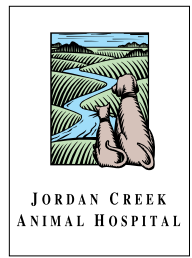




# SPRING 2016 Gazette

☞ newsletter for people and their pets



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

in this issue:



- Heartworm Disease
- A Personal Story
- Scouts Visit JCAH
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- Meet the Editors

## Understanding the Differences in Heartworm Preventatives

With so many heartworm preventatives on the market, how do you choose the right one for your pet? There have been remarkable advances over the years on these products. In years past, dogs needed daily preventatives. This was not only annoying, but also increased the likelihood of owners forgetting to give preventatives, and dogs in turn contracting heartworm disease. Now, preventatives are given monthly, and they include other added benefits such as flea control and intestinal parasite protection. That being said, the top heartworm preventatives we choose at JCAH are Sentinel Spectrum, Interceptor Plus, and Advantage Multi.

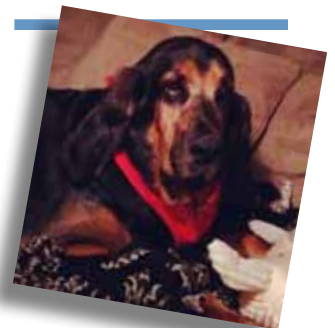
Let's start with Sentinel Spectrum. This heartworm preventative not only covers heartworms, but many intestinal parasites, including roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and tapeworms. It also keeps fleas from reproducing, which when paired with a quality flea/tick medication, will kill adult fleas and flea eggs, stopping fleas altogether.

Second, Interceptor Plus covers heartworms, hookworms, whipworms, roundworms, and tapeworms. This product does not protect against fleas, but is still a quality product for those who feel using a flea/tick product by itself would be adequate.

Lastly, Advantage Multi is a topical product applied to the skin. It protects against heartworms, hookworms, roundworms, whipworms, and fleas. This product is especially nice for dogs that have a food allergy and cannot ingest certain ingredients in oral heartworm preventatives. It is also great for those that do not have any concerns with ticks, but still want flea control.



Contact us by calling 515-224-9500 or visit our website at [www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com](http://www.jordancreekanimalhospital.com)



Check out Mistee's story on heartworm disease on the next page.

You can't go wrong with any of these products. We have a variety of options to best fit you and your dog's lifestyle. If you still have questions after reading this article, feel free to talk to your veterinarian or technician about the best choice for you and your fluffy companion.



# Yes...my own dog contracted heartworm disease

by Mistee Martin, RVT

The story begins 1 ½ years ago when my husband, children, and I were looking for the perfect addition to our family. We looked on Petfinder.com and finally found a senior Bloodhound named "Jed". Jed had several homes, through no fault of his own, but was now in the care of a foster home. After a lengthy discussion with his caretaker, we decided to meet Jed. He had been living outside the Chicago area on a farm with several other dogs. We met Jed and instantly fell in love.

We adopted him and I took him into Jordan Creek Animal Hospital to have an exam, vaccinations, and blood work, which included a heartworm test. Everything checked out as it should, including the heartworm test, which was **NEGATIVE**. I was excited, considering the increased risk of health problems in senior pets. When Jed started coughing a few months later, I thought he might have an upper respiratory issue. One of our veterinarians here at JCAH prescribed a cough suppressant and anti-

biotic. It seemed to help but after he was done with all of his medications he still coughed occasionally. We never thought about heartworm disease since he had been tested, and it came back negative.

When it was time to do his annual senior blood work, I once again checked his heartworm status. When a fellow coworker called me the next day and told me to bring Jed in, I thought it was due to some elevations in his liver or kidney values and he might need some further testing. I never thought it was because he was heartworm **POSITIVE**! Stumped as to how this could even be possible, I went ahead and retested him. It once again came back **POSITIVE**. Still thinking that it was a lab error, we sent additional blood off to a different lab and ran another heartworm test.

In the meantime we drew blood to look at under the microscope in our lab at JCAH. If a dog has microfilariae (baby heartworms), then you will be able to see them swimming

around in the blood. We did not see that, but I had also been giving him his monthly heartworm preventative since the day I adopted him. Monthly heartworm preventatives kill the microfilariae, so it made sense that I didn't see any. We then received confirmation from the other lab that he was indeed heartworm **POSITIVE**. We took chest radiographs to see if there were any heart abnormalities. There was a slight size increase to one area of his heart.

I was back again to thinking, "How could this be?" Well, this is how it happened: It takes six months from the time an infected mosquito bites your dog until

the organism matures and the dog tests positive. That being said, Jed had contracted heartworm disease while in foster care, but the actual heartworms had not matured long enough for the test result to be positive when I adopted him. By the time another year rolled around and we ran another heartworm test, the worms had fully matured.

Jed has since gone through treatment for heartworms, which was rough on him. Not only can heartworm disease be fatal if untreated, it can also be fatal while going through treatment. If a dog is too active while going through the three part series of

injections to kill the heartworms, the adult worms can break up, flow through the blood vessels, and form a pulmonary embolism. This can cause the dog to collapse, sometimes resulting in death. Thankfully, Jed has fully recovered and is doing fabulous, and I haven't heard that cough since.

I tell Jed's story for two reasons: First, I want our clients to know that **ANY** dog, no matter who the owner might be, and regardless of lifestyle, can contract heartworm disease. If a mosquito can get into your home, your dog can be bitten. Second, if you do decide to adopt pets, recognize that you do not always know their whole history. Have your dog heartworm tested **EVERY** year and keep them on year-round heartworm preventative. The monthly cost for preventative is minor compared to the cost of treatment, and prevention can save your pet's life!





# Scouts Learn About Veterinary Medicine At Jordan Creek Animal Hospital

On two separate occasions, the doctors and staff at Jordan Creek Animal Hospital held a "Scout Night" for the West Des Moines area Boy and Girl Scouts. Dr. Kueter and her husband, Troy, have been active in Scouts for the past 7 years (Girl Scouts with their 12 year old daughter, Abigail (Abi), and Cub Scouts with their 10 year old son, Lucas). Building on this connection, Jordan Creek Animal Hospital decided to open its doors to these inquisitive young minds! Scouts could use what they learned at these events to earn pet care badges, pins, and belt-loops. They were also awarded our special Jordan Creek pet care badge.

Our first event was held in October 2014 when we hosted Cub Scout Pack 118 from Jordan Creek Elementary, where Dr. Kueter and her husband are den leaders and serve on the planning committee. Over 50 Cub Scouts, from Tigers (2nd grade) to Webelos (5th grade), and their parents attended this event. The children

were quite excited to learn about the science of Veterinary Medicine. Cub Scouts were able to meet most of their required points to earn an official Cub Scout pet care belt-loop and pin. One of the belt-loop requirements included knowing about rabies and the zoonotic potential of this deadly infectious disease (in other words, how rabies can be transmitted to humans). To complete the next level of pet care, the boys still needed to take care of their own pet or a cyber-pet at home for one week, including feeding and giving fresh water, taking outside, exercise, and play time, to complete the requirements for the pet care pin.

Inside the hospital, Dr. Anne Kueter, Dr. Dan Whitney, Dr. Rachel Varley, Dr. Wendy Johnson, and Dr. Cody Mingus were located at stations throughout the clinic and taught Scouts about parasitology, anesthesia and surgery, radiology, and infectious diseases.



Continued on next page



*Dr. Kueter's son, Lucas, in his Cub Scout uniform.*



*Scouts were able to view radiographs of some of our most interesting cases here with Dr. Dan Whitney. Scouts also viewed images on our ultrasound unit.*





*Registered Veterinary Technician Lynn Reece and her Doberman Pinscher, Mya, performed obedience and agility demonstrations.*



*Dr. Rachel Varley shows a group of Scouts some intestinal parasites in one of our exam rooms. The kids were able to view parasites including roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, heartworms, and even fleas and ticks.*



*You can see how packed our front reception area was as Dr. Kueter performed a physical exam.*

Our second event, held in November 2015, hosted over 100 Girl Scouts from the West Des Moines area, including Jordan Creek, Hillside, Westridge, and Walnut Hill Elementary Schools. Wow, what a turnout!

It was getting a little chilly and dark by November, so all of our learning stations were held inside. The girls rotated through the hospital and learned about the different aspects of Veterinary Medicine.



*A Girl Scout in her sterile gear, ready to perform surgery on a giant stuffed dog!*



*Dr. Whitney shows a Girl Scout how to "gown up" to help take radiographs in our radiology room.*

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## 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 **1:30-2:30 PM** on the following **Wednesdays: April 20, May 25 and June 15.**



*Dr. Cody Mingus is showing a Girl Scout how to prepare a patient for surgery.*

Thanks to all of our doctors and staff that help make these events happen, and a big thank you to the Scouts and their families for letting us inspire a few more young minds. If you have a group that would like to join us on a future "Scout Night", please contact Dr. Anne Kueter or Christina Powell, our Practice Manager. Small group tours are always welcome and we will be planning larger events such as these in the future.

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



**Dr. Anne Kueter**, originally from Freeport, Illinois, received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in 1992. She obtained her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree in 1997 from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. During veterinary school, she worked as a veterinary technician and completed preceptorships at wildlife

rehabilitation centers and the Kansas City Zoo. Dr. Kueter joined the staff of Jordan Creek Animal Hospital in March 1997.

Dr. Kueter and her husband Troy are parents of two wonderful children Abigayle (Abi) and Lucas. They also have two dogs, Hannah and Buddy and two cats, Munchkin and Tango. In her free time, she enjoys biking, camping, crafts, and travel. Both Dr. Kueter and her husband volunteer their time as Cub Scout and Girl Scout leaders and are active in the community. Dr. Kueter is additionally trained in holistic medicine and acupuncture while also using herbal medicine as an adjunct to Western medicine to treat pets.



**Mistee Martin, RVT** grew up in Horton, Iowa. She obtained her Associate of Applied Sciences Degree in Veterinary Technology from Kirkwood Community College. Before joining the staff of Jordan Creek Animal Hospital in October 2005, she worked at Den Herder Veterinary Hospital in Waterloo, Iowa and Klein Animal Clinic in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Mistee shares a cat, Phoebe, and a dog, Jed, with her husband Patrick and two sons Marik and Asher. When she's not at work, Mistee enjoys camping, relaxing by the lake, going to the gym, going to Iowa State football games, traveling, baking and cooking, and spending time with her family.