

# HAPPY TAILS

veterinary clinic



1460 Swan Road  
De Pere, WI 54115  
(920) 336-9595  
[www.happytailsclinic.com](http://www.happytailsclinic.com)



## Spring 2012 Newsletter

### A Note From Dr. Nasal

We are always looking for feedback from clients as to what you like and what you don't like about Happy Tails. Our goal is to always provide each of you exceptional service.

One thing we have heard that clients love is that we offer tours. Many of you may not have yet received a tour of our facility. You are welcome to ask for one when you are in for an appointment, or if you are in the area and want to just stop in, please feel free to do so. You may also take a virtual tour by checking out our website at [www.happytailsclinic.com](http://www.happytailsclinic.com).

We are now offering Leptospirosis vaccines to high risk dogs. Lepto is a bacteria that is spread by the urine of wild animals such as skunks and raccoons. Dogs most often get the disease from drinking out of stagnant ponds or standing water where wild animals have urinated.

**At Happy Tails Veterinary Clinic, your pet will always receive a physical exam during their yearly vaccine appointment!**

"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals."

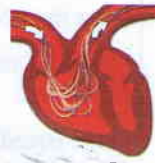
### WHICH WORMS WHY?

#### HEARTWORMS

**PET THREAT: Yes**

**HUMAN THREAT:**

**Very Rarely**



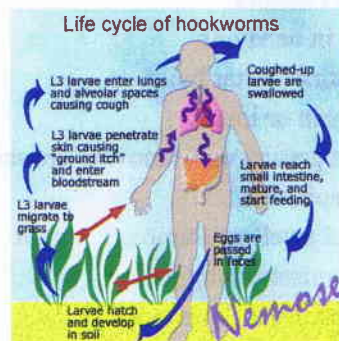
Many cases of canine heartworm disease are reported in the US every year, making Heartworms among the most dangerous parasitic worm threats to dogs. The disease is passed from infected dogs to other dogs by mosquitoes. *That means all dogs are at risk for heartworm disease.* The disease is spread when a mosquito, previously infected by biting an infected dog, bites another dog and deposits tiny immature heartworms, called larvae, near the bite wound. Then, the larvae enter the wound and travel beneath the skin, eventually reaching the heart and lungs.

#### HOOKWORMS

**PET THREAT: Yes**

**HUMAN THREAT: Yes**

Hookworm infections in dogs are more than twice as prevalent as whipworm infections. These dangerous parasites can cause a decrease in red blood cells (anemia), a serious threat to small puppies. With remarkable efficiency, hookworms "graze" on the lining of the intestine, leaving multiple bloody holes in their wake. These can lead to anemia and may even cause a small puppy to bleed to death.



In humans, hookworms migrate through tissue close to the skin, causing painful, itchy rashes.

#### ROUNDWORMS

**PET THREAT: Yes**

**HUMAN THREAT: Yes**

These intestinal parasites can be fatal to dogs and cause eye damage to humans. Children are most vulnerable to infection. Roundworms may resemble earthworms or spaghetti. The roundworm is a patient, persistent parasite that can lay up to 100,000 eggs in a single day. Once an egg is accidentally ingested by a dog, the roundworm hatches and makes its way through the body to an ideal feeding ground, the intestine.

#### WHIPWORMS

**PET THREAT: Yes**

**HUMAN THREAT: No validated cases.**

This parasite shows up less frequently than heartworms, hookworms and roundworms. Whipworms get their name from their thin, whip-like shape. Whipworms are a less destructive nuisance than heartworms, hookworms and roundworms.

#### TAPEWORMS

**PET THREAT: Yes**

**HUMAN THREAT: Very Rarely**

A non-fatal parasite that a dog can contract by accidentally swallowing infected fleas. Tapeworms are less dangerous than the other worms mentioned above. Though they can be transmitted by other means, tapeworms primarily enter a dog directly through the ingestion of a flea, or infected rodents and rabbits.

#### DETECTION:

**Heartworm Test; Fecal Analysis**

#### PREVENTION:

**Heartgard Plus; Frontline Plus**

\*For more information, please visit:  
[www.WhichWormsWhy.com](http://www.WhichWormsWhy.com)

## Arthritis in your pet

Also known as osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease, arthritis is characterized by pain and swelling in a pet's joints. This is caused by the breaking down of smooth cartilage that covers and protects the bones that form a joint. Once the bones are exposed, painful wear and tear can occur. It is much more common in dogs, but can occur in cats, most often due to old age.

Arthritis can be caused by trauma, joint infection, an inherited condition, or aging and natural erosion. Some symptoms of arthritis include walking stiffly, limping, and decreased activity. Keeping your pet fit with exercise and proper nutrition may, in some cases, help prevent arthritis, or possibly slow its progression. However, arthritic conditions cannot always be predicted or prevented.

Once symptoms of arthritis set in, there is no cure. It's important for you to work with your veterinarian to create a program to minimize your pet's pain while keeping him healthy. Some general treatment options may include: Use of pain-killers, anti-inflammatory medications, nutritional supplements, a healthy diet and regular, or low-impact exercise. A few ways to make your pet more comfortable include: giving them soft bedding, having short and gentle play sessions, physical therapy, and providing them with gentle massages.



## Flea and Tick Prevention

As the temperatures rise and pets begin spending more time outdoors, it is very important to start your pet on Frontline Plus, a monthly flea and tick prevention.

Pets can get fleas from other stray cats and dogs, a neighborhood pet, or from wildlife like raccoons, squirrels and rabbits. Fleas can transmit tapeworms, an intestinal parasite that looks like grains of rice in the stool.

Your pet can also get tick-transmitted diseases. One, Lyme disease, causes liver and kidney disease.

To prevent and control fleas and ticks, apply Frontline Plus monthly.

## Senior Testing

It is important to make sure our pets receive a yearly complete physical exam to ensure eyes, ears, teeth, heart, lungs, joints and coat are healthy. But as our pets age, it is even more important to exam the health of the pet not only on the outside, but also on the inside. Blood testing is one of the best methods to identify serious medical conditions that an exam alone won't identify.

How old is considered senior for my pet?

### Main benefits of Senior testing:

Cat	8years
Small Breed Dog (Less than 20lbs)	10 years
Medium Breed Dog (21-45 lbs)	8-10 years
Large Breed Dog (46-100 lbs)	8 years
Giant Dog Breeds (More than 100 lbs)	5-6 years

### ◆ Comparing Base Values:

If you have a baseline test that you establish before your pet gets sick, we will know what is considered to be normal for your pet when they are healthy. We can then compare these results to those we get if your pet gets sick in the future.

### ◆ Identify unseen diseases at an early stage:

Identifying diseases before clinical signs are evident will increase the likelihood of a successful outcome and can often lessen the cost of treatment.

### Signs your senior pet should see the Vet:

- Increased thirst and urination
- Significant changes in activity or appetite
- Coughing or exercise intolerance
- Seizures/Tremors
- Changes in behavior
- Bad breath or tartar build-up
- Weight gain or loss
- Problems getting up or moving around
- Rapid respiration
- Abnormal swelling, lumps or bumps
- Loss of houstraining habits
- Acting confused/disorientated



## Different blood tests for Geriatric Testing:

**Chemistry Panel:** The main blood test for older pets. This will tell us about:

- The Liver
- The Kidneys
- The Pancreas
- Glucose Levels
- Cholesterol Levels
- Potassium Levels



**Complete Blood Count:** This test will be able to detect conditions such as low or high white and red blood cell counts and other blood disorders as well as assess stress levels, inflammation, infection and blood clotting capabilities. It will tell us about:

- Red Blood Cells
- White Blood Cells
- Platelets

**Thyroid Testing:** This test screens the function of the thyroid gland in dogs and cats. The thyroid plays a large role in the metabolism.

## Summer Care for Outdoor Pets

Pets are more prone to certain ailments when they are outdoors including exposure to excessive heat, fleas, ticks, mosquitoes and flies. If your pet is not on a leash or in a confined backyard area, they can get into things like trash, garden fertilizer and anything else that people discard or leave outside that may be toxic or cause blockages in your pet. On hot humid days, pets (especially very young or elderly pets) may have problems with the heat sooner to causing them to pant excessively to try to control their internal body temperature and become exhausted. In severe cases heat stroke can be fatal. It is important to keep pets cool indoors during the day and give them access to fresh water at all times. Do not exercise your pet during mid-day as this is the warmest part of the day. Make sure that your pets are adequately protected from disease by staying current on vaccinations and administering monthly heartworm prevention.

