

# Hartwood Animal Hospital Newsletter

## Welcome Spring

Spring brings beautiful weather and gorgeous flowers; however it also brings the critters out too.  
Fleas, Ticks, Mosquitoes

Just as a Reminder.... All cats and dogs should be on a heartworm preventative and flea/tick preventative year round to prevent heartworm disease and the infestation of both fleas and ticks. Ferrets should also be on heartworm preventative.



Ticks and Fleas are "yucky and gross", but more importantly, they can be dangerous for your pet's health. A flea has to live on blood in order to survive. Therefore, they need to bite your pet or you in order to receive their blood meal. A pet heavily infested with fleas can result in an anemic and debilitating patient. If untreated, the outcome can potentially be deadly for your pet. Young, old, and small sized pets have a greater risk of becoming severely ill from a flea infestation.



Ticks are also one of those parasites that will cause us to say "Oooo and Gross"  
Ticks also need a blood meal. A tick will find a comfy place on your pet, move in, and feast on your pet's blood. Ticks can transmit Lyme's Disease, Ehrlichia, Anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Borrelia. There is a Zoonotic potential with all these diseases, meaning ticks can transmit these diseases to humans

When removing a tick make sure to wear gloves or use tweezers to prevent direct contact with the potentially infected tick.

See the "Zoonosis" article on the next page

There are various products available for both dogs & cats to prevent these nasty critters from making a home on your pet.

<b>Frontline Plus</b>	Adult Fleas ~ Flea Eggs ~ Ticks
<b>Vectra 3D (K9 only)</b>	Adult Fleas ~ Flea Eggs ~ Ticks ~ Mosquitoes
<b>Advantage</b>	Adult Fleas ~ Flea Eggs ( <b>only safe product for rabbits</b> )
<b>Advantix (K9 only)</b>	Adult Fleas ~ Flea Eggs ~ Ticks ~ Mosquitoes (Does not cover all types of ticks ~ <b>not safe around cats</b> )

Due to the coverage, efficacy, and safety of the products, we recommend either **Frontline Plus or Vectra**  
We Do Not recommend any over the counter products or flea collars; they do not work well and can make them very sick !!!

**Advantage is the only safe flea and tick product to use on rabbits.**

**Try to take our "Flea & Tick" test...**

1 female flea can produce \_\_\_\_\_ offspring in her 9 month adult life span.

Fleas can jump up to \_\_\_\_ feet.

The larval stage of a flea & several stages of the tick can live more than \_\_\_\_\_ without feeding.

Ticks can transmit diseases like \_\_\_\_\_ to your pet.

Fleas \_\_\_\_\_ unlike ticks that \_\_\_\_\_.

(Answer: 1 trillion ~ 6 feet ~ 1 year ~ Lyme's Ehrlichia, Rocky Mtn Spotted Fever ~ Jump ~ climb)



## Heartworm Disease In Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets

Heartworm Disease is a disease prevalent in this area for dogs, cats, and ferrets

\*\*\* This disease is fatal and very preventable. \*\*\*

**The cost to treat heartworms is approx 10x the cost of a year's supply of preventative**

Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes. An infected mosquito can bite your dog, cat, or ferret and transmit the early stage of heartworms. The heartworms grow and migrate to the heart where they hinder the ability to pump blood and force the heart to become enlarged.

Did you know ??? Adult heartworms are capable of living up to 5 years.

When an adult heartworm dies, it is carried in to the lungs where they destroy the lung tissue

Symptoms:

Coughing ~ Shortness of Breath ~ Vomiting ~ Exercise Intolerance

Unfortunately, a pet diagnosed with heartworms and left untreated, will result in congestive heart failure and death.

### Zoonosis ??? What is Zoonosis ???

Zoonotic Diseases are diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

Rabies ~ Ringworm ~ Scabies ~ Intestinal Parasites (rounds, hooks, giardia)

Intestinal Parasites are very common in puppies and kittens as well as outdoor pets that are not dewormed on a regular basis.

Intestinal parasites can live in the soil for months to even years at a time.

It is very important to NEVER walk bare foot outside and to ALWAYS wash hands well after being outside. Children are at a higher risk since they are not as good about washing their hands and like to put their hands in their mouths.

Sand boxes are a common place to find parasites since cats like to use them as a litter box.

If you have a sand box make sure it is covered when not in use !

# ALLERGIES

## Tis the Season for Allergies

Is your pet experiencing any of the following?

Sneezing ~ Coughing ~ Watery Eyes ~ Runny Nose  
Dry Flaky Skin ~ Red or Irritated Skin ~ Scratching ~ Chewing  
Chewing at feet ~ Ear infection ~ Smelly Skin  
Poor Appetite ~ Red Muzzle ~ Vomiting ~ Diarrhea

Allergy testing may be the right avenue to take if your pet is experiencing any of these signs. Allergies are a very common condition found in both dogs and cats which can be managed properly once accurately diagnosed. Your doctor will recommend a treatment plan that may include any of the following:

Allergy Injections / Antihistamines / Medicated Shampoos  
Oral or Topical medications / Antibiotics

The prescribed regimen will give your pet relief and comfort for a happier and healthier life. If your pet has food allergies, a simple change in diet can be the answer.

We have the capability of treating your pet directly and successfully instead of treating the clinical signs.

If you think your pet could have allergies, please let us know so that we can begin the proper steps to help you make your pets' life comfortable and pain free.

For those allergy dogs, we carry Hypo Allergenic Treats (Gentle Snackers)  
Low Allergen Glucosamine Granules and Veggie CET Chews!!

### We Now Carry Pill Pockets

Pill Pockets are a soft tasty treat with a pocket center to hold either a tablet or capsule in for ease of administering medications.

Flavors ~ Chicken, Beef, Salmon

~ Let us know if you need any pill pockets when you have your medications filled ~

### Did you know???

- ... On a beautiful sunny 72°f day, the temperature in your car can increase by 40°f within 1 hour
- ... Most of the rise in temperature happens in the first 30 minutes
- ... A cracked window has NO significant cooling effect
- ... On an 85° day with your windows open slightly,  
the interior temperature can reach 102°f in 10 minutes and 120°f after 30 minutes

**Pets are in danger of heatstroke at 110°f**



## Are You Going Out Of Town?

If you know you are going out of town for the Spring Holiday and need to board your pet, please contact us soon as you have your dates. Our boarding facility books up quickly!

Also, as a reminder..... We have the ability to board all kinds of pets including dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, and pocket pets.

All pets boarding at HAH must be current on their vaccines for their protection and the protection of others.

Please contact us if your pet needs a wellness exam or vaccines updated.

### WE HAVE A NEW MOTION SICKNESS MEDICATION

WE CAN KEEP YOUR DOG OR CAT FROM VOMITING WHILE TRAVELING

THE MEDICATION IS *CERENIA*

#### BENEFITS:

WORKS WITHIN 1-2 HRS OF ADMINISTRATION

LASTS 24 HOURS

NO SEDATIVE EFFECTS (YOUR PET WILL NOT BE GROGGY)

IF YOU ARE TRAVELING ANY TIME SOON, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN HELP MAKE YOUR TRIP MORE ENJOYABLE!

As the weather becomes nicer, we all like taking trips that include our pets. Please don't forget your pet has special needs while traveling.

**Warming Devices for Reptiles \* Proper Carrier or Seat Belt**

**Plenty of Water \* Medications \* Extra Bedding**

**Copy of medical and vaccine records**

**\*\* You will need a health certificate if crossing state lines \*\***

If you need to stop for a break **DO NOT** take your cat or bird out of its carrier, take them outside in the carrier to get fresh air.

When taking your dog for a walk, make sure the collar and leash are on snugly and securely so they do not accidentally slip away.

Also remember not all dogs are friendly, healthy or vaccinated.

**DO NOT** let your dog interact with others at the rest areas.



## Urinalysis: Why Is It Important To Your Pet's Health?

### What can a urinalysis tell about your pet's health?

Not only does a urinalysis help assess the health and function of the urinary system but can show early signs of disease from within the rest of the body.



Urinalysis can be crucial in diagnosing:

**Diabetes Mellitus ~ Kidney Failure ~ Kidney Stones**

**Bladder Infections ~ Bladder Stones ~ Bladder Cancer**

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An early diagnosis before visual signs are apparent, can lead to faster preventative treatment and increase your pets chances of living a longer healthier life.

## Cocoa Bean Mulch Toxicity

Cocoa bean mulch uses the unused shells from chocolate manufacturing to provide a wonderfully smelling, pleasing to the eye mulch which turns into an organic fertilizer as it decomposes.

Animals find this mulch pleasing because of the palatability and taste, but it is just as **toxic** as chocolate. There have been reported cases of severe illness and even death after ingestion of the mulch. The degree of illness is usually related to the amount of mulch ingested.



While this mulch is not common, it is something to keep in mind if your pet shows signs of vomiting, tremors, rapid heart rate, hyperactivity or diarrhea.

For more information go to the Animal Poison Control Center website at

[www.apcc.asPCA.org](http://www.apcc.asPCA.org)