

## COMPANION ANIMAL NEWS SUMMER 2005

**Welcome new arrivals!** Our new full time small animal veterinarian has arrived! Dr. Jessica Woodrow is a University of Minnesota graduate, just like Dr. Jean is. They even hail from the same area of Minnesota! She will be here full time to help Dr. Jean serve you better and see more appointments. She will also be helping with the emergency schedule and Saturday morning appointments. Her husband, Dr. Nathan Marti, is also working with our practice on the Large Animal side. We are very pleased to have them both here.

In addition, we have added a new veterinary technician to our staff. Melissa Kelly has made the move from rural Iowa to rural WI. We are also very pleased that she has joined us in our efforts to serve you better.

Remember to check our **website**, [www.grasslandvet.com](http://www.grasslandvet.com) for any other updates.

**Lyme disease in dogs**— Many of you have already had your dogs in this spring to be heartworm tested and vaccinated. We have a new heartworm test this year that also checks for Lyme disease. We have been very surprised at the number of positives that we have found. Out of 470 total tests, 135 were Lyme positive. Most of these are dogs that have not been clinically ill, but have not been vaccinated. A few of them have been vaccinated, but still came up positive for the disease. Recent information has shown that dogs can carry the organism for long periods of time and not show the classic symptoms of the disease (fever, stiffness, lameness and lethargy). If left untreated, though, dogs can develop not only the classic symptoms later on, but also things like kidney or liver failure, seizures, and blood disorders. If dogs are treated with 3-4 weeks of antibiotics, and vaccinated, the prevalence of disease drops by a significant amount (up to 90%). If your dog tests positive for Lyme disease, that is exactly what we will recommend. With as many ticks as we have in this area, do whatever you can to protect your pet from tick exposure (such as K9 Advantix®), and keep them current on Lyme vaccinations.

**New vaccine for Leptospirosis.** Another disease that is getting quite a bit of press right now is Leptospirosis. A type of bacteria called a spirochete causes this disease. It can be found in stagnant water that dogs like to drink. It seems to be more of a threat to hunting or farm dogs. In the past, the DHLPP vaccine contained some Lepto protection in it. Recently, different types of Lepto have shown up in sick dogs, types that the old vaccines didn't cover. There is now a new vaccine called LeptoVac4®, made by Fort Dodge. We have just started to use it in higher risk dogs. If you think your dog may be at risk for Lepto, give us a call and set up an appointment for vaccinating.

**A few tidbits for you cat owners!** Do you ever wonder **what is best to feed your cat?** Recent studies have shown that a cat does not need to live by dry food alone. Yes, it is better for their teeth. But, it is better for their urinary tract to have some canned or fresh food every day. Cats are not good water drinkers. By giving your cat some wet food every day, it will get more moisture, and have more dilute urine. This has been shown to reduce the incidence of bladder infections and crystals in the urine. If you need recommendations on brands, just call!

Did you know that **cats like things larger**? If your cat prefers to drink out of the dog dish, or the toilet, it might be because its' water bowl is too small!

If your cat likes to leave little treasures next to the box, it may be because the litter box is too small. Some feline behaviorists recommend that people use a large storage bin for a litter box to give them more room. Another recommendation is to use two boxes. Cats do not like to urinate and defecate in the same place out in the wild. Give them the option to use both boxes for different things. Questions? Call us at 238-7686.

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