

MCLEOD



VETERINARY
HOSPITAL



May 2010

Hospital Hours

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

Fun Facts!

Studies show that people with pets live longer, have less stress, and fewer health problems.

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

The longest lived rabbit was nearly 19 years old when he died.



Questions?

Our clients have access to www.veterinarypartner.com, a web site which offers information on many pet related issues such as behaviour, nutrition, and emergency care.

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

Heartworm Testing Is So Much More Now!

We have started testing for heartworm this year with 4DX tests. It is a quick test that we do right in the hospital with just a small sample of your dog's blood. The 4DX test also checks for Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, and Ehrlichiosis.

If you haven't already heard of heartworm disease, it is a worm that lives in your dog's heart. If left untreated, heartworm can be a fatal disease. Heartworm is transmitted to your pet by a mosquito bite. Manitoba is second only to Ontario in prevalence within Canada. Heartworm disease is easy to prevent. There are many products available that can be given as an easy monthly treatment throughout mosquito season.

Lyme disease is transmitted by deer ticks. The number of positive cases is rising in Manitoba every year. In dogs, Lyme disease does not begin to manifest for weeks to months after infection at which point signs of arthritis may be noticed. The symptoms of canine Lyme disease respond rapidly to a course of appropriate antibiotics. Talk to your veterinarian about a vaccination for Lyme disease.

Anaplasmosis is an infectious disease that is caused by a bacterium that is also transmitted by deer ticks. We are starting to also see a small rise in the number of positive cases of Anaplasmosis. Some pets will get sick while others will only carry the disease. Anaplasmosis can be treated with the same antibiotics that treat Lyme disease. Talk to your veterinarian about tick control products.

Ehrlichiosis is also an infectious disease that is caused by a bacterium that is transmitted by either the brown dog tick or the lone star tick. Fortunately, we rarely see Ehrlichia in this area. If you are travelling to the southern states with your pet please ensure that you check your pet daily for ticks.

This year we are recommending starting your heartworm prevention on May 15th. We also offer a product called Advantix which is used to control wood ticks and fleas, and can be used in conjunction with a heartworm preventive medication. Our staff can help you find the best parasite prevention package for your pet.



Stay Cool!

Each year, we like to remind everyone about the dangers the summer heat can cause. Everyone knows how hot it can get in a parked car in the summertime. Despite this, each year many pets suffer heatstroke from being left in parked cars. Please remember that our furry friends cannot stay in that kind of heat even with the windows open. Only 5 minutes in a closed car can cause heatstroke in pets.

On a hot day, your dog should not be left outside without access to fresh water and plenty of shade as they can overheat very quickly. Dogs kept in air conditioned homes are not as acclimated to the heat outdoors and consequently are more susceptible to heat stroke. In addition, as pets age they have a greater sensitivity to the heat. Please keep a close watch on your older pet in the summer heat.



Pet of the Month

Meet Jack

He is a five month old retriever cross who is lovingly owned by the Klassen 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
Kim Nakamura
Amy Weir
Joëlle Tétreault

Receptionists

Martina Korne
Brittini Jensen
Kelly Zelinsky
Carissa Shaw

Veterinary Assistants

Rees Buck
Jennifer Loewen
Laura Tschetter

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Who Needs Worms?

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 that can be passed between animals and people. Children are the most vulnerable group at risk for zoonotic infections. Roundworms are the most commonly transmitted parasite. Illness is caused in humans when the parasite causes damage to the skin, eye, brain, lungs, and liver. Internal parasites are not always visible and your pet may appear healthy. Deworm your pets monthly to prevent you and your pets from becoming infected with a parasite. Monthly heartworm programs also treat for roundworms and hookworms. Talk to your veterinarian regarding a deworming program for your pet.

Best Way to Prevent a Zoonotic Disease?

- Clean up feces found in your yard promptly.
- Wear gloves when handling animal feces.
- Wear gloves when gardening.
- Wash your hands frequently and make sure your children do the same.
- Never handle food or drink without washing your hands first.
- Cover children's sandboxes so that neighborhood cats cannot use them as a litter box.
- Avoid allowing pets to lick or kiss your face.
- Make certain all pets are receiving monthly preventive medication for intestinal parasites!



Stay Safe at the Park

It is the time your dog looks forward to the most: playing with their buddies at the park! However, in order to keep your dog's time at the park fun and safe there are some things you should be aware of.

Before going to the park, be sure your dog is up to date on all the necessary vaccinations. This is for your dog's protection and their playmates as well. You may want to consider Bordetella (kennel cough) and Lyme disease vaccines. Leave the treats and toys at home. There's too much potential for dogs to engage in guarding and stealing which can lead to aggressive behaviour.

If this is the first time at the dog park, leave the leash on and allow your dog to sniff around and slowly meet the crowd. It is important to know that some dogs can be aggressive on the leash if other dogs are able to run free. You may want to go for a run first to expel all of their extra energy prior to going to the park. Watch how your dog is reacting to the other dogs around. If your dog enjoyed their test runs on the leash, then it's time to let them try it off leash. Stay nearby and watch the interactions with other dogs. It might also be a good idea to call your dog over to you from time to time just to let them know that you are there and it is also a good way to practice the "come command".

Always pick up after your dog and if you see someone else's dog poop and they don't notice it, be a good dog park attendee and let the person know. There is also nothing wrong with picking up the occasional extra pile of poop.