

San Antonio Tail Mail

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SAN ANTONIO
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Is Your Dog Protected?
- If Only They Could Talk

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Is Your Dog Protected?

What people commonly refer to as "worms" are really internal parasites. Internal parasites are organisms that live within an animal, gaining their nutrition and protection at the expense of the host animal. Internal parasites live in the heart or intestinal tract, and many internal parasites can be life-threatening.

Dogs can pick up parasites outdoors from eating parasite-infested bark, leaves, soil and other natural matter (including raccoon feces, which is especially dangerous). In fact, some parasite eggs can last for more than a year in the

soil. Pets can contract internal parasites from a variety of sources including:

- ◊ Contact with contaminated soil, food or water
- ◊ Mosquitoes
- ◊ Licking the ground
- ◊ Their mothers, before or after birth
- ◊ Fleas, birds, rodents

Some of the most common internal parasites include:

Heartworms, which can be transmitted to pets by more than seventy species of mosquitoes.



Adult heartworms live in the right side of the heart and pulmonary arteries where they restrict blood flow and cause organ damage. Blockage and injury caused by heartworms may lead to heart failure and liver and kidney damage. Symptoms include cough, exercise intolerance, enlarged liver and abnormal lung or heart sounds.

Almost all puppies get roundworms from their mothers. Pets of all ages can pick up roundworms from the soil.



(Continued on page 2)

A Message From Dr. Mattox



We all love summer but there's no getting away from it, heat's a real killer!

Here are some tips to help your pet survive it.

Don't leave pets in the car, temperatures can soar in just

a few minutes.

Avoid exercise during the heat of the day, particularly with older, overweight dogs with heart problems. Stick with early morning or evening workouts.

Consider trimming the pet's coat.

A dip in the pool is a nice way

to cool down, but never leave a dog unattended near water.

Outside dogs should have access to shelter, shade and water at all times.

Take precautions so your dog can have a safe and happy summer!

Is Your Dog Protected? (continued from page 1)

Roundworm infections are usually accompanied by symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, stunted growth, rough coat and a bloated belly.

Hookworm eggs pass through the feces of an infected dog into the soil where they develop into larvae. The larvae are easily swallowed or can penetrate through your pet's feet.

Hookworms attach to your pet's intestinal lining, creating bleeding internal wounds. Symptoms of a hookworm infection include blood loss, anemia and diarrhea.



Whipworm eggs are passed in feces and can survive



for years in the soil.

Whipworm infections in pets are caused by ingestion of the eggs. Whipworm infections usually cause bloody diarrhea, anemia, dehydration and loss of appetite.

Fleas are another common parasite, though not an internal parasite, that can cause serious discomfort to your pets and spread more serious parasitic infections, like tapeworm. Adult fleas jump onto your pet when they sense a host is near. A female flea can lay up to fifty eggs each day.

Eggs fall off your pet and develop into worm-like larvae, which hide in carpeting, furniture, bedding and other dark places. The larvae mature as they feed on fecal matter dropped by adult fleas and the cycle continues.



Adult fleas (typically the only fleas you

can see, either on your pet or in your household) represent only 5% of any given flea population. The other 95% of any given flea population are pupae, larvae or eggs.

Some interesting facts about fleas:

Most fleas feed within seconds to minutes of landing on a new host.

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Poisonous Substances — Sugar Free Gum

Xylitol is a sugar substitute commonly used in toothpaste, sugarless gum and other products. Xylitol is extremely dangerous to your dog.

Dogs that ingest Xylitol can show symptoms in as little as 30 minutes. Ingestion of even a small amount of this substance will cause hypoglycemia, vomiting, weakness and sometimes

seizures.

If you enjoy sugar-free gum, be sure to store it safely out of reach of your pets. If your pet has ingested even just one stick of gum containing Xylitol, contact us immediately.

(Information provided by VPI Pet Insurance)



For more information, visit the ASPCA poison control website: www.aspcapetcare.org/poison-control/

Mac's Mews.....



Mac

Here are some fun facts I've heard over the years!

Every year, \$1.5 billion is spent on pet

food - 4 times the amount spent on baby food.

Cats have better memories than dogs.

Cats have more than 100 vocal sounds, while dogs only have about 10.

A cat's sense of taste is keener than that of a dog.

The phrase, raining cats and dogs, originated in 17 century England. During heavy downpours of rain, many of these poor animals unfortunately drowned and their bodies would be seen floating in the rain torrents that raced through the streets.

Cats have 4 rows of whiskers and can either be right-pawed or left-pawed.

A cat's tongue is scratchy because it's lined with papillae - tiny elevated backwards hooks that help to hold prey in place.

All cats are born with blue eyes.

Cats can see up to 120 feet away. Their peripheral vision is about 285 degrees.

A cat's tail held high means happiness. A twitching tail is a warning sign, and a tail

tucked in close to the body is a sure sign of insecurity.

Cats have a third eyelid which is rarely visible. If it can be seen, it could be an indication of ill health.

Until next month...

Mac

If Only They Could Talk

Early detection of health problems can save you and your pet from the pain and heartache that illness can cause. The list below should help you monitor your pet and if changes occur, you can contact your veterinarian for a thorough exam.

EYES

Should be clear and bright. Redness, swelling or discharge are signs of a problem. Eyelids should be smooth.

EARS

Inside of ears should be a light pink. A small amount of ear wax is normal, but a yellow or brown waxy discharge is not. Redness, swelling or foul odor are signs of infection. Head shaking and ear scratching can be your pet's way of telling you there is

something wrong.

BREATHING

Should be even and unlabored. Prolonged sneezing, coughing or shortness of breath are not normal.

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

Anal area should be clean and free of discharge. Prolonged vomiting, diarrhea or constipation, excessive thirst, frequent urination or blood in the urine or stool are signs of possible health problems.

BODY

Check entire head, body and legs for lumps and bumps under the skin. Watch feet for signs of injury.

Just For Fun





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Is Your Dog Protected? (continued from page 2)

- All fleas will bite practically any warm-blooded host they inhabit.
- No insecticide can stop a flea from biting.
- Once flea eggs are laid, they will usually hatch within 1 - 10 days, depending on temperature and humidity.
- Flea larvae mature inside a cocoon.
- Vacuuming effectively removes flea eggs and larvae from your household.
- Unlike mosquitoes, who eat once and then allow themselves to digest

their meal, a flea will repeatedly bite its host long after its hunger is satisfied.

The key to controlling fleas is to consistently interrupt their life cycle at an immature stage so they do not develop into adult fleas.

SENTINEL Flavor Tabs are the only monthly oral preventive that guards against heartworm and fleas as well as adult roundworms, adult hookworms and whipworms. SENTINEL Flavor Tabs are so convenient.

Just one tablet, once a month with a meal, gives your dog the most complete protection possible.



Giving a once a month preventative year round will protect your dog from heartworms and intestinal parasites.