

# MCLEOD



## VETERINARY HOSPITAL



### Spring 2011

#### Hospital Hours

Mon – Thurs 8 am – 6:30 pm  
Friday 8 am – 6:00 pm  
Saturday 9 am – 1:00 pm  
Sunday Closed



**McLeod Veterinary Hospital is now on Facebook!** Search us

out and join us in this exciting new form of communication!

#### FYI

We recently received a reminder from The Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association of a by-law that states:

*The veterinarian-client-patient relation (VCPR) is the basis for interaction among veterinarians, their clients and their patients. This VCPR exists when your veterinarian has seen your animal at least once in the past 12 months and is aware of the keeping and care of your animal by examination. Dispensing or prescribing a prescription product requires the existence of a VCPR.*

If your pet is taking medication long-term, please be advised that the veterinarian will need to examine your pet on an annual basis to continue refilling all prescription medications. Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns regarding this information.

#### Reminders

Reminders and notices can now be emailed to you! Please contact us with your email address.

**McLeod Veterinary Hospital**  
**880 McLeod Avenue**  
**Winnipeg MB R2G 2T7**  
**Ph: (204)661-3334**  
**Email: mcleodvh@mts.net**  
**Web: www.mcleodvet.com**

## Heartworm Season is upon us once more!

Heartworm disease is passed from animal to animal by mosquitoes. Infected animals have tiny worms called microfilaria in their bloodstream and adult worms in their heart. The microfilaria are ingested by a mosquito along with a blood meal and develop inside the mosquito to infective larvae. These larvae can be transmitted to a new animal once bitten. The larvae develop to adult worms in the animal's heart and can reach lengths of up to 30 cm. Severe infestations can restrict blood flow, cause organ damage, and result in death if left untreated.



Luckily, a simple blood test can identify the presence of heartworm disease in its early stages, before the disease shows any clinical signs in your pet. Animals residing in Winnipeg and its surrounding area should be on a regular heartworm prevention program throughout the mosquito season. Discuss heartworm testing and prevention with your pet's veterinarian.

## Lyme Disease

Lyme disease has become a growing concern among dog owners and veterinarians alike. This disease is caused by a type of bacteria, which is transferred to humans and animals by the deer tick. The transfer of the infective bacteria from the tick requires several hours therefore the risk of contracting Lyme disease increases the longer the tick remains attached.

The signs of Lyme disease generally do not appear until 2-5 months post-infection. Animals showing signs of the disease will often exhibit joint pain, swelling, and/or lameness. Although the majority of positive cases can be treated successfully, prevention is the key to ensuring your pet will not become compromised by the Lyme disease.

Tests are now available to detect the presence of Lyme disease antibodies through a simple blood test drawn by your veterinarian. A Lyme disease vaccine is also available for dogs which come in contact, or have the potential to come in contact with ticks. Your veterinarian can aid in determining whether or not Lyme testing and vaccination are the right choice for your pet, based on their current lifestyle.

## Announcements

Congratulations to Animal Health Technologist Kim Nakamura, Cory, and big brother Derek on new addition Adam Edward Nakamura. Adam entered the world safe and sound on February 19<sup>th</sup> weighing in at a whopping 8 lbs, 13 oz and measuring 21.5 inches!

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Alison Bowles is back from maternity leave! She is currently booking appointments and taking new patients.



## **Pet of the Month**

### **Meet Molly**

This 3 ½ month old English Bulldog X "Molly" is lovingly owned by the Cornwall family.

### **McLeod Veterinary Hospital Staff Members**

#### **Veterinarians**

Dr. Robert Newfield  
Dr. Alison Bowles  
Dr. Jason Kellsey  
Dr. Angela Coleman-Wiebe

#### **Animal Health Technologists**

Barbe Parke  
Cindy Sontag  
Amy Weir  
Joëlle Tétréault

#### **Receptionists**

Martina Korne  
Brittini Jensen  
Kelly Zelinsky  
Carissa Shaw  
Ashley Celhar

#### **Veterinary Assistants**

Rees Buck  
Romy Scott  
Orit Agbayev

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## **Deworming**

Dogs and cats can both contract worms. Worms can live in the stomach, intestines and other internal organs of your pet and can pose a serious threat to the health of your pet and your family!

A zoonotic disease is an infectious disease which can be passed from animals to people. Illness is caused in humans when the parasites cause damage to the skin, eye, brain, lungs, and liver. Internal parasites are not always visible and a pet who appears healthy may still be host to internal parasites.



We dispense deworming medication for puppies at 8, 10, 12, and 16 weeks of age to treat all stages of the lifecycle and prevent re-infestation. We also recommend monthly deworming as a preventative during heartworm season.

For kittens, we dispense deworming at 8, 10, and 12 weeks of age, unless they are allowed outdoors. Outdoor cats and dogs can also contract tapeworms by hunting and ingesting birds, rabbits, rodents, fish, and fleas. We recommend that any cat that goes outdoors be dewormed every 4-6 weeks.

Deworming your pets regularly may prevent both you and your pets from infection. Talk to your veterinarian about an appropriate deworming program for your pet.

## **The Truth About Corn**

Corn, along with most other grains is considered to be poorly digested. This may be how corn developed a reputation of being a "filler" food, used purely to make an animal feel full while containing no nutritional value. The truth is that once corn is cooked, it becomes highly digestible and can be a great source of proteins, antioxidants, and fatty acids for your pet.



Although some owners fear their pet may have a corn allergy, studies have proven that corn is not a common cause of allergies in pets and causes less reactions than any other grain. The proteins found in corn are of great quality and aid in promoting healthy muscle and tissue growth.

Corn is an excellent source of the natural antioxidants lutein, vitamin E, and betacarotene. These antioxidants have been shown to reduce the risk of cancer, heart disease, arthritis, and strokes.

Corn contains essential fatty acids which can provide your pet with healthy skin and a shiny coat. Essential fatty acids are also important in maintenance of the central nervous system and a healthy immune system.

When considering all the above, we can now see that corn is naturally nutritious and can provide many benefits for your pet when included in their daily balanced diet.

\*Information obtained from Hills Pet Nutrition

## **Paws in Motion June 26, 2011**

Winnipeg's annual Paws in Motion will take place June 26, 2011 at Assiniboine Park. Our staff members will be walking together as a team and encourage you to join us or to start a team of your own! Registration forms are available online, at the Winnipeg Humane Society, 45 Hurst Way, and at your local Safeway service desk.