

# MCLEOD



## VETERINARY HOSPITAL



### Spring 2015

#### Hospital Hours

Mon – Thurs 8 am – 6:30 pm  
Friday 8 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!



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

## Introducing 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. Although this product cannot be given to cats, it is perfectly safe to use around cats as it leaves no residue on your dog's fur.

NexGard tablets are proven to kill adult fleas within 30 minutes, before they are able to lay eggs. Peak levels of medication in the bloodstream are reached within 2-4 hours after treatment. NexGard is also effective against the three most common wood ticks in Manitoba, including the Blacklegged (deer) Tick. NexGard kills wood ticks within 48 hours and lasts all month long.

Discuss NexGard with your veterinarian to determine if it is the right product for your furry friend.

## The Bitterness of Lyme Disease

Lyme disease and its presence in Manitoba is becoming an all too familiar topic for pet owners, and for good reason. Pets throughout Canada and the US can easily come in contact with wood ticks which spread this debilitating disease. Unfortunately the signs and symptoms of Lyme disease and other tick borne diseases can often be subtle and difficult to recognize. The good news is that diagnosing Lyme disease and other tick borne diseases 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.

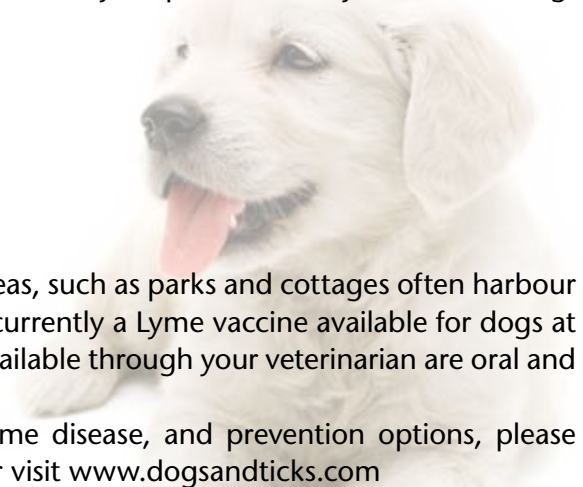
Early diagnosis and treatment is key to ensuring effective treatment, therefore being able to recognize even the most subtle sign from your pet is important.

Contact your veterinarian immediately should your pet exhibit any of the following:

- Lameness
- Swollen and/or painful joints
- Lethargy and/or depression
- Weight loss/decrease in appetite
- Runny nose and/or eyes
- Persistent cough
- Not acting like him/herself

Heavily-wooded and long-grassed areas, such as parks and cottages often harbour large burdens of wood ticks. There is currently a Lyme vaccine available for dogs at risk of contact with wood ticks. Also available through your veterinarian are oral and topical tick prevention medications.

For more information about ticks, Lyme disease, and prevention options, please contact McLeod Veterinary Hospital or visit [www.dogsandticks.com](http://www.dogsandticks.com)



## McLeod Veterinary Hospital Staff Members

### Veterinarians

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

### Animal Health Technologists

Barbe Parke  
Cindy Sontag  
Amy Weir  
Joëlle Tétréault  
Rhianne Hallows  
Jennifer Peters

### Receptionists

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

### Veterinary Assistants

Romi Scott  
Orit Agbayev  
Shey Friesen  
Maria Davies

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### Brutus

Brutus is a four month old Seal Point Himalayan kitten, lovingly owned by the Chrusch family.

## Mosquitoes Hungry Once Again



It's that time again! The mosquitoes are getting ready to spring into action and they are thirsty! This means that it's time for pet owners to be testing their dogs for heartworm disease and purchasing heartworm prevention.

Heartworm disease is a parasitic infection caused by *Dirofilaria immitis*, a worm that is passed from animal to animal using a mosquito as its vector. The immature worms, called microfilaria, are ingested by a mosquito when taking a blood meal from an infected animal. The microfilaria develop within the mosquito and are passed on to the next animal bitten. Once inside the blood stream, the microfilaria travel to the heart where they continue to grow and reproduce.

In the beginning stages of heartworm disease, infected animals can exhibit symptoms as subtle as a mild cough, or have no symptoms at all. If left untreated, symptoms will progress to lethargy, persistent coughing, exercise intolerance, fainting, and eventually death.

Luckily heartworm disease is easily preventable with a monthly dose of heartworm preventative medication. To learn more about how you can prevent heartworm disease, discuss prevention options with your pet's veterinary health care team at McLeod Veterinary Hospital.

## Blastomycosis

Blastomycosis is a systemic infection caused by *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, a fungus present in soil. *Blastomyces* is known to develop in areas of high humidity, and/or fog, and sandy areas with acidic soil within close proximity to water. Unfortunately *Blastomyces* can be found in some areas of North Western Ontario. This becomes concerning when cottage goers head out to enjoy a vacation with their family and pets. Dogs are most commonly affected as they naturally enjoy digging. Digging behaviours aggravate affected soil and aerosolize the fungal spores. The *Blastomyces* spores in the air can be breathed in by the dog and take up residence in the lungs. In some cases, the immune system is able to fight off the infection, if not; the dog will become increasingly ill as the fungus grows within the lungs and surrounding tissues.

The most commonly observed signs of infection include loss of appetite, weight loss, coughing, exercise intolerance, and difficulty breathing. Blastomycosis is best treated within the early stages of infection and can be diagnosed through radiographs and urine testing. Treatment for Blastomycosis includes oral antifungal medications for extended lengths of times. If left untreated or diagnosed in its late stages, Blastomycosis can be fatal. Humans can also be affected by Blastomycosis, therefore being aware of the areas you frequent and your potential for exposure are key to prevention of the disease.

For more information about Blastomycosis, consult your veterinarian or your health care team at McLeod Veterinary Hospital.

## Have You Activated Your Petly Account?

Petly is a wonderful new tool to access your pet's vaccine history, medical reminders, and make requests for appointments, prescription diets, or medication refills.

Ask one of our team members how you can activate your account today!



**McLeod Veterinary Hospital is on Facebook!**

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