings
Endoparasites			
Heartworms Transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not exhibit signs until late in the course of the disease Coughing, difficulty breathing, panting, exercise intolerance, decreased activity level, and sudden death 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blood test
Roundworms and hookworms Live in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract; transmitted through fecal-oral contact and from mother to offspring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diarrhea, anemia, and loss of body condition 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fecal examination Observation of worms
Tapeworms Live in the GI tract; transmitted from ingestion of fleas, rodents, and rabbits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None to diarrhea, weight loss, and poor body condition 	Some	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observation of tapeworm segments in freshly passed feces Fecal examination

Referral Program

The greatest compliment you can pay our staff is to recommend our services to friends and family. For every new client you refer to us we will add a credit to your account. Thank you for your confidence!



Have You Signed Up For A Pet Portal?

You've given your pets everything except their own personal website. Our practice provides FREE individual Pet Portals for your pets. These Portals will allow you to:

- Request and track appointments
- Check your pet's vaccination and exam status
- Order prescription refills and shop our online store
- Receive medication reminders
- Access answers to your pet health questions
- Receive important medical alerts
- And much more!



OAKWOOD
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HOSPITAL



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M. Drew Henshaw, DVM
Bruce C. Cozzens, DVM

Hours

Monday– Friday

Reception Hours
7:30-5:00

Doctor Hours
8:00-12:00 and 2:00-5:00

Saturday

8:00-12:00

*Seasonally this schedule may change, please call ahead.



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.