

Midnight's Mewsing



Animal Cruelty



By: Julie Gauldin

Animal cruelty is a continuing problem in our country and around the world. According to Wikipedia.org, the basic definition of animal abuse or cruelty to animals is "the infliction of suffering or harm upon animals, other than humans, for purposes other than self-defense." In some circles, there is a very fine line between humane and inhumane treatment of animals; the viewpoints on this topic can vary far and wide.

The most publicized case of animal cruelty involves Michael Vick fighting pit bull terriers at his Virginia estate. He received a jail sentence of 23 months. However, this is not the norm. Many cases go un-solved or un-prosecuted due to lack of animal cruelty laws.

Laboratory animals used in drug and medical research are also at the center of the animal cruelty debate. One of the questions surrounding this debate is whether animal experimentation is truly beneficial to the human race. Dogs, cats, rabbits and rats react differently to medication than we do, and their biology and physiology are drastically different.

Another form of cruelty that has been brought to light recently is the

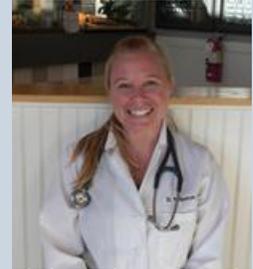
killing of cats and dogs abroad to use their fur for toys, novelty items and such. China is widely known for their 'faux fur' actually being dog or cat fur.

Closer to home is the puppy mill situation, primarily located in Lancaster, PA and many surrounding counties and states with extensions into neighboring states. Dogs are housed in wire cages all their lives and bred repeatedly, the puppies sold to consumers who are for the most part unaware of the inhumane conditions they are helping to perpetuate. These dogs have never known human affection or the care of a veterinarian. To the owners of these facilities, they are simply cogs in their money-making machine.

Opinions on what is the definition of puppy mill and what is not animal abuse vary from person to person. We have laws determining what is lawful and un-lawful for humans. Do we need more specific laws to determine what cruel and inhumane treatment of animals is? And if so, how can we ensure that they will be enforced?

This is a complex issue with no easy answers. Hopefully, a constructive dialogue will continue until we, as a society, can agree upon definitions, laws and enforcement. As Gandhi said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Employee Spotlight Dr. Kathleen Spencer



Please join us in welcoming Dr. Kathleen Spencer to our veterinary staff. Dr. Spencer became a member of the PVH team in January after completing a year of internship in Los Angeles. She grew up in West Palm Beach, Florida and received her doctorate from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Spencer's background in animal care began at a young age with a love of horseback riding, which led her to volunteer at a therapeutic riding center for the handicapped. She worked as a veterinary technician for many years and went on to earn her undergraduate degree in biology from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. She has interests in all aspects of small animal veterinary medicine, but especially enjoys internal medicine and emergency care.

Dr. Spencer has been thoroughly enjoying her time at PVH and also welcomes this opportunity to practice with her fiancé, Dr. Kevin Schmidt. She is available for appointments with a variety of animals, including reptiles and birds, and performs nearly all of the basic surgeries.

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First Aid 4 "Fido"

By: Julie Gauldin



Accidents do happen from time to time. And when they do you want to be prepared. For your less serious injuries such as cuts and scrapes a basic first aid kit will give you the necessities needed to tide you over until your veterinarian can examine your pet. You can purchase a pet specific first aid kit or make your own. While Band-Aids aren't as effective on our pets as they are for us you can use gauze pads with self-stick bandage wrap purchased at the drug store.

 If you cut a toe nail too short and it is bleeding you can pack it with styptic powder, flour, or corn starch.

 Benadryl can be given for bee stings and Dramamine for motion sickness when riding in the car.

 For more serious wounds that are bleeding heavily, you'll want to apply direct pressure with a towel and get your pet to the veterinarian right away. However, if your pet has a gaping open wound or has been hit by a moving vehicle you need to approach him or her with CAUTION. They feel pain like we do but since they can't speak he or she may attempt to bite. They don't mean to - it just hurts. You can use a leash to fashion a muzzle or a towel over the head to keep your pet from biting you.

 Should your pet not be able to walk and is too heavy to carry you can use a large beach towel or comforter to serve as a stretcher so that you can transport your pet to the veterinarian right away.

 If you come home and find your pet non-responsive, first check for breathing and then for a heartbeat. You can do this by feeling the left side of the chest behind the front leg. Then transport them immediately to your veterinarian. When in doubt about your pet's health, contact your veterinarian so they can advise you on the best care for your pet.

Ask A Vet

By: Tiffany Main

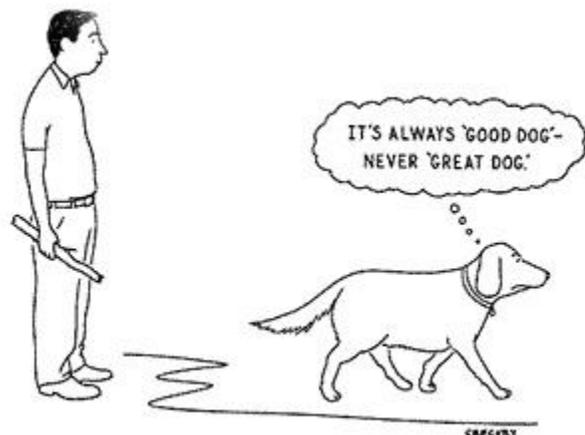


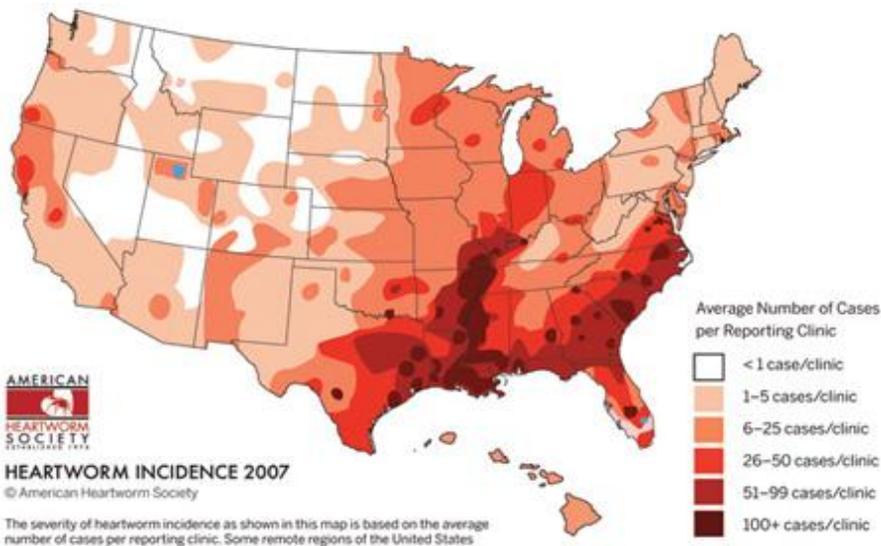
Did you ever think, "Why does my dog do that?" or "What is causing this to happen to my cat?" As pet owners, we often wonder what our animals are thinking or what they are trying to tell us. For the last few months, the Patton Veterinary Hospital has been answering commonly asked questions. Our hope is that by understanding what your pet may be trying to tell you, you may be able to enrich the quality of your bond with your pet as well as the longevity and quality of your pet's life. The questions and answers are published in the York Daily Record newspaper on a weekly basis. However, we want to make sure we are answering YOUR questions. We encourage you, your relatives, your friends and your neighbors to submit questions to our veterinarians. Simply write your question and turn it in to any of the Patton staff members or mail to:

Patton Veterinary Hospital
Attn: Ask a Vet
425 E. Broadway
Red Lion, PA 17356



The number of questions you may submit is not limited; we will answer as many as possible. We get a lot of feedback from clients on these articles, so, your question may help someone to better understand and care for their pet, and that's why we're here!





Mosquitos will bite infected pets and transmit to another pet for the vicious cycle to continue.



Infected mosquito bites dog

Heartworm Disease By: Gayle Riley

An ounce of prevention beats a pound of cure!

Heartworm prevention is simple. It involves a blood draw to determine whether the parasite is present and regular dosing with a monthly preventive medication. Heartworm infestation is dangerous; untreated dogs die and treated dogs go through weeks of discomfort while the worms are killed and expelled from their bodies and they too can die from the treatment. The parasite is spread by an infected mosquito biting your pet.

Treatment

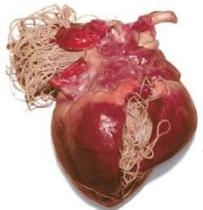
If a blood test or the onset of symptoms alert owner and veterinarian to the presence of this devastating parasite, treatment is possible and successful if the disease has not progressed too far. The first step is to evaluate the dog and treat any secondary problems of heart failure or liver or kidney insufficiency so that he can withstand the treatment. The next step is to kill the adult worms in the heart. Veterinarians now have access to Immiticide, a newer compound that has fewer side effects than previous drugs, and is safer for dogs with more severe infestations.

The treatment is administered in two doses each day for two days, followed by several weeks of inactivity to give the dog's system a chance to absorb the dead worms. Exertion can cause the dead worms to dislodge, travel to the lungs, and cause death. At least three-to-four weeks after the administration of the drug to kill the adult worms, further treatment to kill the microfilariae (baby worms) is needed. The dog is dosed daily for a week, then the blood test is repeated. If microfilariae are still present, the dose can be increased. Follow-up studies should be done in a year. Surgical removal of the adult heartworms is possible and may be indicated in advanced cases with heart involvement. Needless to say, the treatment process is long and difficult for both the pet and the owner and very expensive too.

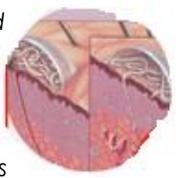
Prevention

Preventive doses come in oral and topical versions and are only available from a veterinarian. Preventatives are safe, easy and effective. We carry Interceptor and Sentinel that are tablets given orally once a month. These preventatives also kill other intestinal parasites/worms that can harm our pets. Revolution is another preventative that is applied topically. Additionally it acts against fleas and mites. Patton Veterinary Hospital recommends a year-round heartworm prevention program to guard against Heartworm Disease. Every two years your pet will need a blood test to determine the preventative is being used properly and effectively.

Our feline friends can also be affected by Heartworm Disease but it is much less prevalent. There is no approved treatment for feline heartworm disease but it is also easily prevented. Again, AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION BEATS A POUND OF CURE!



If left untreated, the larvae will grow into adulthood and cause death of pet.



Larvae begin to develop within the tissues.



Preventatives given will kill and stop larvae from developing into adult worms at this time.

It's time to get heartworm preventative. Let's see our veterinarian today to get our annual test!



Coloring Contest!
Color this picture and return to us by May 31th, 2011, to be entered. Winners will receive prizes.

Local Shelters

York County SPCA
(717)764-6109

www.ycpsca.org

May 14th

Pancake Breakfast

Animal Rescue Inc.
(717)993-3232

www.animalrescueinc.org

See website for wish lists

Tails End Rescue
Wrightsville
(717) 927-8021

Animal Poison Control

1-888-476-4435



Backward-pointing spikes on a cat's tongue aid in their grooming.

Patton Veterinary Hospital
425 East Broadway
Red Lion, Pa 17366