

The Pet Gazette

Summer 2009

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Wayne and Denise

Hello everyone! Hope that you and your pets are doing well. It's time for our second newsletter and we do have some updates to share with all of you.

Some of you may have noticed that we have a couple new faces on our staff. We have Denise, who will be working up front with Jaci. Wayne has also joined our team and he will be working in kennels with Jill, Brandie, and Carly.

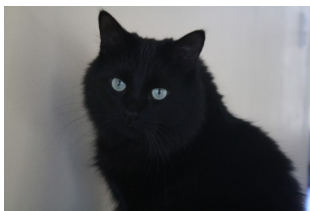
On another note, some of you noticed on our sign that there has been a new addition to the world. Carly gave birth to a beautiful little girl named Lucy Pauline! Both are doing great and Carly plans on coming back to us soon.

Know Your Options!

These are the heartworm preventatives we offer.

- *Sentinel
- *Interceptor
- *Revolution
- *Heartgard

Ask our staff to see which preventative fits your pet best.



This is Leo, Dr. Saldivia's mischievous boy!



Heartworm Season is in Full Swing!



Heartworm season has begun and it's time to make sure that your pet is protected.

Heartworms can be deadly to both cats and dogs. The disease spreads when a mosquito bites an infected animal and then passes the disease along to another animal. Since mosquitoes can easily get indoors, all domestic cats and dogs are at risk.

Fortunately, heartworm disease can be prevented. You just need to start your pet on a preventative at an

early age and consistently give it throughout your dog or cat's life. However, preventatives will not eliminate an existing infection. If a preventative is given to a dog that has heartworms, it could potentially cause a fatal reaction. This is why a heartworm check is needed before your pet can be put on a preventative.

We do offer a variety of heartworm preventatives to try and match your pets needs. Most of the preventatives we offer also

have the benefit of having an intestinal parasite control. Mosquitoes are seasonal in Michigan; therefore the risk of getting heartworm usually falls within the months of April thru December. However, your pet could get an intestinal parasite any time of the year. Some of these intestinal parasites, like roundworms and hookworms, can transmit to humans. For this reason, we recommend having your pet on a monthly heartworm preventative year round.

A few things your pet should avoid!

- *Macadamia nuts
- *Lilies
- *Grapes
- *Raisins
- *Onions

See our website for more information.

What is a True Emergency?

One of the most common concerns pet owners have is how to decide what needs to be seen immediately or what can wait until the next day. This can be a tough call when your pet is sick.

There are a few situations

that always need emergency care. Getting hit by a car, having exposure to extreme heat or cold, a bite wound or laceration that gapes open, seizures that don't resolve in 5 minutes, or lack of consciousness are all emergency situations.

The signs of a healthy pet include bright clear eyes, clean ears, normal odor to the mouth, pink gums, moist nose, shiny coat, and skin that snaps back easily when pulled away from the shoulders. A normal attitude, healthy appetite

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and thirst, use of all four limbs, and normal breathing are also important. Anything other than these are reasons to contact your veterinarian.

Some indicators of trouble include swelling, severe vomiting or diarrhea (more than 3-4 times per hour), any injury to the eye, any suspected poisoning, any difficulty breathing, or nonproductive straining to urinate or defecate. Chronic conditions that appear to be worsening are also good reasons to call the emergency clinic. In small mammals such as rabbits or ferrets, often the only signs of pain or illness are lethargy and loss of

appetite.

Problems causing pain may not be life threatening, but can cause stress to your pet and should be handled quickly. Pets often don't tell us in ways we can understand that they are painful. Signs of pain in dogs and cats include panting, lethargy, restlessness, loss of appetite, vocalization, aggression, seeking contact with the owner, or withdrawing from family.

What should you do if you think you have an emergency? If we are open call us first, as we can handle most emergencies. If it is after hours, call

the Animal Emergency Hospital or Michigan Veterinary Specialists. They can advise you whether you have a true emergency or if it can wait.

If you do go to the emergency hospital, be sure to bring your records, including recent blood work results and current medications. This can sometimes help the emergency veterinarian decide where to focus their diagnostics.

Animal Emergency Hospital

- (616) 361-9911

Michigan Veterinary Specialists

- (616) 284-5300

Protect Your Dog From Parvo!

What is it? The canine parvovirus is one of the most common and severe gastrointestinal diseases of dogs. The virus most frequently attacks puppies younger than a year of age. This virus is extremely contagious and can live in an environment for up to seven months or longer.

How does a dog get it? The main source of the virus is the feces of infected dogs. Susceptible animals become infected by ingesting the virus. Unlike most other viruses, it is stable in the environment and is resistant to the effects of heat and most detergents. Due to its stability, the virus is easily transmitted by contaminated shoes, clothes, or even the hair or feet of infected dogs. Direct contact between dogs is not required to spread the virus. Dogs that become infected with the virus usually become ill within 7-10 days of the initial infection.

What does it do? Parvo is a virus that attacks the lining of the digestive system. This results in severe dehydration, electrolyte imbalances, and infection in the bloodstream (septicemia). When the bacteria that normally lives in the intestinal tract are able to get into the bloodstream, it becomes more likely that the animal will die. Severe bloody diarrhea and vomiting, high fever, and lethargy characterize the virus.

How is it treated? Getting prompt treatment can result in complete recovery. The first step in treatment is to correct dehydration and electrolyte imbalances. This requires administration of intravenous fluids containing electrolytes. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs are given to prevent or control septicemia.

How can it be prevented? The best way to protect your pet is with proper vaccination. Vaccination begins at six to eight weeks of age, with booster shots every three weeks until the puppy is sixteen weeks old. They will need an annual booster their first year and after that the vaccine will be given every three years.

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