



NVH Pawprints

Newtown Veterinary Hospital

July 2006

Heartworm Disease



Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in dogs. Adult heartworms live in the heart and pulmonary arteries of infected dogs. They survive up to five years and, during this time, the female produces millions of young (microfilaria). These microfilaria live in the bloodstream, mainly in the small blood vessels. One dog may have as many as 300 worms.

- Adult worms cause disease by clogging the heart and major blood vessels leading from the heart. They interfere with the valve action in the heart. By clogging the main blood vessels, the blood supply to other organs of the body is reduced, particularly the lungs, liver and kidneys, leading to

malfunction of these organs.

- Microfilariae circulate throughout the body but remain primarily in the small blood vessels. Because they are as wide as the small vessels, they may block blood flow in these vessels, ultimately depriving body cells of the nutrients and oxygen needed to function properly.

How Do Dogs Get Heartworms? Heartworm disease is spread by mosquitoes. As many as 30 species of mosquitoes can transmit heartworms. The female mosquito bites an infected dog and ingests the microfilariae. The microfilariae develop further for 10 to 30 days in the mosquito and then enter the mouth parts of the mos-

quito. (The microfilariae are now called infective larvae because at this stage of development, then will grow to adulthood when they enter the dog.) The mosquito bites the dog where the haircoat is thinnest. However, having long hair does not prevent a dog from getting heartworms. When fully developed, the infective larvae enter the bloodstream and move to the heart and adjacent vessels, where they grow to maturity in two to three months and start reproducing, thereby completing the full life cycle.

Signs of Heartworm Disease

1. Soft, dry, chronic cough
2. Shortness of breath
3. Weakness

Continued on page 3

Inside this issue:

HSUS top stories 3 and 2 2

Amazing Cat Facts 2

Why does my dog do that? 2

Arthritis in Dogs and Cats 3

Heartworm continued 3

Pets we'll miss 4

Treatment of Arthritis Pain at NVH 4

Did You Know?

- Flamingos are pink because shrimp is one of their main sources of food.
- The slowest mammal on earth is the tree sloth. It only moves at a speed of 6 feet per minute.
- The Chameleon can focus its eyes separately to watch two objects at once.
- A hippopotamus can stay under water for up to 30 minutes.

Questions you should ask for your pet's surgery

Is your pet going to have a surgery? Are you worried? Do you want to know what's going to happen but don't know the questions to ask?

You have the right and responsibility to your pet to know what services are being provided. Please do not hesitate to ask us questions OR ANY veterinary care provider you may choose.

Ask whether they practice pain control measures and

what they use.

Ask if they place breathing tubes in their surgical patients.

Ask if they have a trained staff member monitoring your pet during all aspects of their procedure.

Ask if they use sterile instruments and wear surgical attire.

Ask if your pet will have an intravenous catheter AND intravenous fluids.

Ask if they are using the safest anesthetic drugs available.

Do not be afraid to ask these questions wherever you choose to take your pet.

Knowledge is power and if we can reach the public and educate them then we can help many animals avoid suffering in silence.

Cheaper is not always better. Be an informed pet owner!!!!!!

HSUS Top 12 Stories of 2005 continued



#2 - Americans wrap their arms around Katrina's animal victims.

3. The HSUS and The Fund for Animals join forces. The HSUS and The Fund for Animals joined forces in 2005. The expanded organization launched four major campaigns targeting factory farms, the fur industry, sport hunting and animal fighting and other forms of cruelty. The new HSUS also launched its Animal Protection Litigation section and established the Humane Society Legislative Fund, dedicated to expanding animal-welfare lobbying at the

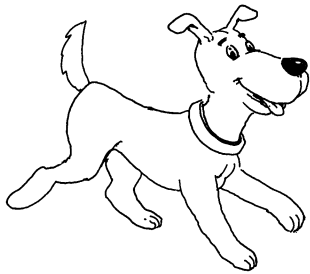
state and federal levels for laws that make the world a genuinely more humane place.

2. Americans wrap their arms around Katrina's animal victims. During the days, weeks, and months following Hurricane Katrina, The HSUS did everything possible to help rescue and shelter an estimated 10,000 animals along the Gulf Coast. Americans donated generously to save these pets and The HSUS responded in kind by open-

ing two emergency shelters and providing volunteers and staff by the hundreds as well as supplies, trucks and trailers. The HSUS continues its work by rebuilding shelters along the Gulf, creating spay/neuter programs, and launching a humane trapping program to deal with the ongoing homeless pet population in Louisiana. The HSUS is also backing new public policies to ensure government responders account for animals in disasters.

Amazing Cat Facts by: American Media Mini Mags, INC

- A cat can't see directly under its nose - that's why they have trouble finding treats on the floor.
- A cat can jump five to seven times its heights.
- Cats have three eyelids. The third eyelid is called the "haw" or nictating membrane. It's the tiny triangle of pink tissue that you see in the corner of a cat's eye.
- If a cat becomes so overweight that its sides stick out farther than its whiskers, it will lose its sense of perception and stability.
- Whiskers help cats to "see in the dark". They use them to find their way around by touch.
- An average cat's meal is equivalent to five mice.
- Cats have five toes on their front paws and four toes on their back paws. If a cat has more than the normal number of toes, it is called polydactyl. The extra toes are not harmful to the cat.
- In cats and humans, the same region of the brain is responsible for emotion.



"Zorro was here" the mark seems to infer.

Why does my dog kick her back legs over her poop? By: AKC Family Dog magazine spring 2004

Many people think that when their dogs tear at the ground with their back feet after they have urinated or defecated that they're trying to cover up the mess, just as a cat might. This is not true. What the dog is doing when it scrapes frantically at the ground is symbolically marking the territory.

"Zorro was here," the mark seems to infer. The deposition of urine and feces, in and of itself, can represent a territorial mark not only for dogs but also for just about all domestic species. So when a dog finds just the right place and he performs his duty, subsequently scratching the

ground in the immediate vicinity with his hind feet, he is actually sending a double message, "Zorro conclusively was here, according to what you are seeing and smelling."

Arthritis in Dogs & Cats by: Norma Bennett Woolf

Arthritis results from inflammation in the joints and is generally divided into two types - degenerative and inflammatory - according to the source of that irritation.

Degenerative joint disease (*osteoarthritis*) results from destruction of the cartilage that protects the bones that make up the joint. Cartilage destruction can be the result of normal stress on abnormal joints or abnormal stress on normal joints. Hip dysplasia, a malformation of the hip sockets, is one example of normal stress on abnormal joints. Constant jumping over obstacles, stretching or tearing ligaments during strenuous exercise, or injuries in a fall or accident are examples of abnormal stress on normal joints. Degenerative joint disease can be further subdivided into primary disease for which no known cause is evident and secondary disease for which a cause can be pinpointed. Among the causes of secondary degenerative joint disease are hip dysplasia, patella luxation

(loose kneecaps), osteochondritis dissecans (OCD, the development of cartilage "flaps" in the joints when bone development is disturbed), trauma, and ruptured cruciate (knee) ligaments. Secondary degenerative joint disease can sometimes be prevented or halted by surgical repair of the joint before arthritis progresses.

Degenerative arthritis may not manifest until the dog has had years of abnormal stress. Since cartilage has no nerves, the damage can progress with no outward signs until the joint is severely compromised and the lubricating fluid has thinned and lost its ability to protect the bone surfaces.

Inflammatory joint disease can be caused by infection or by underlying immune-mediated diseases. Inflammatory arthritis usually affects multiple joints and is accompanied by signs of systemic illness including fever, anorexia, and all-over stiffness. Again, this type of arthritis is subdivided into infectious and immune-

mediated categories. Infectious joint disease can be caused by bacteria, by tick-borne diseases such as Lyme Disease or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and by fungal infections.

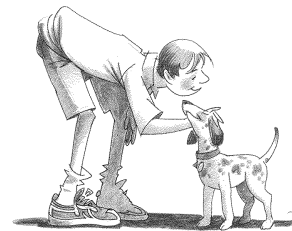
Immune-mediated arthritis is caused by underlying weakness in the immune system and can be hereditary. Rheumatoid arthritis, a deforming type of immune-mediated arthritis, is rare in dogs. Systemic lupus and an idiopathic (unidentified) immune-related arthritis both can cause nondestructive joint infections.

Because infectious joint disease and immune-mediated joint disease call for different treatment protocols, diagnosis must be accurate. The immunosuppressive drugs used to treat the immune-mediated disease may allow the infectious type of disease to thrive.

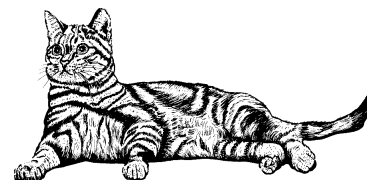
Signs of arthritis

- Reluctance to walk, climb stairs, jump or play

Continued on page 4



"Constant jumping over obstacles, stretching or tearing ligaments during strenuous exercise, or injuries in a fall or accident are examples of abnormal stress on normal joints."



Heartworm Disease continued from page 1

4. Nervousness
5. Listlessness
6. Loss of stamina

** All of these signs are most noticeable following exercise, when some dogs may even faint.

How can I Prevent Heartworm Disease in my Dog?

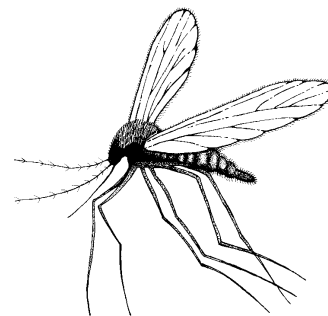
The only way to prevent

heartworm disease is to have your dog on a heartworm prevention program. Heartworm pills (Sentinel, Interceptor, Heartgard) are given once monthly year round.

Heartworm disease is a very serious problem. While in some cases the disease may be treated, there are other cases that the disease is fatal. Owners

who think that their dog is not at risk are mistaken. Mosquitoes can be found everywhere, even inside houses. All dogs, whether they spend hours outside, minutes outside or do not go outside at all, are at risk of heartworm disease.

www.animalclinic/hrtworm.htm



Mosquitoes can be found everywhere, even inside houses.



Newtown Veterinary Hospital

671 Newtown-Yardley Road
Newtown PA 18940
www.newtownvet.com

Phone: 215-968-3895
Fax: 215-579-2650

A house pet passes

Jocko our hospital dog, passed away in the middle of June. He was 15 years old and holds a special place in the hearts of all NVH staff. We are going to miss the big boy.

Our four-legged friends who have passed away

Shadow McQuiggan, Kitty May, Snowball Bauer, Freddie Kierstead, Ivy Plint, Carter Sherman, Sophie Elwell, Marley Oliver, Shade Martini, Maura Wirebach, Cassie Conover, Licorice Zuno, Lady Nay, Coconut Corallo, Noodles Check, Phoebe Donan, Rusty Guida, Max



Zarutskie Milkshake Logue, Noel High, Stosh Whaley, Harley McCarthy, Bailey Turbyfill, Bubba Massey, Max Caroselli, Hobbs Joyce, Heidi Young, Hailey MacElroy, Jordie Berman, P.D. Brown, Alex Campbell, Maggie Staffin, Kramer Dear, Madison McLaughlin

We will miss them all.

Arthritis in Dogs & Cats continued from pg3

- Limping
- Lagging behind on walks
- Difficulty rising from a resting position
- Yelping in pain when touched
- A personality change resisting touch

If surgery is not indicated or advisable, relief can be achieved with painkillers, exercise, rest and diet. However, even over-the-counter painkillers should not be used without the advice of a veterinarian.

Treatment

Degenerative joint disease can sometimes be halted or prevented by surgery when x-rays indicate joint malformations.

From Dog Owner's Guide: Arthritis (www.canismajor.com/dog/arthritis.html) is a part of the Dog Owner's Guide internet website and is copyright 20002 by Canis Major Publications.

Copyright 2002 by Canis Major Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Treatment of Arthritis Pain at NVH

Anti-Inflammatory Medications: Rimadyl, Deramaxx, Etogesic and Aspirin.

These medications help to control mild symptoms, and can calm any flare-ups that may occur from time to time. However, anti-inflammatory drugs do not actually repair the joint or prevent further damage.

Rimadyl is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication. It is indicated for the relief of pain and inflammation associated with osteoarthritis in dogs. Rimadyl can not be used in cats. Dogs must have liver enzymes checked before starting long-term usage and every six months after starting the medication. Rimadyl can make pre-existing liver conditions worse or should not be used in dogs with bleeding disorders.

Deramaxx is a non-steroidal

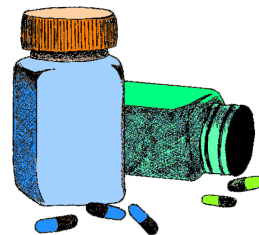
anti-inflammatory medication. It is indicated for the control of orthopedic pain and inflammation as well as chronic arthritis pain in dogs. Deramaxx should only be given to dogs. Deramaxx may cause vomiting, a change in bowel movements such as diarrhea or change in stool color., a change in drinking or urination, and a decrease in appetite.

Etogesic is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication. It is recommended for the management of pain and inflammation associated with osteoarthritis in dogs. Etogesic should not be used in dogs with renal impairment, liver impairment, or bleeding disorders. Etogesic has a high incidence of causing bloody diarrhea.

Aspirin is an anti-inflammatory medication. BUFFERED ASPIRIN (adult or baby size, depending on your dog's weight) can be used as needed, but it is NOT recom-

mended for long-term, daily use. Buffered Aspirin can cause GI bleeds and clotting problems. *****NEVER give your dog Acetaminophen (Tylenol), Ibuprofen (Advil) or Naproxen (Aleve).**

Cosequin works to maintain the structure of the cartilage in the joints while inhibiting enzymes that break down cartilage. Cartilage is able to replenish itself by manufacturing huge amounts of collagen and proteoglycans. Cosequin provides these nutrients that affect the structure and function of the joint. Because of this, changes may occur gradually (changes should be noticed in three to four weeks). Cosequin is very safe to use. Acute oral toxicity tests have been conducted indicating no oral toxicity.



Never give your dog Tylenol, Advil or Alleve!

A Special Good Bye!

Mary McHugh has worked here for 10 years! Her last day will be July 6th.

We will miss her!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Erin - 5 years of service!

Janelle - 5 years of service!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 1st - John's Birthday

July 2nd to the 4th - CLOSED for the 4th of July weekend

July 19th - Riki's Birthday

July 27th - Melissa A's Birthday

PET FAIR 2006

Saturday

September 16th

10am to 4pm

Come join the fun!!