

MCLEOD



VETERINARY HOSPITAL



Spring 2013

### Hospital Hours

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

### Summer Hours

We will be closed on the following Saturdays of the long weekends:  
June 29, 2013  
August 3, 2013  
August 31, 2013



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

## Heartworm Medication Update

Last year there was no Interceptor or Sentinel available during the heartworm season. Currently Novartis has started production on Sentinel, but NOT yet on Interceptor. We will continue to provide the tasty Heartgard chews, as we did last year. We had great feedback from many clients; including our own pooches!

### 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.

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



## Could Your Pet Stand to Lose a Few Pounds?

Lean dogs have been proven to live longer than overweight dogs. There are many health risks associated with obesity for both dogs and cats, such as:

- Diabetes
- Joint pain
- Cancer
- Bladder stones
- Kidney disease
- Respiratory disease

Clients who have been successful at reducing their pet's weight have been very happy to see how their pets have more energy and are eager to play again.

### Determining Your Pet's Ideal Weight

It's important for us to determine your pet's ideal weight to recommend appropriate feeding amounts. The Hill's food company has developed tools to help us do this. Charts can help us evaluate body condition to determine how much excess body fat is present. We can also do measurements of specific body landmarks and plug these measurements into a program which calculates an ideal weight. These tools are more accurate than traditional body condition scores that we've used in the past. From there we calculate accurate feeding amounts that will allow for weight loss.

### New Metabolic Diet

Hill's has been researching this new formula for 10 years. Their research has found that the DNA of a lean dog is very different from that of an overweight/obese pet. Hill's has found key ingredients that help overweight dogs better metabolize their food and burn fat. This diet is not a reduced calorie or high fiber diet.

Call us to make appointment if you're interested in trying this new diet with your pets.

## Healthy Mouth

We now carry a new product, Healthy Mouth, designed to reduce plaque formation. This product is most useful for cats and dogs that are young or who have recently had a dental cleaning to remove all plaque and tartar. It's available as a gel or a water additive.

## Pet of the Month

Visit us on Facebook and check out our new feature. We share some of our success stories of patients that have overcome common diseases or health concerns.



### Meet Cora

She is a nine month old Springer Spaniel lovingly owned by Nick.

### McLeod Veterinary Hospital Staff Members

#### Veterinarians

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

#### Animal Health Technologists

Barbe Parke  
Cindy Sontag  
Amy Weir  
Joëlle Tétreault  
Kaylee Trach

#### Receptionists

Martina Korne  
Brittni Stowe  
Ashley Celhar  
Carissa Shaw  
Rees Buck  
Kelly Zelinsky

#### Veterinary Assistants

Romi Scott  
Orit Agbayev

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# Heartworm season is back!

## Heartworm Life Cycle

Heartworm is an internal parasite that is transmitted by mosquitoes. An infective mosquito will collect a blood meal from a dog and pass the organism. It will take 6 months for the immature parasite to develop in a dog before it can be detected by a blood test. That's why we test in the spring! If left undetected the parasite will develop and multiply and reside in a dog's pulmonary arteries and heart, and can be fatal.

## Heartworm Testing

We collect a small blood sample from your dog and run the test in-clinic. This test detects the heartworm antigen and other tick borne diseases, including Lyme. It's recommended to test dogs 6 months and older (as long as they've been exposed to mosquitoes) two consecutive years and every 2nd year, thereafter. If any heartworm medications are forgotten or your dog is exposed to wood ticks annual testing is recommended.

## Heartworm Medication

Heartworm medication kills the immature life stage, 4-5 weeks after exposure. The heartworm larvae that live within the mosquito require consecutive warm days to become infective. We determine our start dates according to the weather in the spring to ensure proper protection. The medication should be given monthly, throughout the summer months and into fall, ending after mosquitos have dissipated.

Heartworm medications also control the most prevalent intestinal parasites found in our region. Roundworms reside in the intestinal tract. Their eggs are passed in feces and are readily transmitted in common areas such as off-leash parks and playgrounds. This parasite can also be transmitted to people. Small children are most vulnerable due to their play and hygienic habits. It's important to wash hands after playing in public playgrounds and sandboxes. This is an attractive area for stray cats to defecate.



## Ticks a problem? ...We've Got Your Dog Covered.

In addition to heartworm and roundworm; we also have products available that will control wood ticks. Wood ticks are commonly seen in high grasses and nature paths. If you take your dog camping, to the cottage, off leash parks or walking in grassy or wooded areas; you should consider protecting your dog against wood ticks. They can pass harmful diseases. The most prevalent in our region is Lyme disease. A unique bacterium that is mostly present in deer ticks is transmitted when the tick is attached and feeding. These bacteria then infect the dog or other species. Many dogs will not develop Lyme disease; however some do. They may suffer from fever, lethargy, lameness and kidney problems; and if left untreated in some cases can become very ill and die.

Consider the following products to protect your dog:

- Lyme vaccine: This annual vaccine is highly effective and is the best protection available against Lyme disease.
- Advantix: This product is a monthly topical (applied to the skin) solution. It repels wood ticks and fleas. It can be used in addition to heartworm products and can't come in contact with cats.
- Revolution: This too is a monthly topical solution. It's absorbed into your dog's system. When a wood tick attaches and collects a blood meal, the medication is ingested. The wood tick will die within a 24-48 hour period. This product also protects against heartworm, fleas, roundworm and other intestinal parasites.