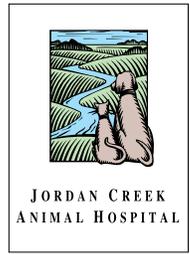




# SPRING 2018 Gazette

☞ newsletter for people and their pets



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

in this issue:



- Springtime and Your Pets
- Mosquitos and Zika Virus
- Gabapentin Use in Cats
- Traveling with Your Pet
- Hospital News
- Meet the Editors

## Spring is here!

### What could be lurking in your back yard?

As spring approaches and nice weather gets us outside with our 4-legged friends, it is important to ensure your dog is getting monthly heartworm prevention. Even if you have gotten complacent over the winter months, it is not too late to get started. In addition, heartworm preventives are very good at protecting your pet from many of the common intestinal parasites that are more prevalent in warm weather.

Likewise, as temperatures rise, so does the population of insects, along with fleas and ticks. In addition to giving year-a-round heartworm preventives, it is wise to consider flea and tick preventives for all pets that spend any time outside.

Remember, it is important to control both internal and external parasites because you never know what could be lurking in your backyard.

Raccoons carry roundworms called *Baylisascaris procyonis* and pass thousands of their



eggs in bowel movements. These eggs can be accidentally ingested by people, especially children that come in contact with the feces left in your backyard, often on decks or children's playground equipment where raccoons like to perch.

You can identify raccoon feces because it is usually dark, almost black, and often contains berry seeds. In two studies, recently published in *The Journal of Parasitology*, it was found that 80% of the raccoon population was infected with adult *Baylisascaris*. These eggs can remain in the environment and soil for up to two years.

*continued on next page*

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



continued from page 1

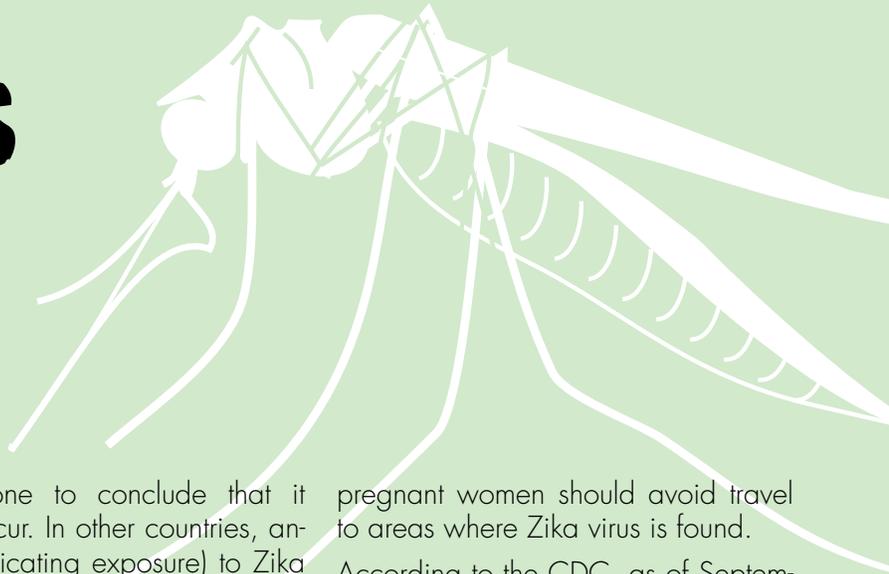
Although the exposure to humans is low, contact with raccoon feces can expose children to thousands of these eggs so it is important to practice good hand-washing techniques. Remember, most heartworm preventatives today contain an active ingredient that prevents and kills roundworms, including this one carried by raccoons.

Wild animals and backyard visitors can carry rabies and intestinal parasites, that can migrate to people, like that of the raccoon roundworm. Backyard critters also carry leptospirosis, canine distemper, parvovirus, and salmonellosis, all diseases that can also be transmitted to your dog

or cat. Depending on the geographic location, rabies virus is most often found in raccoons, foxes, coyotes, skunks, or bats. In Iowa, the top carrier of rabies are bats; making cats a very vulnerable host. Even a completely indoor cat will still have exposure to bats as they invade our homes through vents and attic areas.

Wild animals often harbor *ectoparasites* such as mites, fleas, and ticks that may be a source of infection for pets and humans. It is important to keep all of your pets protected against these potential threats with both vaccinations and parasite preventatives!

# Mosquitos and Zika Virus



Heartworm disease is transmitted by the mosquito and with recent cases of Zika virus in humans, the past few years have brought up the question of... can humans get Zika virus from their pets?

According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control), "There have not been any reports of pets or other types of animals becoming sick with Zika virus. However, more research is needed to better understand, Zika virus in animals." The virus was first discovered in Uganda in the 1940s in a monkey that presented with mild fever. Though nonhuman primates have the ability to become infected with Zika, the risk of monkeys and apes in the United States becoming infected with the virus is low. All monkeys and apes must undergo a mandatory 31-day quarantine period when imported into the United States.

While there have been no reports of the Zika virus infection in traditional pets, there has not been enough

research done to conclude that it does not occur. In other countries, antibodies (indicating exposure) to Zika virus have been detected in nonhuman primates, and outbreaks in nonhuman primates have occurred. Without current research though, there is no way to tell if other animals could be a reservoir host to the Zika Virus and potentially a source of infection for others. At this time, the CDC states that animals do not appear to be involved in the spread of Zika Virus.

Zika virus is transmitted primarily through *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos (which also spread other diseases, such as dengue fever and chikungunya), though other mosquito species have been identified as carriers. Besides mosquito bites, Zika can also be transmitted through blood transfusion, laboratory exposure, sexual intercourse, and from mother to child during pregnancy. Zika can cause brain defects in the fetus, like microcephaly (an underdeveloped brain). This is the basis of the recommendation that

pregnant women should avoid travel to areas where Zika virus is found.

According to the CDC, as of September 7, 2016, there have been 2,964 human cases of Zika reported in the United States, with 2,920 of those being travel-associated cases and 43 of them being transmitted locally. Where as there have been no reports of animals infected with Zika. At this time, Zika virus is not considered widespread in North America, according to the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association).

There is no vaccine or treatment currently available for Zika virus, although there is ongoing research to develop an effective vaccine. In addition, there is no way to test your pet for the Zika virus since there are no diagnostic laboratories in the United States that are testing animals for this virus. The good news is, the CDC reports there is no evidence at this time that the Zika virus is spread to people from contact with animals.

# Gabapentin Use in Cats

## Kitty Ain't Sit'n Pretty?

Is your cat fearful or stressed when coming to the vet? Even the friendliest of cats may become stressed when taken out of their home environment, making it almost impossible to touch them, much less perform a physical exam. In some situations anesthesia may be recommended when a physical exam, blood collection, or vaccinations are needed.

There now may be an alternative for some of these anxious felines. *Gabapentin*, an oral drug sometimes used for pain control, has also been found to be a very safe, light sedative for cats. When given before a visit to the hospital, it may reduce stress and anxiety, allowing the doctor to perform



physical exams and treatments without the need for anesthesia. You simply give a dose to your cat the night before and also the morning of his or her appointment.

Often times this leads to a more re-

laxed patient, resulting in a more positive experience for everyone, while reducing cost for the owner.

Let us know when you schedule your cat's next visit if you think your cat would benefit from *Gabapentin*.

## A Note About Traveling with Your Pet and Health Certificates

If you are traveling across state borders, an interstate travel certificate is required. This certificate is necessary to make sure your pet is healthy and free of communicable diseases. Most interstate travel certificates must be acquired seven days prior to travel, and expire within a set timeframe. It is recommended to check with your airline to find out if you will need a return travel certificate, which is dependent on how long you are staying at your destination. Obtaining an interstate health certificate involves a visit to your veterinarian and signed paperwork by an United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Accredited Veterinarian.

Pet travel to an international country can be complex and time consuming, sometimes taking months to complete prior to travel. It is best to work closely with your veterinarian to ensure any international travel plans with your best friend

goes smoothly. Before you start the process, you will need to know the type of animal traveling, the country of destination, the date of departure from the United States, and whether or not the pet will be traveling alone, as cargo, or with a person in the airplane's main cabin.

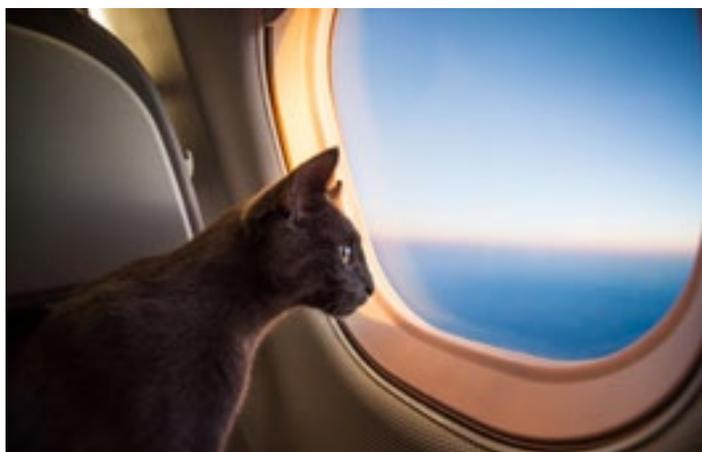
You should contact Jordan Creek Animal Hospital as soon as you know your travel plans. In many cases, your pet's paperwork and documentation will need to be sent to a USDA office outside of Iowa prior to travel. Our nearest USDA Endorsement Office is in Madison, Wisconsin. Time should be allowed for mailing these documents and waiting for their return. There may be user fees incurred for your pet's international travel certificates. These costs vary and depend on the destination country.

Some countries require:

- Specific timeframes that must be met for vaccinations, diagnostic tests, and treatments
- Import permits and other pre-travel approvals
- Extensive pre-travel waiting periods

Before making plans for international travel you should visit the USDA Pet Travel Website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pettravel>, for current information on travel requirements.

Once your travel plans are firm, make an appointment with your veterinarian as soon as possible to make sure there will be enough time to get all the necessary paperwork in order.





## Welcome Katie and Krystal!



Katie grew up on the Southside of Des Moines and moved to Cumming with her family after 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She is the youngest of four and the only girl in her family. Her twin brother is two minutes older than her! When her family moved to Cumming, they did so to have more land, which soon became filled with animals. She still has her very first horse too, a mini, named Hurcules. She also has goats that eat pretty much anything and everything! Katie graduated from Martensdale-St. Mary's. In 2010 she went on to study culinary arts at the Iowa Culinary Institute in Ankeny and graduated with her Culinary Arts degree in 2013. She has previously worked at boarding facilities in Ankeny and West Des Moines.

Katie loves to bake and DIY projects. She is an avid Pinterest enthusiast! She has one Dachshund-Shitzu mix, Charlie, whom has more cat traits than dog traits!

Krystal was born and raised in Queensland, Australia. She moved to the United States when she was seven and spent majority of her life in Alaska. She is new to Iowa but is loving the area thus far. She attended the University of Alaska and the Florida Institute of Technology and has a degree in criminal justice. Krystal has previously served in the Army National Guard, the Army Reserves, the Federal Armed Security, and the Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department. Krystal loves helping both animals and people. With her family, she hopes to add a German Shepard to her clan in the near future.

### 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: April 18, May 16, and June 20.**

## 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. 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 cat, Tango. In her free time, she enjoys biking, camping, and travel.



**Brooke, RVT** grew up in Johnston, Iowa. She obtained her Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University in 2013. She then went back to school for her Associate of Applied Sciences Degree in Veterinary Technology from Des Moines Area Community College in May of 2015.

Brooke has a dog, Biscuit and two cats at home, Kat and Nonny. When she is not at work, Brooke enjoys watching movies, going to the gym, tailgating for Iowa and Iowa State football games, traveling, spending time with her family, and spoiling her nephew.