



Animal Control Health Tips

Heartworms

Mosquitoes - those pesky warm weather irritants - are more than just a nuisance to dogs. One bite from a mosquito that carries the heartworm parasite can result in the death of your dog.

What is Heartworm Disease?

Heartworm is a parasite that mosquitoes transmit to dogs. The adult worms live inside the dog's heart and nearby blood vessels, where they cause devastating damage. If not diagnosed in time, permanent damage develops.

Who is At Risk?

We've all been bothered by mosquitoes. If you've been bitten, so has your dog. Just remember, one bite is all it takes.

What Can I Do?

The good news is heartworm disease can be prevented. Heartworm disease can be diagnosed by your veterinarian using a routine blood test. Each dog should be tested every year to make sure infection hasn't occurred. Your veterinarian can then prescribe one of the simple and convenient heartworm preventives now available. Heartworm disease, like many other illnesses, is much easier to prevent than to treat.

What if My Dog Tests Positive for Heartworm?

The longer your dog has heartworm disease, the more damage occurs, and the more difficult it is to treat. Treatment for heartworm disease can be dangerous to your dog and expensive for you. There are medications to combat the various stages of the worm, but again, prevention is the best treatment. Be a lifesaver for your family pet!

This information is provided to you compliments of Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association

Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is transmitted by deer ticks, and anywhere ticks live is a risky place for your dog. This includes marshy woodlands, city parks, grassy yards, hiking trails, and beachfront paths.

The deer tick is about the size of a dot on this page. Hard enough to find on us, it's nearly impossible to detect these tiny ticks on our furry pals. Luckily, there is a preventive for pets - a vaccine designed to prevent the signs of Lyme disease.

The vaccine is an easy way to ensure your dog's safety. Ask your veterinarian about vaccinating your dog today.



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Lyme disease causes fever, fatigue, and crippling arthritis. Once established, it can be very difficult to eliminate, and even if treatment is successful, damage may be permanent.

Call your veterinarian today for more information on this devastating disease - and make plans to vaccinate. You'll enjoy Rhode Island summers with your dog, and you'll appreciate the peace of mind that protection brings. It's the best way to care for your best friend.

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Summer Health Tips to Protect Your Pet

The long hot days of summer can be hazardous to your pet's health. The good news is most problems are preventable.

Parked cars are potential death traps during hot summer months because temperatures inside the car can easily climb beyond 120°F on a sunny day. Pets are best left at home, but if you absolutely must leave your pet in a car, please do the following:

- Open windows and vents as wide as possible without providing an escape route.
- Better yet, put your pet in a well-ventilated cage inside the car and open the windows fully.
- Provide water.
- Check the car every few minutes. Signs of heat stress include:
 - Panting
 - Anxiousness
 - Rapid Pulse
 - Staggering and Collapse

Treat heat stress immediately by:

- Bathing in cold water
- Spraying with a garden hose
- Call your veterinarian immediately

More tips to protect your pet's health this summer:

- Keep your pet's kennel well ventilated and positioned near a shaded area to avoid midday sun and heat.
- Avoid excessive exercise during hot weather. Overexertion commonly causes heat stress.
- Always keep plenty of fresh drinking water available.
- Vaccinate your pet against infectious diseases.
- Lawn herbicides can poison pets. Keep your pets out of the yard while spraying herbicides and for three days afterward.



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- Pesticides also poison pets. While rodents, snails, and slugs are not out to get your pet, the poisons that kill these pests can be lethal to dogs and cats.
- Keep your pet well groomed. Clip long hair and hair mats to help cool your pet and prevent skin disease.
- Declare war on fleas. Ask your veterinarian about safe and cost effective flea control programs. Don't waste money on over-the-counter products that don't work.

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