

PAWspective

Chain of Lakes Animal Clinic

April 2019



April is Heartworm Awareness Month! This month we will discuss heartworm disease & the current allergy season!

Transmission of Heartworms

Heartworms are transmitted through mosquitoes that have bitten an animal with heartworm disease. If that mosquito were to bite a dog or cat, the larvae will then enter the body of the pet when the mosquito feeds.

Heartworm medication will kill off the larvae, and if a dose is missed, they can grow into adult heartworms. Heartworm tests can only detect adult heartworms, this is why we test every year for dogs.

Cats can get heartworm disease too, but unlike dogs, it is not treatable. The key to preventing heartworm disease is staying consistent on your pet's heartworm medication, taking it as prescribed, and annual testing.

Monthly Prevention

We carry a variety of options for heartworm & flea and tick prevention for dogs including: Trifexis (monthly), Interceptor Plus (monthly), Tri-Heart (monthly), Pro-Heart (six month injection).

All these options except for Trifexis (since it already has flea prevention in it) can be paired with a flea and/or tick prevention. It only takes one mosquito so it is important to give heartworm prevention every month and test your pet yearly. If you're looking for more information on heartworm disease, please visit www.heartwormsociety.org

Allergy Season

According to the specialists from the Clinical Nutrition Team, as it turns out food allergies are not as common as many pet food companies and websites may like for you to think. The following lists the order of prevalence.

Flea allergy is the most common skin allergy in pets. It's the saliva from the flea bite that is what causes the allergy or sensitivity. Just because you don't see a flea, doesn't mean it hasn't bit your pet. It's possible your pet ate the flea after being bit.

Environmental allergies, often referred to as atopic dermatitis, affects between 10 and 20 percent of cats and dogs. This allergy could include things like grass, pollen, mold, or dust. Food allergy is determined after an extensive food trial of elimination. A food allergy occurs when the pet's immune system misidentifies a protein from a food as an invader rather than a food item and causes an immune response. If you feel like your pet is itchy this season, reach out to us and we can determine if it's an allergy and the best course of treatment for your pet!

Find more information on the following allergies here!

https://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/skin/c_multi_flea_bite_hypersensitivity

https://vetmed.illinois.edu/pet_column/itchy-pets-atopic-dermatitis/

<http://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2017/01/food-allergies/>