

## Mountainview Animal Hospital

Dr. Stephanie Ewing BSc., DVM

### Welcome Back

Mountainview Animal Hospital is pleased to be sending you our second client newsletter. We received a lot of positive feedback on our Holiday edition in December and hope that you will continue to enjoy and appreciate the effort we make to stay in touch with you, our clients. We hope that by communicating with you more frequently, we can keep you involved in the changes that will occur in our hospital as we grow, create a stronger bond with the Georgetown community, hopefully inform you and ultimately help you to provide your beloved pets with happier, healthier and longer lives. We are striving to entertain as well as inform, if there are any subjects that you would like us to include in future editions please do not hesitate to contact us, your feedback is always welcome. Time and energy permitting, we will try to produce two to three editions per year. We hope you enjoy!

### New Members of Our Family

Sabrina Fiorenza will be joining us for the summer. Sabrina has worked with Dr. Ewing in the past as a co-op student, kennel assistant and receptionist. She now joins Mountainview Animal Hospital after successfully completing her first year in the Veterinary Technician course at Seneca College. Everyone who knows Sabrina would agree that she is a generous, kind and hard working individual with an intense dedication to animal care. In addition to her reception duties and assisting Dr. Ewing and Julie RVT, Sabrina will be gaining valuable practical experience that will help her complete her final year at college.

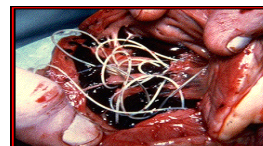
Nike is our chubby feline resident who refuses to lose weight. We took her in last fall with the intent of finding her a suitable new home for her fussy needs. After her first few days with us, Nike quickly took possession of Dr. Ewing's office as well as our hearts and has become a permanent member of our team. Nike has a long list of likes and dislikes. Among her dislikes are other cats, dogs, sharing Dr. Ewing's chair with her, being on a diet ( who can blame her ), and exercising. Her likes include food, food, food, sleeping on Dr. Ewing's chair or any papers she is working on, people and constant attention. Now, if only we could teach her to answer the phones.

### Goodbye Winter, Hello Bugs

As the long grey Canadian winter gives way to the warmth and sunshine of spring we look forward to a rebirth of nature's beauty and **BUGS**. Although most true naturalists would remind us that all living creatures have a positive contribution to the ecosystem, most of us would have a hard time finding something positive to say about **mosquitoes** and **fleas**. Certainly for our pets these insects can have serious detrimental effects on their health and so, we are reminding you that it is once again time to take preventative measures to ensure your pets safety.



# Heartworm Disease



Heartworm disease is caused by a large worm which lives in the dog's heart and adjoining blood vessels. It is one of the most serious conditions that your dog can acquire since permanent and potentially fatal damage to the heart, lungs and liver can occur long before there are any visible signs.

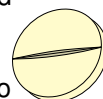
Once only endemic in the Southern United States and tropical countries heartworm has spread rapidly into Canada and each year it plays a larger role in our lives as its numbers increase affecting not only our domestic dog population, but also coyotes, wolves, foxes and rarely even our cats.

The sinister heartworm does not work alone; its life cycle involves the **mosquito**. When a mosquito bites an infected dog it ingests the heartworm in its larval form along with the blood. As the mosquito travels around biting other dogs it spreads the disease. One infected dog can become the source of infection for the whole neighborhood. It is that simple.

Once infected with heartworm your dog's heart is under attack. The symptoms can vary wildly but generally include exercise intolerance, coughing, anorexia and difficulty breathing. Treatment is available but is often costly and difficult due to the side effects. You can expect a long recovery time and often your pets' health is irreparably damaged.



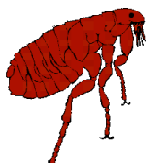
**Prevention** is so easy. All you have to do is give your dog a pill or apply a topical medication to his/her skin once a month from June through November. There are various types of heartworm medication available, some will also include prevention for intestinal worms and/or fleas. We will be happy to help you choose the right prevention program for your dog.



**Blood testing** your dog prior to starting the medication is an important part of prevention and is strongly recommended. Early detection of a heartworm infection before your dog gets sick will not only increase the success of the treatment and ensure a complete recovery, but will also help reduce the spread of the disease.

***Please call us to make an appointment for your dog's annual heartworm blood test and preventative medication.***  
**905-702-8822**

## The War on Fleas



Fleas are by far the most common external parasite in North America. The adult flea spends its entire life on the pet biting him/her and feeding on the blood. A female flea can lay up to 50 eggs per day. These eggs fall off your pet and are deposited anywhere your pet has access, this means your home. Once the eggs hatch the resultant larva live in the carpet, beds, sofas and chairs feeding from the flea droppings, after a week or two it spins its cocoon and pupates. After the pupation period, which can vary greatly in time depending on climactic environment, the newly emerged flea will jump on your pet to start the whole cycle over again.

Fleas can cause an immense amount of distress for your pet. Biting fleas cause severe itchiness, allergic dermatitis and in large enough numbers can even cause your pet to become anemic and susceptible to a whole host of subsequent diseases. Fleas also carry the larval form of intestinal tapeworm which is transmitted to your pet when a flea is swallowed as your pet chews on his/her itchy skin.

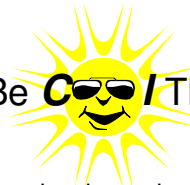


Treating a flea problem involves two stages, eliminating the adult fleas on your pet and the eggs and larva in your home. There are a large variety of product from adulticides used to kill the fleas on your pets, and insect growth regulators which help control the development of eggs and larva. Revolutionary new products are available through veterinarians.

Of course, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. There are a variety of products available that can prevent a flea infestation before it starts, some of which can be combined with the heartworm prevention in dogs.

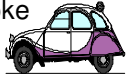


## Help Your Pet Be **Cool** This Summer



It's great to enjoy summer with your pet. But it's also the time when they have the greatest risk of injury and heat-related health problems. So here are some tips on keeping things cool this summer.

**Watch for signs of heatstroke**, rapid panting, hot skin, twitching muscles or a dazed look. Wrap your pet in a towel soaked with cool, not cold water. In severe cases, place him/her in the bathtub. Heatstroke can be fatal. See us as soon as possible.



**Never leave your pet in a parked car**, not even if you crack the windows or park in the shade. On a 22°C day, the car temperature can rise above 66°C in minutes. It is extremely dangerous and the number one cause of heatstroke.



**Keep vaccinations up-to-date.** This is the time of year when most pets come in contact with other animals, at the parks and campgrounds, etc.

**Avoid internal parasites.** Be sure your dog has been heartworm tested and is on a preventive medication. Have your dogs and cats stool checked regularly for intestinal parasites.

**Always provide plenty of fresh water.** Dogs can only sweat through the pads of their feet and by panting. Evaporation from the wet surfaces of their mouth and nose helps lower their body temperature.

**Watch for hot pavement and beaches.** Sensitive paws burn easily.



**Find a cool spot.** For indoor pets, keep the air circulating with a child-proof fan or air conditioner. Provide shade for outdoor pets. A gentle sprinkle from a hose is always appreciated.



**The streets aren't safe.** Don't let your pet roam. Just in case, make sure your pet is licensed or better yet, microchipped. We see twice as many fight injuries and bite wounds in the summer; and of course, a pet is no match for a car.



**The yard isn't always safe either.** Be cautious of pesticides and herbicides. Read the precautions for lawn chemicals carefully and keep pets away from newly-treated yards. If your pet comes in contact with any chemicals, wash his/her feet, abdomen and chest thoroughly, and then contact us.

Keep coats healthy. Frequent brushing provides early warning of parasites and skin infections by lifting the coat, permitting a view of the skin below.

**It's allergy season.** People sneeze, pets scratch. Common pet allergens include pollen, grass and weeds. If your pet scratches excessively or chews at its paws, bring him/her in for an exam. We can design a program to help.

**Watch the exercise and diet.** Don't encourage exercise during the hottest part of the day and let your pet eat less. Overeating can lead to overheating.



**Not every dog paddles well.** Animals in the water for the first time should be eased in, never thrown or chased in. Don't let your pets drink from pools, streams or the ocean. After a swim rinse them off, salt and minerals can damage a dog's coat.

**Sunburn is no day at the beach.** It hurts. Short-haired pets and those with pink skin and white hair are especially susceptible. Limit their exposure.



# **Animal Health Week**

**May 5 - May 12**

To celebrate Animal Health Week, we are having an Open House. Everyone is welcome to attend, including your furry friends. Weather permitting we will be having a barbeque. So, come join us for an exciting and educational day.

## **OPEN HOUSE**

At

**Mountainview Animal Hospital**

On

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 2002**

from

**1 pm to 4 pm**

Representatives from

**Medi-Cal**

And

**Pet Plan**

will be available to answer any questions regarding nutrition and pet insurance

**Food**

**Games**

And

**Prizes**

Demonstrations

From

**Kris's Klips**

**Mark your calendars !!!!!!!**