

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Hunting,  
Hiking &  
Heartworm
- Mac's Mews

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**SAN ANTONIO**  
ANIMAL HOSPITAL

## Hunting, Hiking & Heartworm

Although heartworm prevention techniques, including mosquito avoidance and drugs that kill heartworm larvae, have been recommended for years, the number of dogs diagnosed with heartworm continues to increase. One factor that contributes to the persistence of this preventable disease is "prophylactic failure," which means that animals develop the disease even though they received a prophylactic drug to

prevent heartworm for at least 1 year.

Heartworm is caused by the parasite *Dirofilaria immitis*. When a mosquito feeds on a dog that is infected with female heartworms, the "baby" worms, *microfilaria*, are taken in with the blood meal and grow to become infective in the mosquito's mouthparts.



The next time that mosquito bites a dog, the infective heartworm larvae enter its bloodstream and grow into adult heartworms. The adult female heartworms produce additional *microfilaria*, which are spread to more dogs and sometimes cats. A recent study published in the May/June 2011 edition of the *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association* (continued on page 2)

## A Message From Dr. Mattox



Usually about this time of year I'm trying to figure out where the last 10

months went. One day it is spring and the start of a new year, the next I'm complaining about the heat and humidity and can't

can't wait for a little Fall weather and then all of the sudden it's cold outside and I wonder what happened to the summer.

It appears the Holiday Season is right around the corner, so we are offering two end of the year specials for the months of November and December.

\$30.00 off dental cleanings and \$50.00 off mass/tumor removals (with anesthesia). These specials can be combined, so if you have a dog that needs his/her teeth cleaned and a few lumps removed you would receive a total of \$80 dollars off. Please call our Client Care Specialists for further details!

# Hunting, Hiking & Heartworm

(continued from page 1) looked at the occurrence of prophylactic failure in hunting dogs.

“Of the 708 dog owners who participated in the study, 9% reported failure of prophylaxis. The dogs tested positive for heartworm even though a heartworm prophylaxis had been administered,” stated lead author Barton Rohrbach, VMD, MPH, Dipl. ACVPM (Epidemiology) from the University of Tennessee’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

According to Dr. Rohrbach, many of the

dogs were not treated or tested for heartworm appropriately:

- Dogs were treated using an estimated rather than actual body weight (and therefore could have been administered too little of the drug).
- Owners did not record the date the drug was administered and relied on memory to treat their dog each month (resulting in missed doses).
- 13% of owners observed their pet spit the pills out (many owners may not notice this, resulting in more missed doses).
- Only 79% of owners

tested their dog every year for heartworm (recommended by the American Heartworm Society). Testing was frequently performed at the incorrect time of the year; therefore, infections may have been missed.

Study participants also reported a failure to practice mosquito avoidance techniques, such as remaining indoors at dusk and dawn.

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## Dangerous Substance - Halloween Candy

No tricks, no treats. The bowl full of candy is for trick or treaters, not for Scruffy or Fluffy.



Chocolate in all forms can be very dangerous, even deadly for dogs

and cats.

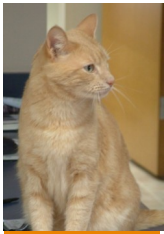
The tin foil and cellophane candy wrappers can be hazardous if swallowed.

If you suspect your pet has ingested a potentially dangerous substance, please call us immediately.

For more information, call the ASPCA Poison Control Center at: (888) 426-4435.



# Mac's Mews.....Halloween Safety Tips



Mac

The ASPCA offers the following tips to keep your pet safe:

1. No treats for your pets. Chocolate and Xylitol can be deadly to pets.
2. Wires & cords from electric decorations should be kept out of reach.
3. All but the most social pets should be kept in a separate room away from the front door during trick or treat hours. Too many strangers can be scary and stressful to pets.
4. When opening the door from trick or treaters, take care that your cat or dog doesn't dart outside.
5. Always make sure your dog and cat has proper identification in case your pet escapes.

Enjoy Halloween, but be sure to keep your pet safe!



Until next month...

*Mac*

## Just For Fun

No matter why it hurts



dogs make you feel better

## Adoptable Pets

Lions & Tigers & Cats Oh My!!!!



Our \$50 adoption fee includes initial vaccinations, spay / neuter & microchipping.

See our kitten videos on Facebook.

[www.facebook.com/sanantonioanimalhospital](http://www.facebook.com/sanantonioanimalhospital)



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## Hunting, Hiking & Heartworm

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"This study suggests that simple steps, such as weighing the dog to determine the correct dose of preventive, watching to ensure oral medications are retained, and recording the actual date the medication is administered each month, are not being followed by many dog owners. These may be important factors leading to prophylaxis failure," added Dr.

Rohrbach.

A single missed dose of a heartworm preventive puts dogs and cats at increased risk to acquire heartworm, particularly animals that spend a lot of time outdoors.

For more information on preventing heartworm, visit the American Heartworm Society  
[www.heartwormsociety.org](http://www.heartwormsociety.org)



and the Companion Animal Parasite Council  
[www.capcvet.org/recommendations/heartworm.html](http://www.capcvet.org/recommendations/heartworm.html)

Information provided by:  
Petsmatter