

Spring 2016

Those Pests are at it Again!

Mosquitoes will soon be waking from their winter nap and the threat of heartworm infection is upon our canine friends once more! The heartworm parasite is transmitted by mosquitoes. When a mosquito ingests blood from an infected dog, the larval stage of heartworm is ingested and develops within the mosquito. The mosquito is then able to transfer the larvae to the next dog it

bites. Heartworm larvae travel through the blood stream of the newly infected dog and develop to adult worms in the pulmonary arteries and heart. Heartworm disease is fatal if left untreated.

There are a variety of heartworm prevention products available, some in a tasty treat (Heartgard), and some as liquid that is applied to the skin once monthly (Revolution). The team at McLeod Veterinary Hospital can assist you in choosing the best product to suit your dog's needs.

Luckily, diagnosis of heartworm disease is easily performed with the help of a small blood sample. Contact McLeod Veterinary Hospital to schedule your pet's heartworm test and discuss heartworm prevention today!

On the Look-out for Lyme

Lyme disease is on the rise and deer ticks are creeping closer to home. Areas containing long grass as well as wooded areas, and parks can be heavily laden with wood ticks. The symptoms of Lyme disease and other tick borne diseases can often be subtle and difficult to recognize. Luckily, diagnosing Lyme disease can be done quickly and easily along with your pet's heartworm test. All that is needed is a small blood sample to determine if your pet has been infected.

Knowing the signs and symptoms of tick borne diseases can aid in early diagnosis and effective treatment. Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet is exhibiting any of the following symptoms:

- Swollen or painful joints
- Lameness
- Depression or lethargy
- Decreased appetite and/or weight loss
- Runny nose and/or eyes
- Persistent cough
- Changes in general health/behaviour

Vaccination is the only way to prevent Lyme disease. There are also oral and liquid preparations available to kill or repel wood ticks from your dog and reduce the potential for exposure to Lyme disease.

For more information about wood ticks, Lyme disease, and prevention options for your pet, please contact McLeod Veterinary Hospital or visit www.dogsandticks.com.

NEW Extended Hours:

Mon – Thurs 8:00 am – 9:00 pm Friday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday 8:30 am – 3:00 pm Sunday Closed

Loyalty Program

Introducing Vicinity

Vicinity is a loyalty program now available at McLeod Veterinary Hospital which rewards clients for their continued support. Earn 1 point per dollar spent and you could save money on your next service or purchase. Ask our staff how you can register today!



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McLeod Veterinary Hospital Staff Members

Veterinarians

Dr. Robert Newfield

Dr. Alison Bowles

Dr. Jason Kellsey

Dr. Christie-Leigh Capper

Animal Health Technologists

Barbe Parke
Cindy Sontag
Amy Weir
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Meet Browning
Browning is a German
Short-Haired Pointer
lovingly cared for by
the Hurrell family.

Heartgard

Heartgard is once monthly heartworm prevention available as a tasty beef chewable. One tablet monthly throughout heartworm season will provide your dog with heartworm prevention and intestinal deworming. Heartgard can safely be paired with prescription flea and tick prevention to provide coverage against common internal and external parasites.

Heartgard is safe for all breeds and sizes of dogs, including puppies as early as 6 weeks of age, and pregnant and nursing females.

Revolution

Revolution is a liquid preparation applied to the skin once monthly for prevention of heartworm disease in dogs and as an aid in the treatment and control of the American Dog Tick. Revolution travels through the blood stream into the glands in the skin therefore wood ticks must bite and ingest a blood meal for the medication to take effect. The first dose should be applied within one month of initial mosquito activity, and the last dose applied one month after the end of mosquito season. When using Revolution for tick protection it is best applied two weeks prior to tick season or exposure to wood ticks.

Revolution

- Should not be applied to wet fur
- Bathing can take place 2 hours post-application
- Safe for use in heartworm positive dogs
- Safe for use in Collies, breeding dogs, puppies over 6 weeks of age, and pregnant/ lactating females

K9 Advantix II

K9 Advantix is a liquid preparation applied to the skin once monthly for the treatment and control of fleas and ticks. K9 Advantix must be used in conjunction with heartworm prevention during the mosquito season as it does not offer protection against heartworm disease. K9 Advantix works as a repellant, therefore fleas and ticks are not required to bite or ingest a blood meal from your dog for the medication to work. It kills both fleas and ticks soon after exposure to treated fur.

Caution should be used as this product is toxic to cats. If there are cats in the household, they should be separated from treated dogs for 12 hours following application. Use is cautioned in dogs that are sick, pregnant or nursing females, or receiving other pesticide treatments. Caution should also be used to avoid touching the area for 2 hours after application. Use of K9 Advantix is safe for puppies over 8 weeks of age.

Nexgard

NexGard is the first and only monthly chewable tablet that kills fleas and ticks. NexGard tablets are chewable, soft, and beef-flavoured. Despite the beef flavour and aroma, NexGard is actually soy based and therefore safe for animals with beef allergies. As an oral medication, there is no need to worry that NexGard will wash off, and lose efficacy.

Peak levels of medication in the bloodstream are reached within 2-4 hours after treatment. NexGard tablets are proven to kill biting adult fleas within 30 minutes, before they are able to lay eggs. NexGard is also effective against the three most common wood ticks in Manitoba, including the Blacklegged (deer) Tick.

Canadian Animal Blood Bank

Our next Canadian Animal Blood Bank donation clinic will be held Tuesday, July 5, 2016 from 5–7 pm. There are a few donor spots still available. Please contact McLeod Veterinary Hospital for more information.