



Countryside Animal Hospital



PAW Prints



Summer 2022

Heartworm Forecast Pet Owners Put on High Alert!

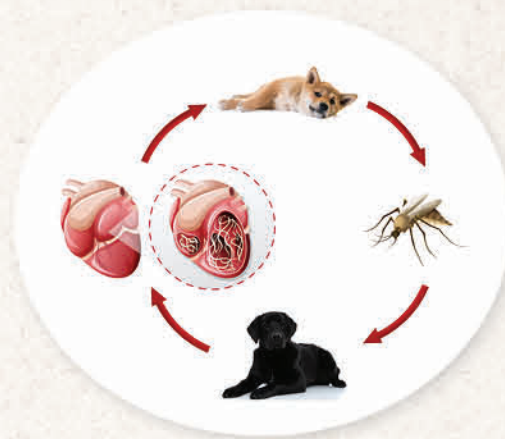
The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) released its annual 2022 Pet Parasite Forecast. Unfortunately, they are predicting a high risk for heartworm infection this year.

Heartworm is a potentially fatal disease transferred to dogs and other animals through mosquitos, so a high mosquito population means a higher risk. When your dog is bitten by a mosquito infected with the larval form of *dirofilaria immitis*—a thread-like roundworm—the larvae can grow as long as 12 inches. These worms can infest the heart, lungs and blood vessels, causing severe lung disease, heart failure, and damage to other organs with a high risk of death.

The first signs of a heartworm infestation may be poor appetite and lethargy. As the disease progresses, your dog may develop a persistent cough. If we suspect heartworm, we will perform a heartworm antigen test that, if positive, indicates a heartworm infection. The treatment for heartworm is severe in itself and usually requires hospitalization.

The good news is that heartworm is preventable. We have several options for heartworm prevention, from monthly doses to injectables that will cover your dog for several months. These preventives work by killing larval heartworm before it can reach adulthood. We will find the method that works best for you and your pet.

It's crucial that your pet is protected year-round. The most common reason dogs get heartworm is a missed dose of the preventive. We perform an annual test to ensure that your dog does not have heartworm before we start the preventative, as these medications can cause complications in a dog already infected. Annual heartworm tests are just one of the benefits of our Pet Annual Wellness (PAW) Plans for dogs. Please call us for information on budget-friendly options for your furry family members.



Super Senses Pets versus Humans



It has been estimated that a dog's sense of smell is as much as 100,000 times more powerful than a human's. Dogs may have as many as two billion olfactory receptors versus a cat's 65 million. However, both have a much keener sense of smell than humans, who have just five million receptors.

A cat can see approximately six times better at night than humans can. Dogs also see better than we do in low light. Cats and dogs don't see colors as well as we do, but cats' ability to detect UV

light allows them to see details that are invisible to the human eye. Both canine and feline vision relies on detecting motion rather than on sharp focus, and both are largely far-sighted. Humans also see a full spectrum of color, while our pets see only a few colors.

Cats rule when it comes to hearing, detecting sound perhaps five times better than humans can. Dogs also have us beat on hearing. We can detect sound 100 yards away while a dog's range is a quarter of a mile, and both cats and dogs can detect minute differences in sound that we can't hear. Their acute hearing means that sirens, fireworks and loud music can truly upset your pets!

Feline Kidney Disease Know the Common Symptoms

Experts estimate that over 30% of cats over age 12 will eventually be diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) or Chronic Renal Failure (CRF). Unfortunately, these conditions can be silent in earlier stages, and cats can lose as much as 75% of their kidney function before symptoms appear.

Although there is no cure for kidney failure, we can manage the condition with medications that support the existing kidney function and help alleviate some of the work the kidneys do. With medications, proper diet and hydration, cats can live for years with the diagnosis.

The sooner we begin to support renal function, the slower the illness will progress, so it's important to detect it early. Call us if your cat exhibits these symptoms:

- 🐾 Vomiting
- 🐾 Weight loss
- 🐾 Sitting hunched over a water or food bowl
- 🐾 Excessive urination
- 🐾 Dehydration
- 🐾 Isolating, crying, or other signs of pain

These symptoms help identify feline CKD and CRF, but we will run blood tests to be sure. Even without symptoms, we recommend annual blood and urine tests to screen your kitty's kidney function. Our Pet Annual Wellness (PAW) Plans for cats are the most affordable way to make sure your feline friend gets regular exams and annual screening to help keep them healthy. Be sure to ask us for details!



Fun without Fear Avoiding Hazardous Dog Toys

Having toys to occupy their minds, satisfy their instincts to chase and to chew, and ward off boredom and anxiety is essential for dogs. However, safety standards for play toys and chew toys are lax and the most popular toys range from "needs supervision" to downright toxic. Following is a partial list of potential hazards posed by common pet toys:



1. **Tennis balls** are something most dogs love, but they must be used with caution. Dogs often chew the ball apart and can potentially choke on the rubber that breaks off. Large dogs may even swallow a portion of the ball and choke when it becomes lodged in the throat. In addition, the fuzzy outside material chafes a dog's tooth enamel like sandpaper, which can lead to dental problems.
2. **Rawhide bones** can be extremely dangerous if swallowed. As they absorb water in the stomach, they can swell and become impossible to pass through the intestines. Pressed rawhide chews are a safer option but should be used only with supervision. In addition, some rawhide toys are preserved with formaldehyde, making them toxic.
3. **Squeaker toys** are always dangerous if your dog removes the squeaker. Not only is the removed squeaker a choking hazard, the plastic or PVC can contain toxins. In fact, cheap, plastic or rubber toys of any sort have been known to contain BPA, phthalates, chlorine and other toxins.

4. **Rope toys** also can contain toxic chemicals, but more alarming is that swallowed pieces of rope can cause a life-threatening obstruction in the stomach and intestines.

5. **Fiber-stuffed toys** are soft and fun for dogs to carry but if your pooch likes to open up the toy and remove the stuffing, intestinal blockage is a danger.

It may take some research but choosing less hazardous toys such as Kong and Nylabone will give you peace of mind and keep your fur-baby safer.

Call us at (480) 775-9966 today to make an appointment!



Summer Safety

Heat-Related Risks for Pets

We may look forward to warm sunny days, but it's important to take precautions that protect our pets. The biggest danger is hyperthermia—when your pet's body generates more heat than it dissipates. An extreme rise in body temperature is a medical emergency that requires immediate treatment to prevent organ failure. If your pet has been exposed to high temperatures, check for excessive drooling or panting, reddened gums, rapid or irregular heartbeat, disorientation, vomiting blood, seizures, or signs of shock.

Dehydration is also a threat in hot weather. Symptoms include sticky or pale gums, lethargy, decreased urination, and appetite loss. Other summer hazards include sunburn, drowning, and burns on their foot pads from hot pavement. Follow these tips for a safe summer:

- Keep water dishes full, fresh and cool.
- Walk dogs during the coolest hours of the day.
- Watch pets around pools and lakes. Yes, they can drown!
- Don't allow pets to walk on hot pavement. If it's too hot for your feet, it's too hot for theirs!
- Keep dogs and cats indoors during extreme heat except for short potty breaks in the shade.
- Avoid sunburn on light-colored or short-haired dogs. Reconsider shaving your pet. Their natural coat helps prevent dehydration, helps cool them, and protects their skin from sunburn and insects.
- NEVER LEAVE ANY PET ALONE IN A CAR. With an outside temperature of only 78 degrees, the temperature inside a parked car can reach 120 degrees in minutes! Shade and cracked windows do not prevent this, and many pets are lost to hyperthermia each summer.

Common sense will go a long way in protecting your pet. Call us immediately if you see any symptoms of heat-related illness!



Have a Safe and Healthy Summer!



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**Our Pet Annual Wellness Plans
include four yearly routine exams!**
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significant savings with PAW Plans.
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Pets must be tested for heartworm annually
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Have A Great Summer!



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