

COMPANION ANIMAL NEWS SUMMER 2006

Summer heat always poses more dangers for our animals. Heat stroke is a very real danger, especially in dogs. In a recent article by the Fox Valley Animal Referral Center in Appleton, increased risk factors include obesity and physical activity when it's very hot and humid. The article also stated that golden retrievers, Labrador retrievers and brachycephalic breeds (English bulldogs, Pekingese, Lhasa Apso, etc.) were over represented. If you suspect your animal has heat stroke, immediately call the emergency number 238-7686. While waiting for us to call you back, immerse the animal in tepid (not cold) water. The sooner the animal is seen, the better chance it has of surviving.

To prevent heat stroke, never leave an animal in the car unless you have the air conditioning running. Always make sure there is shade and water available. Keeping your longhaired dogs well brushed out is helpful, and perhaps even clipping the hair short on the abdomen so that they stay a little cooler. Keeping the hair short around the back end can prevent fly strike too. Be careful if clipping down your dog, leave enough hair on it so that it doesn't get sunburned!

Have a pet with a pink skin right next to its nose? Does it get crusty in the summer? We recommend sun block for those noses. Nasal solar dermatitis can lead to skin cancer if not prevented.

Remember to use some type of flea and tick protection (we like Advantix®) on your pets. The ticks are bad this year, and the fleas are soon to follow! Ask us if you're not sure what would be the best!

Zoonotic diseases are those conditions that people can get from their pets. Rabies is the most well known of these diseases. Rabies is a virus transmitted to people by the bite of an infected animal. It is transmitted in the saliva. If a pet bites anyone in your family, please take that person to the doctor, and bring the animal in to see it. It is required by law. Remember to keep all your pets up to date on their rabies vaccinations (also required by law).

Another zoonotic disease that we see is cat scratch disease. This is also known as cat scratch fever. It is actually a flea-borne infection spread by a cat's scratch or bite. Signs in humans include pimples at the scratch site, and swollen lymph nodes. Please see a doctor immediately if you suspect this disease. Keeping your cats free from fleas will prevent this disease. Ask us how.

Ringworm, which isn't a worm, is the next disease on the list. It is caused by a fungus and is spread by direct contact with the fungal spores. It can be difficult to get rid of. Typically the pet needs to be shaved down, bathed weekly and have ointment applied to the spots daily. It takes 4-6 weeks to run its course even with treatment. Without treatment it is often 3-4 months. Again, see your doctor if you think you may have ringworm. Remember that it is not just pets that

spread this disease. Livestock and other humans are the more common reservoirs.

Toxoplasmosis is a parasite spread by contact with cat feces in the soil or litter. To prevent this disease, we recommend using gloves for gardening and washing hands immediately after cleaning litter pans. Pregnant women need to be especially careful. This is not a complete list of all the possible zoonotic diseases. Please call us if you have any questions about any zoonotic disease.

Website updates – Our web master is still compiling the survey results about what you want from our website. He is working on an ‘ask the doctor’ column, and will be changing the client survey to ‘after your last visit’ type questions. Check out our staff page for updates on new staff members. We have recently added another veterinary technician. Remember to check the ‘what’s new’ section on the front page for any updates. There is also a newsletter archive accessible from the front page.

Would you like to start receiving **Email reminders?** Just call and let us know, or email us from the website and we’ll add you to our list. Once we get 100 or so people interested, we will be able to start using this new technology.

Jean Liljegren DVM
Jeannette Bymers OM
Emily Laws VA

Jessica Woodrow DVM
Cindy Ure receptionist
Tracey Boeson VT

Wendy Lindner CVT
Tina Ashton VA
Janet Kapusta CVT