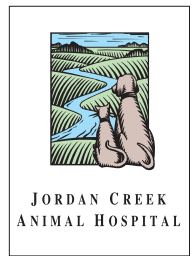




FALL 2013 Gazette

☞ newsletter for people and their pets



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

in this issue:

Halloween and Chocolate

Lyme Disease

Rocky the Squirrel

Hospital News

HALLOWEEN: Make it a "Boo!" (not a "Boo-Hoo") Event!

Halloween is just around the corner, and we would like to extend a friendly reminder that many of the tasty treats given out to trick or treaters for this spooky holiday can be potentially harmful to your pets.

Chocolate Toxicity

Dogs are notorious for eating things that they are not supposed to. They also have an excellent sense of smell, making it fairly easy to find any secret hiding spots for yummy chocolate Halloween treats.

Chocolate is derived from the roasted seeds of **Theobroma cacao**, which contains certain properties that can be toxic to animals – caffeine and theobromine. If ingested, these two ingredients can lead to various medical complications and may even prove fatal for your dog.

Symptoms

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Increased body temperature
- Increased reflex responses
- Muscle rigidity
- Rapid breathing
- Increased heart rate
- Low blood pressure
- Seizures
- Advanced signs (cardiac failure, weakness, and coma)

The amount and type of chocolate ingested is

important, as they are the determining factors for the severity of the toxicity. The three types of chocolate that you must be aware of are:

Milk Chocolate – Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 0.7 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested; severe toxicity occurs when 2 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested (or as little as 1 pound of milk chocolate for a 20-pound dog).

Semi-Sweet Chocolate – Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 0.3 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested; severe toxicity occurs when 1 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested (or as little as 6 ounces of semi-sweet chocolate for a 20-pound dog).

Baking Chocolate – This type of chocolate has the highest concentration of caffeine and theobromine. Therefore, as little as 2 small one-ounce squares of baking chocolate can be toxic to a 20-pound dog (or 0.1 ounce per pound of body weight).

Depending on the quantity, chocolate can become toxic for any dog. So be wary this Halloween of feeding your pet anything that might contain chocolate and always keep it out of reach.



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



LYME & TICKS & DOGS – Oh My!

Lyme disease is an infection caused by the *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacterium. Lyme disease is transmitted through the bite of an infected tick and can affect many species, including dogs and humans.

Ticks of the *Ixodes* species (called deer ticks) are known to transmit Lyme disease when they attach to a host and feed. Because the tick must be attached for more than 24 hours to transmit Lyme disease, frequent inspection for ticks (and quick removal) can reduce the risk of disease transmission.

Lyme disease is more common in certain areas of the United States, including the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and upper Midwest.

Clinical Signs of Lyme Disease

Clinical signs may not appear for several months after a dog is infected with

Lyme disease. In fact, many dogs fail to display any obvious clinical signs at all. When signs of infection are noted, they may include the following:

- Lethargy (tiredness)
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Painful joints

Clinical signs may seem to resolve on their own, only to reappear at a later time. Lyme disease has also been linked to long-term complications involving the joints, kidneys, heart, and nervous system.

Diagnosis

Lyme disease is usually diagnosed based on a medical history that includes the possibility of tick exposure, suspicious clinical signs, and results of diagnostic testing.

Several tests can identify the *Borrelia burgdorferi* organism in blood or tis-

sues. In addition, a test (called a quantitative C6 antibody test or QC6 antibody test) can measure the level of antibodies to help your veterinarian determine whether treatment is recommended.

Starting next spring, Jordan Creek Animal Hospital will begin to offer the Accuplex 4, a blood test that screens your dog for tick-borne illnesses. The Accuplex 4 test simultaneously screens for heartworm disease, Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, and anaplasmosis (also tick-borne diseases that can cause illness in dogs). The Accuplex 4 is an accurate and excellent way to identify dogs that may be infected with one or more of these diseases.

Why Should Dogs Be Tested for Lyme Disease?

Tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease, pose a risk to dogs in many areas of the country. Because clinical signs are not always apparent, periodic testing is a good way to identify dogs that have been infected. Even dogs that receive year-round tick control products and don't spend a lot of time outside are at risk for exposure to tick-borne diseases. Testing helps identify dogs that need treatment or an adjustment in the type of tick control being used.

Treatment

Treatment of Lyme disease generally consists of administration of antibiotics and (if necessary) other medications to temporarily help control joint pain and other clinical signs. Some dogs show dramatic improvement after only a few days of receiving antibiotics, but most veterinarians recommend a 28- to 30-day course of treatment. Relapses are not uncommon, so pet owners are advised to monitor their dogs carefully for signs of illness.

Continued on next page

Reported Cases of Lyme Disease -- United States, 2011



1 dot placed randomly within county of residence for each confirmed case

LYME & TICKS & DOGS – Oh My! continued

Prevention

The gold standard for prevention of tick exposure is topical tick products that work to poison ticks once they have come in contact with your pet. There are many topical tick products available. At Jordan Creek Animal Hospital, we carry Activyl Plus and Frontline Plus. Both products are very effective for the prevention and control of ticks and the diseases they may carry.

Several vaccines are available to help prevent disease caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the Lyme disease organism. An initial vaccination is followed by a booster vaccine 2 to 4 weeks later (in accordance with label recommendations) and annual boosters, as long as the risk for disease exposure remains.

Conclusion

Appropriate tick control methods, combined with periodic testing, may be the best ways to help protect dogs

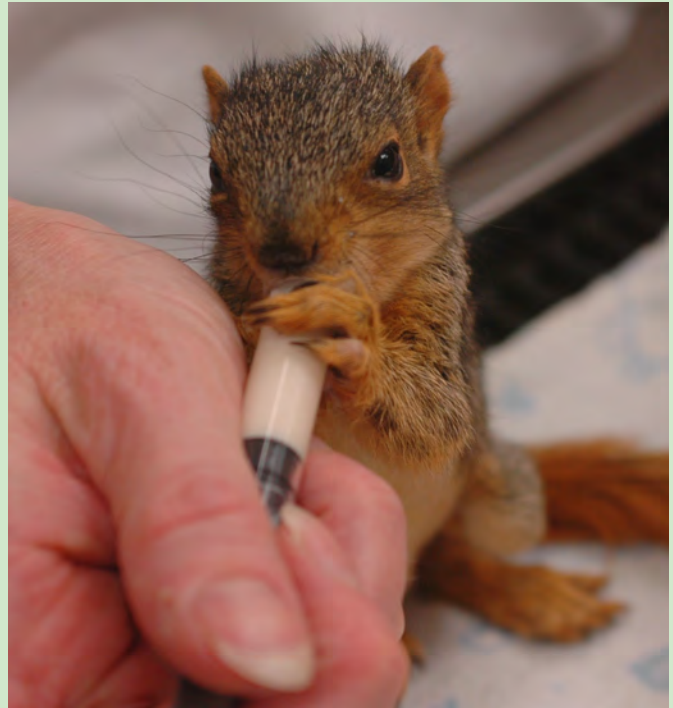
from these diseases. Being “tick savvy” can also help protect your dog from Lyme disease exposure:

- Check your dog (and yourself) frequently for ticks, and remove them promptly.
- Use a reliable method of tick control (several spot-on products kill and repel ticks).
- If possible, avoid tall grass or wooded areas where ticks are likely to hide.

Meet Rocky!

On a very hot late August day, a client brought us a baby squirrel that he found in his yard. Rocky was examined and found to be weak, underweight, and extremely dehydrated. Rocky was about 5 weeks old, and it would be a while before he could survive outside on his own. We started by replacing Rocky's fluid losses, then syringe-feeding him a specialized formula made for puppies (believe it or not!). Rocky soon graduated to fruits, then nuts and seeds. It's now almost time for Rocky to begin spending some time outside. But because he doesn't yet know how to find his own food, he'll need access to a box or crate providing food, water, and shelter. After that, Rocky will need to be introduced to a squirrel friend so that he can form a bond, and the two will eventually be released together. A licensed wildlife rehabilitator will soon take over Rocky's care and complete the rehabilitation process. As you can see, it is quite a process to rehabilitate wild animals and successfully place them back into their natural environment.

If you find injured or orphaned wildlife, it is best to contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to locate a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who is equipped to care for them properly.



Here are some helpful internet resources to try as well:

www.nwrawildlife.org

www.wildliferehabinfo.org

<http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/find-a-wildlife-rehabilitator.html>

<http://www.iowawildlifecenter.org/default.aspx>

<http://vetmed.iastate.edu/vmc/wildlife-care-clinic/education-programs/wildlife-fact-sheets>

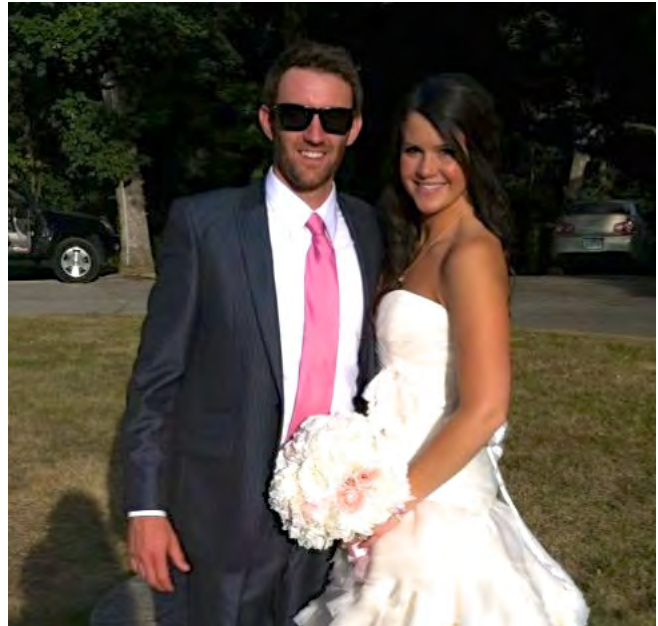


Get Well Soon, Diana!

As some of you may know, in early August, Diana, our Kennel Manager, was thrown off her horse and suffered multiple injuries, including a broken wrist, several broken ribs and vertebrae, and a punctured lung. With a body brace and a cast on her wrist, Diana has been unable to work the past couple months. Her recovery has been slow, but she is making progress. Di really appreciates all of your cards, flowers, and other assorted gifts during this time! We wish Diana the best in her continued recovery and look forward to her doctor giving the OK to come back to Jordan Creek. We miss you, Di!

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: **October 16, November 20, December 21.**



Presenting Dr. Cody Mingu!

On September 14, Dr. Cody Hankins and Zach Mingu said "I do" in a beautiful ceremony at the Salisbury House in Des Moines. We are so happy for Dr. Mingu and her new husband Zach! Congratulations!!

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



Dr. Cody Mingu, originally from Falls City, Nebraska, received her Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2006. She then went on to receive her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Iowa State University in 2010. Dr. Mingu and her husband have 2 dogs,

Gus and Stewy, and 1 cat, Noodle. In her free time, she enjoys hiking with her dogs, camping, boating, and spending time with family.



Jodi Kincaid, RVT, grew up in the Des Moines area and received undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Iowa before deciding to go back to school to pursue a career with animals. She earned her Associates degree in Veterinary Technology from Des Moines Area Community College in May 2010.

She enjoys traveling, going to concerts and movies, and taking walks with her dog, Curtis.