

HILLCREST
VETERINARY CLINIC
JUNE 2009 E-Newsletter

Adoptions

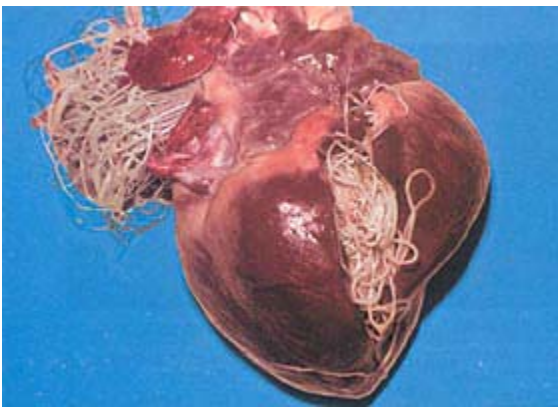


Male Male Male Male

The image is a promotional graphic for Hillcrest Veterinary Clinic. It features a yellow background with a decorative orange and white floral pattern on the left. The text 'HILLCREST VETERINARY CLINIC' is in a bold, gold, serif font, with 'JUNE 2009 E-Newsletter' in a smaller, gold, sans-serif font below it. A white banner with the word 'Adoptions' in a gold, cursive font is positioned diagonally. Below this is a row of four photographs of kittens. Each kitten is sitting on a light-colored surface. The first two are tabby kittens, and the last two are black and white kittens. Below each photo is the word 'Male' in a gold, sans-serif font.

Hello everybody! Hope you learned something about fleas last month. I know I did! I did not realize, until doing some research, that they were such hardy buggers. With this nicer weather we are going to see a real increase in the flea population, so be ready!

We are going to continue our discussion on pesky parasites that affect our pets, and talk about heartworms this month.



HEARTWORMS:

Heartworm is a parasitic roundworm that is spread from host to host through a mosquito. The heartworm is a type of filaria, a small thread-like worm. It is called a heartworm because the adult reproductive stage of its life cycle resides primarily in the right ventricle of its host, where it can live for many years. The definitive host of a heartworm is the dog but they can also infect cats, wolves, coyotes, foxes, ferrets and even sea lions.

Heartworm infestations in dogs that go untreated are fatal. Treatment for heartworm can prove successful but has risks. Heartworm infestations in cats that go untreated are not as fatal, but can be harmful.

The first published evidence of heartworm in dogs was in the United States around 1847 and in cats in the 1920s. It was at one time confined to the southern United States but it has now spread to all locations where its vector, the mosquito, is found. The mosquito is the host to the microfilariae or the baby heartworms. The microfilariae development in the mosquito is temperature dependant; they need at least 2 weeks of temperature at or above 80°. When this occurs they are then 3rd stage larval heartworms and are deposited by the mosquito into the host where they live in the skin at the site of the mosquito bite for 1-2 weeks. They then migrate to the muscles of the chest and abdomen and 45-60 days after infection, molt to the 5th stage. Between 75-120 days after infection the immature heartworms then enter the bloodstream and are carried into the heart to reside in the pulmonary artery. Over the next months they will increase in size. Adult female heartworms are about 30 cm and males 23 cm in length. By approximately 6-7 months after infection, the adult heartworms have mated and the females give birth to live young, called microfilariae. The microfilariae circulate in the bloodstream for as long as 2 years waiting for the

next stage in their life cycle in the gut of a bloodsucking mosquito.

Most dogs won't show signs or symptoms until later when the heartworms are adults and are living in the heart. Symptoms include coughing, losing weight, fainting, coughing up blood and heart failure.

A simple 8-minute blood test will let you know if your pet has heartworms. A once-a-month tablet will prevent your pet from having heartworms. The pill is very effective, but due to the severity of the disease, we still like to test your pet yearly for heartworms. Your pet needs tested first for heartworms because if your pet has heartworms and takes the medicine, the microfilariae break up and can cause fatal blood clots in your dog's bloodstream. Heartworms don't affect cats the same way, so they do not need tested first.

MONTHLY PREVENTATIVES:



HEARTGARD:

Heartgard is a once monthly beef-flavored chewable that prevents heartworm disease, and treats and controls roundworm and hookworm infestations in dogs. We sell Heartgard in a 6-month box and it runs \$30-46, depending on weight.



Rx

INTERCEPTOR:

Interceptor is a once monthly beef-flavored tablet that prevents heartworm disease, controls hookworms and removes and controls adult roundworms and whipworms. We sell Interceptor in a 6-month box and it runs \$30-51, depending on weight.

ADVANTAGE MULTI:

Advantage multi is fairly new and it is a topical that you apply to the back of your pet's neck monthly. It prevents heartworm disease, kills adult fleas and treats and controls hookworms, roundworms and whipworms. We sell Advantage Multi in a 6-month box with a free dose and it runs \$78-100, depending on weight. Advantage Multi also comes in a cat dose, which also treats ear mites.

We strongly recommend your pet be on year-round preventative for heartworms. Even though it may not be warm here the mosquito carrying the heartworms could travel from a warmer climate. The cost of heartworm preventative for 1 year is \$60-100; the cost of treating your pet for heartworm is \$1000 and a lot of trauma for your pet.

DR TIDBIT BY DR. AARON POLLOCK:

With Memorial Day comes the official "kick off" of summer. It also brings the silent attack of the mosquito transmitted

heartworm disease. I cannot think of another scenario (other than vaccinations) where prevention is paramount. Heartworm disease is especially dangerous and the treatment can also be risky as well as expensive. All of our pets are at risk. Please do not be complacent, as we have all witnessed a stray mosquito in the house. There are a number of products available and we can customize your pet's prevention strategy. You will find that preventing this deadly disease is relatively inexpensive and your pet will benefit in numerous other ways. Please do not allow your pet to become our next heartworm positive case. Ask us how we can help protect your pets.

ADOPTIONS:

I am very happy to report that ReRun got a great home! I would like to thank Jan Samargo and her husband for opening their home to this special kitty. Unfortunately, it is kitten season, so we have 4 kittens from the Canine Adoption Center. They are about 6 weeks old and are all male. As of right now they have had their first vaccinations, de wormed and felv/fiv tested. We are going to adopt them now, but they will need to come back for further vaccinations and neutering.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Animal Friends is having their annual golf tournament on Sunday June 14th at 1:00 at Meadow Ponds Golf Course. Please feel free to call us if you are interested.

We are hosting a photography afternoon on Saturday June 27th between 1 and 5:00. Yes, the date has changed from the last e-mail. We are sorry for any inconvenience. It is by appointment only and they are limited, so call to make yours today! All proceeds go to my C.A.N.S. project which helps underprivileged animals get spayed and neutered.

RECIPE:

In celebration of the sunny weather, this month's recipe is:

SUNSHINE LIVER BROWNIES:

3 lbs of liver (beef or chicken)

1-cup whole-wheat flour

4.25 oz jar minced or crushed garlic

2 cups white flour

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup corn meal

1 med shaker of grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 350° Cover cookie sheet with foil, coat with cooking spray, sprinkle lightly with corn meal and set aside. Process liver and garlic in food processor or blender until it looks like milk chocolate. Pour into large mixing bowl and blend in the rest of the ingredients. Spread evenly onto cookie sheet (the mixture will be thick) and sprinkle lightly with corn meal. Bake until no pink is left, usually about 30 minutes for one pan; then turn the oven off, but leave brownies until they are cool. Cut in pieces and be ready to be loved by your dogs!! This also makes really good bait for you fisherman!