

MCLEOD



VETERINARY HOSPITAL



Spring 2012

Hospital Hours

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

We would like to remind clients that the hospital will be closed Monday, December 26th, 2011. McLeod Veterinary Hospital wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday!



McLeod Veterinary Hospital is now on Facebook! Search us out and join us in this exciting new form of communication!

FYI

The Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association by-law 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

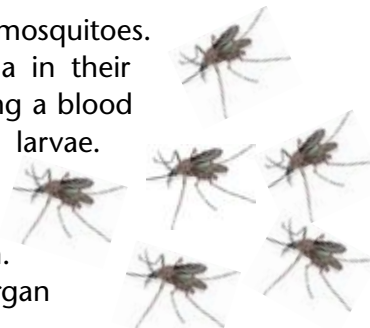
Reminders and notices can now be emailed to you! Please contact us with your email address. Please add our email address to your mailing list. This will prevent your reminders from being sent to a junk mail folder.

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Mosquitoes Are On Their Way

It's that time again! The weather is beginning to warm up, the birds are singing, and pesky mosquitoes are looking for lunch! Protecting your canine friends from potentially deadly heartworm disease is a must and we are here to help.

Heartworm disease is passed between animals by mosquitoes. Infected animals have tiny worms called microfilaria in their bloodstream; these are ingested by a mosquito during a blood meal, and develop inside the mosquito to infective larvae. The larvae are then transmitted to a new animal once bitten. Maturation into adult worms occurs in the heart, where worms can reach lengths of up to 30 cm. Severe infestations can restrict blood flow, cause organ damage, and result in death if left untreated.



A study performed by Dr. Slocombe, Department of Pathobiology at the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph in Ontario, showed a 63% increase in diagnosed heartworm infections in dogs in Canada, as compared to 2002. Luckily, a simple blood test can identify the presence of heartworm disease in its early stages, before the disease begins to show any clinical signs in your pet. Animals residing in Winnipeg and its surrounding areas should be on a regular heartworm prevention program throughout the mosquito season. Discuss heartworm testing and prevention with your pet's veterinarian or a member of your veterinary team.

*"Heartworm in Canada" survey, by Dr. Slocombe can be viewed at www.ovma.org

Good News for Hyperthyroid Felines

Managing hyperthyroidism in cats has been made easier thanks to Hill's Pet Nutrition! Recent studies have proven that the iodine content of food has a direct impact on the ability to normalize cats with hyperthyroidism.

With hyperthyroidism, the thyroid gland, located on either side of the trachea, becomes enlarged and produces increased amounts of thyroid hormone. Hyperthyroidism is commonly diagnosed in cats over the age of 10 years, and when not treated, can result in complications involving vital organs. The signs of hyperthyroidism can be similar to those of other diseases; therefore a blood test is performed to make an accurate diagnosis.

Hill's Prescription Diet y/d is formulated specifically for cats with hyperthyroidism to reduce iodine intake, with the purpose of normalizing thyroid hormone production. This is the only diet proven to renew thyroid health without the aid of medication or other therapies.

If you are the owner of a cat diagnosed with thyroid disease, speak to your veterinarian today about Hill's Prescription Diet y/d.

*Information provided by Hill's Pet Nutrition



Say hello to Elton

He is a 2 year old english shorthair guinea pig, and is lovingly owned by Ashley.

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 Tétrault

Receptionists

Martina Korne
Brittini Jensen
Kelly Zelinsky
Carissa Shaw
Ashley Celhar

Veterinary Assistants

Rees Buck
Romi Scott
Orit Agbayev

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Watch out for Worms!

Many new pet owners are unaware that the purchase of a new puppy or kitten means potentially exposing themselves and their children to harmful parasites. Nearly 100% of puppies are born with roundworms, putting pet owners at risk of infection.

Transmission of parasites from pets to humans can occur in a few different ways. The most common route of transmission is through fecal-oral contact. Although this may sound disgusting, it is a lot easier than you think! Children from ages 1-4 years are at greatest risk of parasite infection as they are frequently playing in dirt and grass which are areas that pets may use to defecate. Children tend to wash their hands less frequently than adults, and are constantly putting their hands and fingers in their mouths.

Pet owners often enjoy allowing their puppies and kittens to give them “kisses” on the face. Although this can be a fun way to bond with your new pet, keep in mind that your pets clean themselves with their tongue. These “kisses” can transfer fecal material potentially containing parasite eggs onto the area licked.

Following a vet recommended deworming protocol for your pet, along with regular check-ups and monitoring of adult canines, will help prevent transmission of parasites to you and your family. Cleaning up your yard and disposing of pet feces on a regular basis, as well as frequent washing of hands, is necessary for households with small children. Speak to your veterinarian about your pet’s lifestyle to help determine a suitable deworming schedule.



Pet Food Labels – Common Misconceptions

“There is no way to determine the true quality of a pet food by reading the ingredient listing or guaranteed analysis.” Hill’s Pet Nutrition

There are many misconceptions made by pet owners regarding pet food labels, especially when it comes to determining the quality of a food.

The ingredients on a pet food label are listed in order by weight. Keep in mind that ingredients like meat contain large quantities of water making them weigh more than other ingredients. It is for this reason that meat ingredients are usually listed first on an ingredient list.

Contrary to what many pet owners have been led to believe, many by-products are not only good for your pet, but essential for the maintenance of optimum health. Soybean processing results in the creation of Vitamin E, which aids in promotion of a healthy immune system, therefore vitamin E is considered a by-product. The presence or absence of an individual ingredient in a food will not indicate if the food is of good quality. The nutritional value of each ingredient used is what determines the quality of a food.

The only true way to determine the quality of a pet food is to examine the research and literature behind the food. Without proven research and clinical trials, there is no way to say whether or not a food is “good” for your pet. Discuss your pet’s individual needs with a member of our veterinary team to help determine a suitable diet.

We want your input....

If you have ideas for future articles or if there is a particular subject you would like to learn more about please let us know and we will do our best to incorporate your suggestions into our newsletter.