

COMPANION ANIMAL NEWS FALL/WINTER 2004

A New Answer for an Old Itch

Atopica®(cyclosporine) is a new medication researched and developed by Novartis Animal Health. Cyclosporine has had extensive studies performed on it to evaluate its effectiveness in treating canine allergies. This medication is especially promising for patients that require high doses of steroids, or patients that depend on year round steroid (prednisone) therapy to control the allergy symptoms. We are pleased to be able to prescribe a medication that does not have the adverse side effects seen with steroids. We have started to recommend this product for our canine patients that are dealing with allergies for more than 4 months out of year and for all patients who prefer that we do not use steroids. It will be best to start this medication in the fall or winter when allergies are not as severe. We look forward to discussing this advanced therapy and how it may improve you and your pet's quality of life.

Important Information Regarding Our Parasite Prevention Program

We are pleased to inform you of changes in our parasite control program starting in 2005. These recommendations are vital to your pet's health and may affect you and your family's health as well. In keeping with the "Center for Disease Control" (CDC) and the "Companion Animal Parasite Council" (CAPC), we are recommending year round parasite prevention to minimize the risk of transmission of heartworm for your pet and intestinal parasite transmission for your dog, you and your family. After examining the many products that are available and comparing them closely, we have decided to focus our recommendation on Sentinel Flavor Tabs®(milbemycin oxime/lufenuron).

Sentinel® provides the most protection for your pet and your family in a convenient monthly chewable tablet. Sentinel® will protect your dog from heartworm, roundworm, hookworm, whipworm, flea eggs and flea larva. Heartworms are not the only parasites that pose a danger to your dog. Roundworms, hookworms and whipworms can cause bowel disorders, diarrhea, vomiting and anemia, and in some cases even death. Fleas can make your pet miserably uncomfortable and can quickly turn into a full blown infestation in your home. **Additionally**, by providing this protection for your pet you are protecting you and your family from flea infestations and reducing the risk of transmission of roundworm, hookworms and the flea tapeworm.

For cats, we recommend Interceptor tablets® once a month year round. This will protect them from heartworms, roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms. For flea protection in cats, we recommend an injection of Program®. This will give your cat **6months** of flea infestation protection. You will also need to be on the lookout for tapeworms in your inside/outside cats. These look like little pieces of rice near the rectal opening or on the tail and rear end. Rabbits, rodents, and birds transmit them. All those things your cats love to eat! If you see tapeworms, let us know and we will dispense a special oral tapeworm tablet to take care of them for you.

We will continue to strive to provide the best preventive medicine available for your pet. Please let us know if you have any questions!

GIFT CARDS NOW AVAILABLE AT GRASSLAND VETERINARY SERVICE! If you're looking for that perfect gift for a fellow pet owner, pick up a gift card. We have a nice selection of new toys, leashes and collars, treats, and food. Whatever your favorite pet owner might need! They are available in any amount, and can be refilled. Stop by and check it out!

NEW PET POISON HELPLINE AVAILABLE at 800-213-6680. There is a \$35 fee.

WISHING YOU A VERY SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

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