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SITS & WIGGLES

The Newsletter of the Animal Clinic of Chardon

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Heartworm

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Adopt Eevee!



WHY YOU WON'T SEE YOUR DOG'S HEARTWORM SYMPTOMS, UNTIL IT'S ADVANCED

Heartworm disease is caused by a mosquito transmitted parasite. If left untreated, it can be a debilitating disease and sometimes prove fatal. Pets infected with heartworms can be found in all states, in spite of the fact that very effective heartworm prevention products are available. The good news is that I've noticed more and more pet parents are wondering about the symptoms of heartworm disease. Unfortunately, most of the time you're not going to see any, and here's why:



Early signs of heartworm disease in dogs

It would be great news for pets and people if heartworm symptoms were always obvious, but the truth is they are generally invisible or unnoticeable. The development of heartworm disease is insidious until the overt clinical signs occur, and by then the disease has already affected your dog's heart and lungs. Your dog could appear 100% healthy while the parasites are quietly making themselves right at home.

Later signs of heartworm disease

- *Fatigue*
- *Exercise intolerance*
- *Weight loss*
- *Cough*
- *Sudden death*

While none of these symptoms are exclusive to heartworm disease, a dog with heartworm and these symptoms has progressed to the later stage. Heartworm at this stage will require aggressive and expensive treatment.

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Is my dog at risk for heartworm disease?

Yes. Unless your dog lives in a vacuum he is at risk. Again, the disease is transmitted by mosquitoes, which could be anywhere. Many of the carrier mosquitoes can survive in a variety of climates and are a year round threat (even in winter) in much of the country. In all likelihood, your dog is bitten by more mosquitos than you.

How can I protect my dog from heartworm disease?

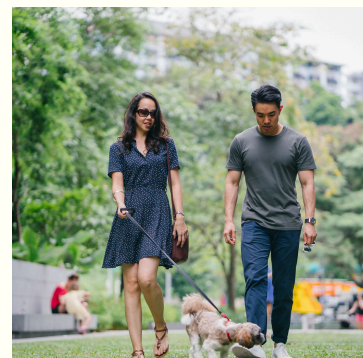
The good news is, protection is simple. There are highly effective preventives that stop the development of heartworms in pets. By administering a preventive year-round, the risk of infection is greatly reduced. You can also try to avoid exposure to mosquitoes by keeping dogs indoors, particularly during twilight hours, when mosquitoes are feeding.

Can I test my dog for heartworm disease?

Absolutely, and your veterinarian will advocate for testing every year. A negative test result in a dog on year-round heartworm prevention is good news and means the preventive measures are working. However, should your dog test positive, he is infected and will need to be treated by your veterinarian. Written by: Dr. Mike Paul, DVM

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF DOG PARKS

1. Make sure your dog is at least 4 months old and current on all vaccinations. Dog parks can be very dangerous for a dog that isn't fully vaccinated or is too young to be exposed to certain infectious diseases and parasites.
2. Assess who's at the park before you enter. See if the dogs in the park have the same energy as your dog (calm, high-strung, assertive, or submissive) and are good pairings with regard to size.
3. Keep your eyes on your dog at all times -- don't talk on the phone, get distracted by other dog park friends, or read a book. It is important to know what your dog and others around him or her are doing every moment you're there.
4. Make sure your dog is under voice control. You need to know he'll come when called, no matter what, to ensure that you can get him by your side and away from any scuffles or quarrels with other dogs.
5. Watch your dog and read his body language. Arguments and fights happen every day, at every dog park, even among the best dogs (just like with kids at a playground). Your dog is likely going to be aware of an impending tussle before you are: if he seems to become nervous, agitated, or on guard, call him and prevent any squabbles before they happen.
6. Remember, it's the people at dog parks that ensure a safe and fun experience. If you feel like other pet owners might not have appropriate control over their dogs, it's probably best to take your dog on a walk elsewhere, find a well-attended daycare with the opportunity for your dog to socialize, or just enjoy an afternoon in the backyard.



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Adopt Eevee!

Eevee is a special pup who has stolen our hearts! She came to ACOC with a history of ingesting carpet. She had been vomiting for several days, was painful in her abdomen, and wasn't eating. She was also significantly underweight. We performed x-rays and it was determined that she had an intestinal obstruction.

Her previous owner could not care for her so our ACOC Angel Fund took her in and performed the necessary surgery to remove the obstruction. The surgery was successful, and we have been diligently working on rehabilitating Eevee to get her back to an ideal weight and helping to heal her gastrointestinal tract. We are thrilled to report that she is healthy and ready for adoption!

Some facts about Eevee:

Age: 7 months

Sex: Female

Breed: Retriever mix

Weight: 35 lbs

Personality: A love bug who loves attention and has a curious nature. In new situations, she can be a little shy at first but typically adapts quickly.

Likes: long hikes, puzzle toys, playtime, safe chew toys, exercise, training sessions, and other dog buddies once introduced.

Dislikes: too much quiet time, being bored.



Eevee will make a great hiking, walking, or jogging partner and needs a home where she will get a lot of attention and exercise. She seems to like other dogs and even cats once she "figures them out". She is potty trained but does still can have an excitement pee from time to time. We think this will improve with maturity. Eevee does well in a small, puppy proofed room but not for long periods as she will get bored and chew things like her bedding. We are unsure of her tolerance with a crate given her active nature. Eevee needs a home that will help her to figure out what she's allowed to chew versus not and will need a lot of monitoring when given complete freedom so she doesn't get into trouble. She has a lot of love to give!

If interested, you can download an application form here:

https://www.animalclinicofchardon.com/uploads/7/3/5/1/73512945/angel_fund_adoption_application.pdf

and email it to info@acocvet.com or drop off in person through our drive thru window. We will be reviewing applications to find her best fit home and will require a meet and greet before the final decision is made. As part of her adoption she will be spayed, vaccinated, dewormed, and heartworm tested.

If you've ever noticed your pooch twitching in her sleep, this probably means she's dreaming. Researchers found that dogs have similar sleep patterns and brain activity as humans, and that small breeds tend to dream more than large ones. Psychology Today suggests they're probably imagining familiar activities like playing outside or chasing their tail.

ACOC Birthdays No Staff Birthdays

