

# ~ Hartwood Animal Hospital Quarterly Newsletter ~

We want to welcome Dr. Deborah Loveland to our team. Dr. Loveland is a relief Vet; she will be helping us out a couple days a week while she gets her own mobile unit up and running. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 1996. She has 3 furry critters at home; 2 dogs and a 3 legged Chinchilla. ☺

Welcome Christy !!! Christy Embrey is a Licensed Technician who graduated from NOVA in 1998. She has 2 little girls, 3 dogs, 2 cats, and a husband. ☺ We are very appreciative of her hard work and knowledge.

## Is your dog, cat, rabbit, or ferret on the proper heartworm and flea/tick preventative ?

It is very important to have your pet on the correct heartworm preventative and flea/tick preventative.

If your pet's weight has changed, make sure you are giving the correct dose.

Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes, and as we know, mosquitoes have a tendency to get in our homes.

**\*\*ALL pet's need to be on heartworm preventative year round \*\***

According to the American Heartworm Assoc., all cats should be on heartworm preventative

**(Interceptor for dogs and cats & Heartgard for cats and ferrets).**

Fleas & Ticks become prevalent as the weather warms up. Now is the time to get everyone on a flea & tick product.

Whether you have dogs, cats, rabbits, or ferrets they all should be on a preventative.

**(Frontline for dogs and cat & Advantage for rabbits and ferrets).**

DID YOU KNOW??

For every adult flea you see, it has laid approx 50 eggs!

## Interceptor now comes in a new package

**\*\* IF YOU CAN NOT MAKE YOUR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT LEAST 24 HOURS PRIOR TO AVOID A \$25 NO-SHOW FEE PER APPOINTMENT\*\***

**540-286-2855**



## **Avian Sexing**

**Have you ever wondered if you should name your bird Bert or Betty?**

**☺ We can now tell you if you have a little girl or little boy bird ☺**

**With 3 drops of blood we can sex your bird and have results in approx 1 week.**

**~ The Blood Draw can be done as a Nurse Appt. ~**

**Call us and let us know if you are interested**

Do you know the back roads to HAH ???

If you need the "secret" ways to the hospital, feel free to call and we will share them with you. No need to sit in traffic!



Does your pet need to enroll in Jenny Craig or Weight Watchers ???  
For Dogs and Cats, the Program is called **OM (overweight management)**.

If your pet is overweight and needs to lose weight,  
we have a program for your chunky monkey 😊

The program entails a weight management dry or canned food along with treats. We will provide you with a leash, toy, and the calculations to help you feed the proper amount of food.

When your pet reaches his/her goal weight, you will receive a \$25 gift certificate to use here at HAH however you would like.

**Weight loss = \$25.00 Gift Certificate**

{Congrats to Buddy and Snicker Doodle on their weight loss !!! }



## Safety Tips for Dogs that are Fearful of Thunderstorms and Fireworks

1. Be sure your pet has a safe place to hide that is escape proof and weather proof.
2. Provide a relaxing environment as far away from the noise as possible.
3. Allow them to hide or cuddle with you if they choose to.
4. Don't try to soothe or console them; this can make the problem worse by giving positive reinforcement for fear related behaviors and/or by falsely telling them you are scared too.
5. Try to remain upbeat and happy so they don't think you are worried too.
6. Provide favorite toys or yummy treats to distract them from the scary stimuli.
7. You can try homeopathic remedies like *Dog Appeasing Pheromones*, DAP; available here at Hartwood to help calm them.
8. Some dogs like to be swaddled, or wear a *calming cap* (available on-line) during storms.
9. If all else fails, and your dog seems abnormally stressed or you are concerned for their health/safety contact us for other possible medicinal remedies.

## Does your Pet have Loose Stool or Urination Problems ????

Don't forget to bring a fecal sample or urine sample when coming to your appointment.  
This makes diagnosing easier and more accurate. ~ Thank You

### Rabies Requirements for Virginia

All dogs and cats over the age of 6 months must be rabies vaccinated and stay current. If your pet gets bitten by another animal that is not rabies vaccinated, then your pet needs to be revaccinated no matter when the previous vaccine was given. Therefore, if your pet gets in a scuffle with any wildlife, he/she needs to be revaccinated. If you should have any further questions feel free to contact us.

We carry Papaya Tablets and Vitamin C Tablets for our Small Mammals  
( Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Chinchillas)



**When traveling with any exotic pet, please make sure that they are traveling in a safe manner.**

**\*\*For reptiles, make sure the temperature is where it should be.\*\***

**\*\*For the safety of your pet, please do not hand carry them, make sure they are in a carrier, bird cage, or well ventilated container.\*\***

☺We now carry **Roudy Bush** for our feathered friends ☺

Wendy is forming 2 more classes that will be coming up soon !  
The classes will be **“Basic Manners”** & **“Actions Distractions.”**  
Call us if you are interested in a class with our Behaviorist.  
[www.lifewithfido.com](http://www.lifewithfido.com)

**Reminder ~ Reminder ~ Reminder ~ Reminder ~ Reminder**

### Vaccine Protocol for Boarders and Groomers

**Just as a reminder:** ALL pet's that will be boarding with us or will be here for grooming, must be current on all vaccines. This policy is enforced to ensure the protection of your pet and others. Feel free to come by for a tour of the hospital and boarding facility, you are always welcome.

# WildLife

Did you know that Dr. Jewett treats the wildlife for the surrounding counties?  
We do work with a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator, Randy Brooks 540-752-4954 who  
is also a Licensed Veterinary Technician.

The following are things to consider when you come across any wildlife.....

\*Exposure to **RABIES** always exists with wildlife. So if you come across a wild animal in distress, especially creatures of size or strength, as well as mammals that are classified as rabies vector species, such as raccoons and foxes, you need to protect yourself and your pets from coming in contact with their saliva and other bodily fluids. You should contact a Wildlife Rescue immediately for assistance because only state-licensed and specially trained wildlife rehabilitators should handle these animals.

Babies are adorable and irresistible and when we come across them the first thing we want to do is rescue them but that is not always the best idea! It is always best to leave what you think is an “orphaned” animal alone unless it’s in obvious distress or in an unsafe location. Quite often, its parents are close by and reluctant to return because you are there. Generally, if there is no return within 1-2 hours you should call a Wildlife Rescue or start preparing a container to put them in. The **EXCEPTION** to this rule would be baby bunnies because the mother only returns at dusk and dawn!

## BIRDS

Baby birds that have fallen from the nest should be returned, as long as the nest can be safely reached. It is a myth that parents of a wild bird will reject a baby touched by human hands. The fact is birds have almost no sense of smell !!

## SQUIRRELS

If you find a squirrel’s nest or baby squirrels lying on the ground, place them near the tree they fell from and watch from a distance to see if the mom returns to rescue them.

## BUNNIES

If you come across a rabbit’s nest that has been disturbed, **DO NOT** touch the babies. Place 2 small twigs across the nest in an “X” or other pattern the mother will disturb when she returns to the nest. Stay away until morning to see if the mother has returned. If the twigs are not disturbed within 24 hours or the babies are injured or moved from the nest by a cat or other animal, bring the babies to HAH or a Wildlife rescue.

## OPOSSUMS

If you find a “kitten size” or smaller opossum, it’s probably an orphan that needs rescuing.

## FAWNS

If you encounter a fawn lying quietly by itself and it looks healthy ~ **LEAVE IT ALONE** ~  
If you have any doubts, call a Wildlife Rescue or Hartwood Animal Hospital.

## TURTLES

If you come across an injured turtle it is best to bring them to HAH. Always pick up big turtles from behind with a bath towel ~ **BE CAREFUL** with snapping turtles, they will bite !!

## Wild Life Continued

**Time is crucial with wildlife, therefore contacting a Wildlife Rescue or Hartwood Animal Hospital is important!**

### Transporting

The best way to capture wildlife would be to pick them up with a soft towel or cloth and place them in a protective container. This could be a cardboard box with holes or an animal carrier. They should be kept warm, and in a dark, quiet place. Keep children and pets away from them until you are able to get the injured wildlife to a rescue or HAH.

**DO NOT** feed or water!

**DO NOT** keep a wild animal as a pet ~ this is dangerous and illegal !

**Always WASH YOUR HANDS after handling to prevent the spread of disease or parasites to you and your pets!**

## **Heat Stroke**

While pet owners are inside an air-conditioned environment, their pet may be outside fighting for his or her life. One of the most common causes of heat stroke in pets is leaving a pet in a hot car. Due to their naturally higher body temperatures and their inability to sweat, pets are at a higher risk to succumb to heat exhaustion. Unfortunately, dogs and cats lack an efficient way of riding the body of built up heat. The tongue and the pads of the feet are the only areas where heat exchange occurs.

Although common, a car is not the only place that can be dangerous for your pets to be during these hot summer months. There are places that may seem safe for them to be; however, when you add heat, it can be equivalent to putting your pet in an oven.

For example, on a nice fall day, a doghouse is a comfy place for your friend to reside – but without proper air circulation, the temperature can quickly rise. Some other places to keep in mind are sheds, garages, houses or rooms without air conditioning, and even the outside (on poor air quality days). Please make sure that any pets that are outside have access to plenty of water and shade.

Monitor your pet closely for the following signs of heat distress:

Loud or rapid panting	Rapid pulse
Glazed eyes	Vomiting
Staggering or an unsteady gait	White or bluish gums
Excessive salivation, whining, or agitation	

**If your pet is exhibiting one or more of those signs, please take these following steps to ensure a positive outcome:**

- Decrease body temperature immediately and gradually
- Seek shade and apply cool (not cold) water all over the body
- Apply ice packs/cold towels to head, neck, and chest
- Allow your pet to drink small amounts of water or lick ice cubes
- Apply isopropyl alcohol to the pads of the feet
- **CONTACT YOUR VETERINARIAN IMMEDIATELY**

*Remember – if you see an animal that is in heat related distress, please call your local animal control or the non-emergency police number.*

*If you have an emergency when we are not in the office to assist you, please contact Fredericksburg Regional Veterinary Emergency Center at (540) 372-3470*