



Veterinary Hospital

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March 2011
Newsletter

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LeAnn Anderson, DVM · Jack Hardy, DVM
Alinda Buckingham, DVM · Veronica Busick, DVM
Wendy Miller, DVM · Robinette Dunahugh, DVM
Deb Conant, DVM · Allan Berger DVM, PhD, DABVP

Dear friends and clients,

Spring is around the corner! We hope! At BEBT we are looking forward to the annual "new puppy rush."

For BEBT news, Drs. LeAnn Anderson and Robinette Dunahugh have dropped back to part time. To take up the slack, we have Dr. Jack Hardy starting with us in March. Jack comes from an emergency and surgery referral practice in New Hampshire and is moving back home to Iowa to be closer to family. (And Allan gets the company of a second male veterinarian in the office.)

We have two cats looking for homes: "Puma" is a large black female cat. She was found in Iowa City and despite being well socialized and seemingly very well cared for, no one has claimed her. "Pretty Girl" has been with us for nearly a year. She has always been very nervous in the clinic and we consider her a "special needs" cat - the bustle of the hospital is very stressful to her and she would be so much happier in a quiet home. Interested? Call us to figure out a good time to visit! Amy C. coordinates our rescue program.

If there's anything we can do to help you, call us!

Gratefully yours,
Jenn Berger and everyone at Bright Eyes & Bushy Tails

Dr. Allan Berger – Specialist Designation

Our own Dr. Allan Berger has recently been certified as a Diplomate by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP) as a specialist in canine and feline medicine.

Dr. Berger mastered a rigorous and demanding application process and certification examination in order to obtain Diplomate status. To qualify to sit for the extensive two-day examination, a veterinarian must complete either a residency program or six years of advanced clinical veterinary practice. In addition, two case reports, references, descriptions of practice procedures, and professional education records must pass review.

Dr. Berger is a graduate of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and has special interests in emergency medicine, critical care, ultrasound and endoscopy, as well as orthopedics.

Way to go Allan!



Quiz: Test your heartworm knowledge! (by Dr. Deb Conant)

How do dogs get heartworms?

1. From fleas
2. From mosquitoes
3. From other dogs
4. From contaminated soil

Correct answer: 2. mosquitoes. A mosquito bites a heartworm-infested dog and then transmits the heartworm to the next dog it bites.



What are the symptoms of heartworm disease?

1. Vomiting and diarrhea
2. Coughing and lethargy
3. No symptoms
4. Painful joints

Correct answers: 2. coughing and lethargy and 3. no symptoms. Dogs can have heartworms but not show clinical signs of disease even though the heartworms are still causing damage to the heart and blood vessels.

How often should a dog be tested for heartworm?

1. Every year
2. Every 2 years
3. Don't need to test if the dog stays on preventative medicine
4. Only if you see symptoms of cough and lethargy

Correct answer: 1. every year. The American Heartworm Society now recommends annual testing for canine heartworms. This ensures that prevention is achieved and that more timely treatment can be provided to dogs that test positive in order to minimize pathology (damage to the heart, blood vessels, and lungs). Most of the heartworm preventative manufacturers will provide financial support to treat heartworm disease only if the dog has been tested yearly and there is proof that it has received monthly medication during that time.

How is Heartworm disease spreading in the United States?

1. Transport of infected dogs
2. Climate change
3. Humans changing landscape
4. Spread of other hosts besides dogs

Correct answer: All of the above. 1. Transport of infected dogs: Hurricane Katrina caused the relocation of thousands of dogs that were spread across the United States and Canada. It is estimated that upwards of 60% of these dogs were heartworm positive and many were never tested or treated. 2. Climate change: areas of the United States are becoming warmer and wetter, allowing for a more favorable climate for mosquitoes to multiply. 3. Humans are changing the landscape with high buildings and concrete parking lots that increase the temperature of an area, as well as watering golf courses built in previously desert areas. 4. Other hosts: Coyotes and wolves serve as wildlife reservoirs for heartworm disease. As their territories spread, so does the disease.

How can dogs on preventative medicine still get heartworms?

1. Hide the pill under the couch instead of eating it
2. Vomit the pill
3. Live in the southern Mississippi Valley area
4. Owner forgets to give the pill one month

Correct answer: all of the above. There has been an increased incidence of heartworm positive dogs that have been on preventative and still become infected, especially in the Gulf Coast states. No medication is 100% effective but few drugs can match the safety and effectiveness of the various heartworm preventatives.



Avoid Accidental Pet Poisoning (by Brad Bender)

Fact: 1 extra-strength acetaminophen (Tylenol®) can kill a 10-pound cat.

While we all work hard at caring for our cats and dogs, it is often too easy for them to have access to our prescription drugs. According to the ASPCA's Poison Control Center, human pills – especially pain relievers, heart medications, and antidepressants – are the primary causes of pet poisonings.

Even when a bottle is securely capped, it still may be knocked off of a cabinet or counter and then used as a chew toy. If the plastic is chewed on long enough, the pills may begin to spill out. Pets can also find and eat medications that have been accidentally dropped on the floor.

To protect your pet, ensure that all of your drugs and supplements are secured and well out of reach. Also, you should take your pills in an isolated room with the door shut so you can retrieve a dropped pill before your pet can pounce on it.



If you suspect that your pet has ingested a medication or has been poisoned in any way, call our emergency line at (319) 338-3605 or the National Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435. Depending on the medication, it may be necessary to bring your pet in to our hospital to have its stomach pumped or vomiting induced. When possible, please have the name and dosage size of the medication available when you call and bring the bottle with you when you come in.

Comforting Your Hospitalized Pet!

We are now proud to offer our own "Cuddlers" program!

Any time that your pet is brought in and must be hospitalized overnight, you may pick out a stuffed animal for them to have in his/her cage. We encourage you to hold this stuffed animal and rub it on your clothing/skin as much as possible so that your personal scent is on the stuffed animal in the hopes that your familiar scent will help to comfort your pet while it is in our care.

A dog's sense of smell is said to be 1,000 times more sensitive than in humans! Let us help you take advantage of this amazing fact and hopefully relieve some of your pet's stress while in our ICU.

Pet Adoption

Bright Eyes & Bushy Tails works closely with many of the area animal rescue groups. However, we often find ourselves with a pet or two that need a good home as well. Check out current list of "adoptables" at the following online link: <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/IA187.html>

Referral Program

\$5 referral bonuses! If you refer a new client to us, make sure that they give us your name! We will take \$5 off of the next non-emergency visit for both you and your referral. Additionally, as part of the program each of you will be entered into a drawing for a \$100.00 pet supply coupon from Leash On Life. There is no limit on the number of referrals (or entries).

