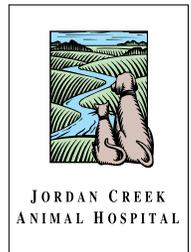




SUMMER 2018

Gazette

A newsletter for people and their pets



3401 E.P. True Parkway
West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

in this issue:



HEARTWORM DISEASE: *Is the Threat Real?*

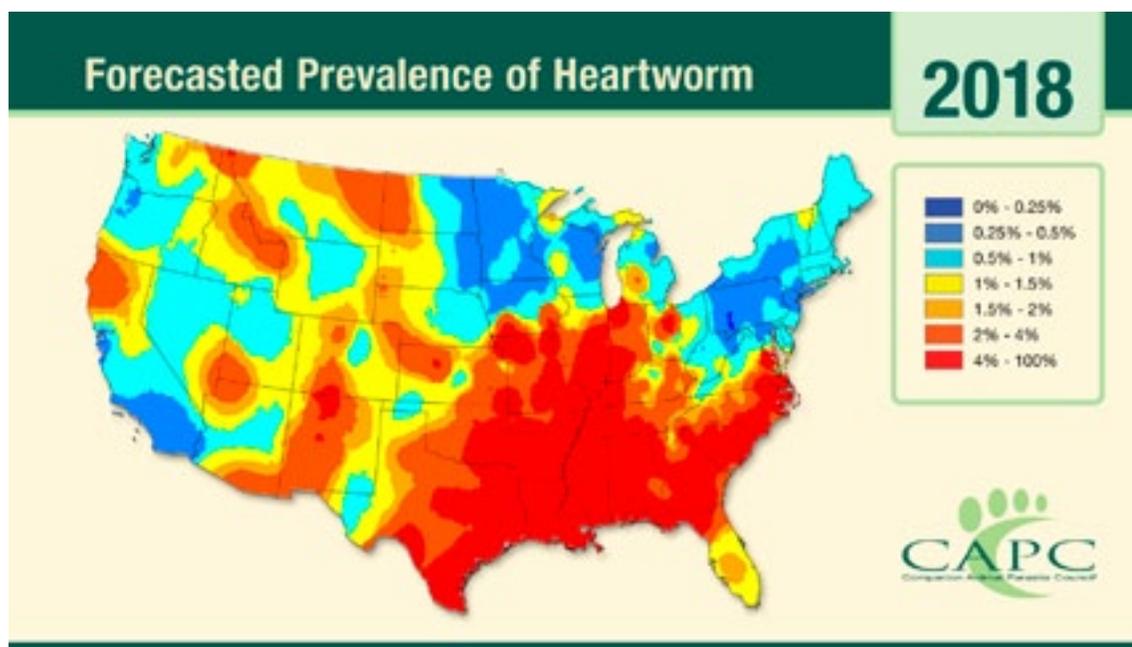
For four years running, the Companion Animal Parasite Council has forecast the incidence of heartworm infection to be above normal across the majority of the United States. Occurrence of heartworm disease is up 20% nationally since 2013. This includes Central Iowa, as reported numbers in the state and county have increased year to year. Heartworm disease is caused by a blood borne parasite spread by mosquitos. The Iowa State University Department of Entomology has also reported significant increases in the mosquito population in Polk County since last year. A combination of hot, wet weather and increasing numbers of infected dogs keeps the disease prevalent.

Despite heartworm disease being on the rise, it is a very preventable infection. Consistent administration of readily available heartworm prevention is the key. Here are some helpful tips to keep your pet free of heartworm disease:

- Make sure the product you rely on for prevention is actually a heartworm preventive. Products effective at preventing heartworm disease require a prescription and cannot be picked up over the counter. There are a variety of options including monthly chewable and topical products available at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital.

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- Heartworm Disease
- Bravecto® for Cats**
- Chews for Your Dog**
- Hospital News**
- Meet the Editors**



¹ Companion Animal Parasite Council (capcvet.org)

² ISU Department of Entomology (mosquito.ent.iastate.edu)

Contact us by calling 515-224-9500 or visit our website at www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com or Facebook at www.facebook.com/jordancreekanimalhospital.





HEARTWORM DISEASE: *Is the Threat Real?*

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- Be consistent! Even missing one dose of monthly preventives or giving it late can leave your pet unprotected.
- Treat year-round. This eliminates guessing when it might be safe to have your pet on preventives and increases the odds of consistently administering the preventive.
- Do not stop prevention just because you have not seen a mosquito recently. Remember that preventives work retroactively, eliminating new infections that were transmitted in the previous month.
- Test yearly, (or more frequently if you have missed doses). Catching heartworm disease early is critical to limiting lifelong complications from the disease and improving treatment outcomes. It is much better to catch the disease prior to any symptoms. If you have missed any doses since your pet's previous heartworm test, please ask us about the appropriate timing for their next test.
- Remember that heartworm preventives are safe, relatively inexpensive, and easy to give. Once infected, heartworm disease can be costly, difficult to treat, and have lifelong health implications for your pet.

For further information about heartworm disease just ask our helpful staff or check out the wealth of information at www.heartwormsociety.org and www.cpcvet.org.

Bravecto® For Cats

Parasite prevention is a highly important part of our pets' overall health and well-being. The level of exposure to parasites may vary depending on each individual pet's lifestyle and the area in which they live. It only takes one bite from a single flea or tick to transmit deadly diseases, and this could happen to any pet. At Jordan Creek Animal Hospital, we strongly recommend using flea and tick prevention consistently during the months that pets are most at risk in Iowa (beginning of March to end of November). Flea and tick protection for our canine friends comes in many different forms. Our most commonly used form of preventative for cats, is a topical solution that provides one month of coverage. But wouldn't it be nice to have a "three month" option for our cats like we do for our dogs?

Introducing Bravecto topical solution for cats!

Bravecto is our newest feline preventative at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital. While it is a topical solution, feline Bravecto lasts for 12 weeks after just one application. It protects your cat against flea AND tick-borne diseases.

Bravecto is proven to:

- Kill greater than 94% of black-legged ticks on cats within 48 hours of application for 12 weeks.

- Kill greater than 98% of American dog ticks within 48 hours of application for 8 weeks.
- Kill ALL fleas within 8 hours of application if your cat is already infested.

"But what if I have a cat that is indoor-only? Are they at risk for flea and tick infestations?"

Indoor cats are at lower risk, but can still get fleas and ticks. There are several ways your cat could become exposed:

- If you have dogs or other animals in your household that go outside.
- Fleas and ticks can be carried inside on your clothes and shoes – adult fleas rapidly reproduce and the larvae can hide in carpet and furniture fibers for several weeks before maturing and finding your cat.
- Indoor-only cats that live in apartment homes could potentially be more at risk; fleas can occasionally move from one apartment to the next.

Remember, Bravecto is also available for dogs in a flavored chewable form, providing 12 weeks of protection too! So if you prefer longer acting flea and tick control, ask your veterinarian about canine or feline Bravecto.



Statistics from <https://us.bravecto.com/for-cats.aspx>
merck-animal-health-usa.com (source for Bravecto article stats)

How to "CHEWS" the Right Chew for Your Dog

Most dogs need to chew. It is in their nature and is considered a healthy behavior as long as they are provided with adequate and healthy things to chew on. With so many different products on the market, it is hard to know which ones are the best, and also the safest for your pet. There are many things to take into consideration when selecting the right chew for your dog, such as general safety and digestibility.

Below are a few examples of popular chewing items given to dogs by owners. Some are great options, but others should be avoided.

Rawhides- While most dogs love them, and they are one of the most well-known chews, rawhide bones have potential drawbacks. Some dogs are very aggressive chewers and may easily devour an entire rawhide in a matter of minutes. Rawhides are made from the skin (or hide) of animals and are manufactured to last a long time when used as a dog chew. Therefore, rawhide material may take a long time to break down if swallowed and can cause obstruction of the GI tract. Some rawhides may be thicker, twisted, or braided providing additional concern for intestinal blockage. If utilizing rawhide, choose the appropriate size and thickness to slow your vigorous chewer. Pig ears are similar to rawhides and the same considerations should be used when offering them to your pet.

Antlers/Horns- While antlers and horns are definitely long-lasting, they are too hard to be used as a dog chew. Antlers are extremely hard, almost rock like. The texture of antlers almost never changes as your dog chews, so for the endless hours they spend with it in their mouth, their teeth are at risk of wearing, chipping, cracking, or even breaking off. Many dogs are seen for fractured teeth from chewing on materials that are too hard. Broken teeth are painful, not to mention expensive to treat. Fractured teeth typically need to be surgically extracted, which requires general anesthesia. Antlers are also not digestible, and powerful chewers may be able to break off pieces of the horn or antler and swallow them, increasing the risk for intestinal obstruction.

Cooked Bones- Many owners like to give their dogs leftover bones from dinner. Whether it be chicken bones, rib bones, or steak bones, these should NOT be given to dogs, even with supervision. Cooked bones are dry and brittle compared to raw bones, and as dogs bite through them, small pieces of the bone can crack or splinter leaving sharp pieces that can cause blockage or even perforation of the stomach or intestine if swallowed. Oral lacerations can also occur, as well as tooth fracture or damage.

Bully Sticks- These are a good alternative to rawhides and bones. Bully Sticks, or Beef Pizzles, are made from

beef muscle. They are a longer lasting, digestible chew that dogs love! Bully Sticks soften as your dog chews, which minimizes the risk for tooth fracture or other oral injuries. Bully Sticks are naturally tasty and smelly, which makes them very appealing to dogs. They are high in protein and fats. The calorie content in Bully Sticks tends to be a little higher as well, so be cautious about how often you are giving them to your dog as they add to their daily calorie intake. Bully Sticks come in many varieties- braided, straight, curly sticks, and even bully rings. You can change up the shapes and textures each time to keep your dog entertained.

Kongs- Kong® brand toys and chews are a great alternative to bones, antlers, and rawhides. They are usually rubber-based, so there is little to no concern for tooth fracture or other injuries. Lots of Kong toys have hollow centers that can be filled with a small amount of dog kibble, canned food, or wiped with peanut butter to keep your dog busy and happy. Most Kong brand chews are safe for dogs of any breed, as long as they are given the proper Kong for their size and weight. They may become unsafe if a dog is given a size too small for them. Make sure that your dog cannot swallow the Kong whole, as this can cause choking, vomiting, diarrhea, or inappetence, and may result in surgical removal due to the dog not being able to digest or pass the Kong on its own.

Ask your veterinarian for further information and recommendations regarding dog chews and their safety. We are here to help! You can also find more information on tartar/plaque reducing chews at www.VOHC.org. Bully Sticks and Kong chews are available for purchase here at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital for your pups chewing pleasure.



Rawhide production info- thebark.com
Bully Stick production info- bestbullysticks.com



Welcome Jen!

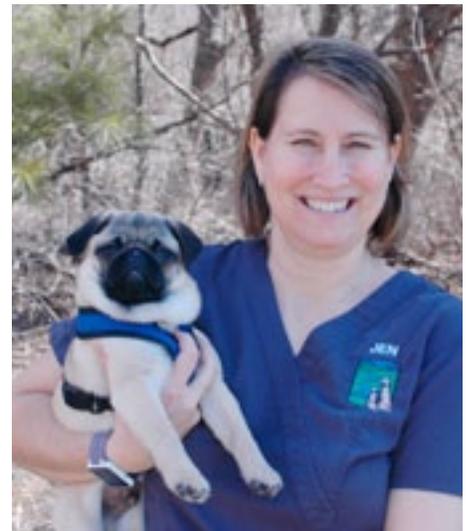
BABY ANNOUNCEMENT- Our Newest Dr. in Training

On June 3rd, Dr. Daniel J. Whitney and his wife, Danielle, welcomed Riley Francis into the world. She was 7 pounds 6.5 ounces and 20 inches long. She joins Quinn, her 2-year-old sister, as Dr. Dan Whitney's second grandchild. Mom and baby Riley are both happy, healthy, and doing well!



Jennifer grew up in Reno, Nevada. In 1995 she graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. She continued her education and received her Associate of Applied Science Degree in Veterinary Technology from Portland Community College in 1998. Jennifer previously worked at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital in 2004 but then took a break to start a family. Jennifer is very excited to return to Jordan Creek Animal Hospital. When not at work, Jennifer enjoys her family, husband Mike, daughter Amanda, and son Chase. Her four-legged children consist of Avalanche, a pug puppy and two guinea pigs, Rainbow and Bandit. She enjoys attending Iowa

Wild games, horseback riding, and anything outdoors with her family.



Monthly Meetings

The doctors and staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital feel that monthly employee meetings are essential to promoting communication and educational opportunities. Because of this, we will be closed from **1:30-2:40 PM** on the following Wednesdays, **August 15** and **September 19**.

MEET THE STAFF/our editors for this issue of Pet Gazette



Dr. Daniel Whitney was raised in West Des Moines, and grew up living above Jordan Creek Animal Hospital. He followed in his father's footsteps and graduated from Iowa State University, receiving his Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science in 2009, and his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine Degree in 2013. Dr. Whitney and his wife Danielle, have two daughters, Quinn

and Riley, and a spaniel mix Freddy. Dr. Whitney is excited to work alongside his dad. His professional interests include surgery, dentistry, and preventative care.



Jenny, RVT grew up in a small town called Hardy, right outside of Humboldt, Iowa. She grew up a farm girl and enjoys all kinds of activities outside, including camping, horseback riding, hiking, and fishing. In 2016 she received her Associates of Applied Science Degree in Veterinary Technology from Des Moines Area Community College. She worked at a clinic in Des Moines while

attending school and started at JCAH in October of 2016. Jenny has a cat named Mowgli (inspired by the Jungle Book). She has two dogs, a maltese mix named Phoebe that she adopted New Year's Day 2017, and a Gordon Setter named Angie. She simply loves all kinds of animals!