Royal York Animal Hospital

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Royal York Times

Providing the Services you Need for the Life of Your Pet www.RYAH.ca Spring 2012

Giving Back to Our Community

In Our Community

The holiday season is the time of giving and in 2011 RYAH did just that. In response to the increasing demand of families in need over the past year, our team successfully orchestrated a food drive for our local Daily Bread Food Bank and delivered ~200lbs of food for those in need.

On an annual basis the RYAH team also collects monetary donations for a charity of the veterinarians' choice. This year we gathered and donated over $500.00 for The Cancer Society. The advancements made in research and treatment for humans will ultimately improve the care and treatment of pets with this disease.

Finally, our own Royal York Pet Foundation was the recipient of generous donations from our own clients via our Open House Drive and the sale of Christmas Keepsakes. Thanks to the support we are now able to further assist clients in need to care for unexpected emergencies with their beloved pets.

Our Growing Family

Firstly we'd like to introduce our newest member of the Royal York Animal Hospital team, Dr. Iz Jakubowski. Dr. Iz formerly practiced in the Blue Mountains north of Toronto before joining Royal York. She is a graduate of the Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown, PEI. Dr. Iz is very passionate about her work with a particular interest in preventive care. Currently "between pets", Dr. Iz gets her fix of furry friends at the hospital.

We would also like to welcome back three new moms after a year of maternity leave. Dr. Suzie Jerabek had a beautiful baby girl, Elena on October 2010. Dr. Annelle Valentin gave birth to a delightful baby boy, Max on Feb. 16, 2011 and our Exam Room Assistant Nicole also had an adorable baby boy, Harrison on Feb. 16, 2011. Dr. Becky Sylvester, who helped look after our patients during these maternity leaves, is off seeking new adventures in the veterinary field.

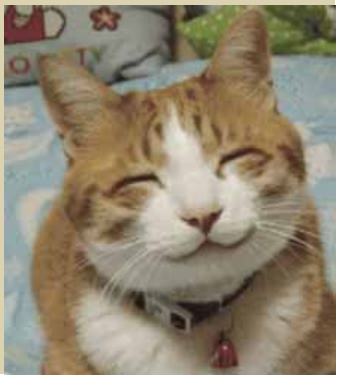
We will all miss Dr. Mike James who, moved to Ottawa after his wife, also a veterinarian was presented with a great opportunity. We all wish Dr. Sylvester and Dr. James the very best.

Here's a Reason to Smile

The health care team at the Royal York Animal Hospital believe that dental care is extremely important for pets since the mouth is the gateway to the body.

Since the Dental Health Month promotion was such a success, we are extending our $50 off offer to those pets that have had a professional dental cleaning recommended and is booked within 1 month of the recommendation.

To book your pet's recommended professional dental cleaning please contact us at your convenience. 416-231-9293 or royalyorkvets@ryah.ca



PESKY PARASITES

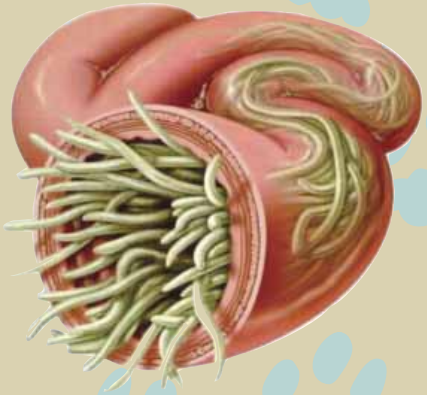
It is a fact that 1 in 8 pets have parasites, most of whom show no symptoms. Many of them can infect and transmit disease to people this process is called zoonosis. Most parasites are spread to humans through contact with contaminated soil and water. Two of the most common zoonotic parasites seen are roundworms and giardia.

Roundworm eggs are passed in the stool of infected animals. When they are ingested by humans they can hatch into larvae and migrate through the body ending up most commonly in the eye. The larvae then dies creating an extreme inflammatory reaction that can cause blindness. This is most often seen in children who ingest eggs after playing in contaminated soil or sandboxes.

Giardia is most commonly ingested through contaminated water and can cause diarrhea and intestinal cramping. If your pet is being treated for giardia it is important to bathe them at the end of treatment and dispose of pet waste quickly.

Tips for parasite prevention:

1. Deworm puppies and kittens early
2. Test your pet's stool sample yearly
3. Treat adult pets with a dewormer every 4-6 months
4. Cover children's sandboxes when not in use
5. Practice good hygiene by wearing gloves when gardening, washing your hands after cleaning the litterbox and handling pet waste
6. Clean up promptly after your pets!



Why does the Vet take your pet...

to "THE BACK" for Additional Treatment?

It can be a little concerning when a member of the hospital asks to take your pet to the treatment room for a procedure. What are we doing back there? And why can't you come too?

Every hospital has a treatment room where sick animals and animals recovering from surgery are monitored and treated and where a variety of procedures are carried out including nail trims, suture removal, blood collection, and minor surgeries. We use this room for various procedures instead of our exam rooms for a number of reasons. The treatment room gives us everything we need to get a job done – proper lighting, the room to work, an extra pair of hands if we need it, and all the equipment and medications we might need. It allows us to work more efficiently, effectively, and safely which goes a long way to minimizing everyone's stress.

One of the benefits of taking your pet to the treatment room is that you're not there. As much as we want to believe that our pets are more relaxed and better behaved with "mom" or "dad" present, in most cases it's the exact opposite. Once away from their "parents" most pets are more relaxed and easier to work with. Aside from that, the treatment room is really the heart of the hospital and it's usually a pretty busy place. Having visitors often just adds to the traffic and can add to the stress of our hospitalized patients.

That said, veterinarians will occasionally allow you to come to the back if you wish, depending on the procedure we need to perform and how busy we are in the treatment room. While it can be stressful being separated from your pet, rest assured that he or she is in the hands of skilled people who make it a priority to see your pet through a procedure as quickly and with as little stress as possible. Of course, you're always welcome to have a tour of our hospital through our reception staff if you're interested in seeing behind the scenes.

ALLERGIES

There seems to be a common trend these days with the types of appointments that are booked at the Royal York Animal Hospital. One glance at the appointment book and you'll see a vast amount of "itchy skin", "scratching a lot", and "licking at paws". To many, a first guess would be that this is the result of fleas but what some are often unaware of, is that just like humans, our furry friends can suffer from allergies too. Allergies to our pets come in a few types, with the main ones being inhalant and food.

Inhalant allergies occur when the pet inhales something that may cause a reaction. This could be something that happens seasonally or it could be due to a change in the pet's environment such as home renovations. These are factors to consider when noticing changes in your pet. Inhalant allergies show their symptoms in the same way for both cats and dogs, and that is a lot of scratching! Dogs may also lick, bite and chew at their feet. The methods for treating this particular type of allergy range from a bath with a medicated shampoo, a medication prescribed by a veterinarian to help relieve the pet's symptoms, or allergy desensitization injections in sever longstanding problems.

A food allergy is one that is often overlooked by a pet owner. A sudden change in food type or brand isn't necessarily the culprit, as a cat or dog can develop an allergy to their food even if they have been on it their entire life. Generally, it is an ingredient such as the type of protein or grain that the pet is specifically allergic to. The symptoms for food allergies in cats and dogs can be similar to those of inhalant allergies with itchiness and/or digestive disorders A hypoallergenic diet recommended by your veterinarian, can be a good start to determining which food is best for your pet, but it can often take weeks to show a positive effect.

Remember, if you ever suspect your pet may have an allergy, whether it is to its natural environment or to its food, it is always best to consult a veterinarian to ensure the best results.

PET OF THE MONTH

We would like to take the opportunity to recognize our previously appointed Pets of the Month! We welcome nominations from our clients and team members. A committee within the hospital elects our fine, furry companions. Often it is their sweet demeanour throughout hospital stays and visits that helps them receive this prestigious recognition. Congratulations is in order for the following pets: Rosie Gray, Snow Gautreau, Angel Kerti, the Pietrantonio Clan, Teddy Reid, Mebo Wong, Duchess Smith and a special recognition to Skittles Ptolemy and Harvey Poskus who will both be dearly missed. Our pet of the month can be seen on our Royal York Animal Hospital Facebook page, so please visit and browse for upcoming articles.

Heartworm & Flea Season

Happily, the warm summer months are quickly approaching however, with them, so is the threat of heartworm and fleas for our furry friends.

Fleas are easily passed along from one animal to another and can reproduce at an alarming rate causing an out-of-control infestation within days! Fleas can potentially lead to further health problems too, such as itchy allergic dermatitis, tapeworms and even anemia. It is important that all pets in your home are on a flea preventive. Luckily, treating your pet for fleas has never been easier.

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal condition caused by worms that live in the arteries of the lungs and heart of dogs. Heartworm is transmitted by the bite of a mosquito that is carrying the infective stage of the worm. It then takes 6-7 months from the time a dog is bitten by an infected mosquito until a blood test can accurately detect the presence of heartworm.

Your dog needs to be tested every year because…

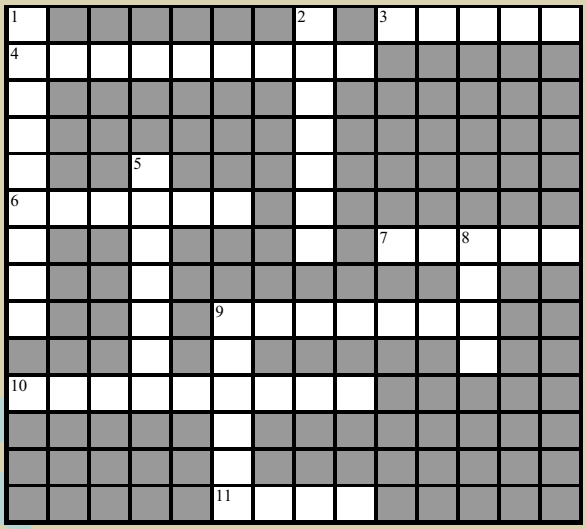
- The blood test will let us know if your dog was exposed to heartworm disease last year
- Heartworm infection often produces no clinical signs
- Doses of heartworm preventives may have been missed last year
- Family may have vacationed or relocated to areas of high heartworm incidences
- Heartworm preventive manufacturers guarantee of efficacy

Revolution is still the #1 product of choice for Heartworm and flea prevention. Book your appointment today for your dog's annual heartworm test and to pick up your dog and cat's 6 month supply!

Featured Staff Pet

My name is Lenny, and I am a 2-year-old citrus bearded dragon. My parents adopted me from a local reptile shop when I was just 1 year old. I spent my days before being adopted at children's events being handled and petted by many youngsters. (I loved the attention!) Now I spend my days basking in the heat, eating lots of insects and vegetables, and being loved by my parents. I live in a terrarium that is specially heated using many different lights and dimmers to ensure that the temperature is exactly where I want it to be. I have a younger brother named Roger who is a Chinese Water Dragon, but we don't get along well so we are housed in separate terrariums.

Crossword



ACROSS

3. Chain/ strap used to lead a dog or hold
4. Parasite that infect the heart
6. Poisonous to cats
7. Vaccine needed for your pets in order to travel to the U.S
9. Pet cargo
10. Flea prevention for cats and dogs
11.Sound that cats make

DOWN

1. Poisonous to dogs
2. Hairdresser for cats and dogs
5. Parasite that humans can get
8. Sound that dogs make
9. Plant which smells attractive to cats

Call or E-mail us to schedule your pet's appointment today!