



Animal Clinic of Chardon

440-285-9191

OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



Did you know?

Fleas have been around for millions of years— According to livescience.com, flea ancestors were on earth during the Mesozoic era, "a chunk of geologic time extending from 250 million years ago to 65 million years." These prehistoric predecessors of today's fleas were five to ten times longer and had prominent mouth suckers that likely allowed them to feed on dinosaurs.

For every flea you see there are 100 you don't— The entire flea cycle, from egg to adult, is complete in 12 – 22 days when temperature and humidity conditions are ideal. More commonly it takes 3–4 weeks. Surprisingly, only approximately 5% of a flea infestation is made up of adult fleas. 95% is eggs, larvae and pupae in the cocoon phase.

Special Deals!

Heartgard

Buy 12 doses, get a \$12

More than Just Annoying

Fleas are well known as voracious feeders. They're small, fast, and cause irritation to pets and people alike. In addition to physical discomfort, they transmit a number of diseases. If that wasn't bad enough, the flea is forever connected with the Black Death.

What do you need to know about fleas?

If you have a dog or cat, you'll want to be educated on fleas.

These annoying parasites can carry and transmit several illnesses:

- Tapeworms— Larval fleas may feed on the egg packets of a particular type of tapeworm. As the flea matures, the tapeworm egg develops and if that flea is swallowed by a dog or cat, the tapeworm develops in the new host.
- Flea Allergy Dermatitis— Even a single bite from a single flea can initiate a seriously itchy reaction to the saliva in some allergic dogs and cats
- Cat Scratch Disease— This disease is caused by an organism called Bartonella. While Cat Scratch Disease usually does not affect most cats in a negative way, it puts cat guardians at risk.
- Hemotropic Mycoplasmosis— This one isn't even fun to say. The bacteria is transmitted mainly by ticks and fleas that have fed off of other infected animals. The disease affects red blood cells in cats and (less commonly) dogs, resulting in anemia. It's more likely to affect dogs who have had their spleens removed.
- Plague— Okay, this one is somewhat rare today, but can be found in prairie dog colonies in the western US. When it comes to the plague, best not to take any chances. According to the CDC, "Cats are highly susceptible to plague." While dogs are generally resistant to plague, infection may occur.



Flea control

Flea control has gotten a lot simpler and more effective. Regular,

rebate

Heartgard & Nexgard

Buy 12 doses of Heartgard and 6 doses of Nexgard, get a \$25 rebate

Buy 12 doses of Heartgard and 12 doses of Nexgard, get a \$50 rebate

Nexgard

Buy 3 doses, get 1 free
Buy 6 doses, get 2 free
(can be combined with above rebate)

Revolution

Buy 6 doses, get 2 free
Buy 9 doses, get 3 free

Need medications? Food? Heartworm, flea and tick preventatives? Visit our [online store](#) and have your purchase conveniently shipped to your home!

Going away for the holidays? Let us take care of your pet! We offer all-inclusive service and will treat your family member like our own!



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year-round use of flea control is the best way to control fleas and prevent discomfort from flea bites as well as preventing diseases carried by fleas. We carry Nexgard & Frontline Gold for dogs, and Revolution & Frontline Gold for cats.

Jezebel

Crazy how things can change so quickly..



At just 4 years old we found out that my Jezebel has Stage 4 Kidney Failure. We noticed she just was not herself, so I brought her to my work ACOC for an exam...mind you this being only one year after her annual wellness exam where she was in good health. With a little blood work I was presented with the news that is still difficult for me to accept. After almost a week of hospitalization and treatment, she is home and continuing to fight. I will continue to do whatever I can for her as long as she is with me. Fur babies are family ♡

So, please be sure to take your babies in for their annual vet visits because you never know what is right around the corner. If you're not going to fight for them than who will?

- Lisa Plisko, CSR

Halloween Dangers

During the week of Halloween, calls to the veterinarians at Pet Poison Helpline increase by 12 percent, making it the call center's busiest time of year. "Each year we experience a sharp increase in calls around Halloween, especially during the weekends surrounding the holiday," said Ahna Brutlag, DVM, MS, assistant director at Pet Poison Helpline.



"Most often, these calls involve pets accidentally ingesting Halloween candy or décor. Chocolate is one of the most problematic candies as dogs and cats cannot metabolize it as well as people. Thus, it places them at risk for poisoning."

The four most common food-related Halloween hazards for pets are chocolate, candy overindulgence, raisins and candy wrappers.

[Read more at the Pet Poison Hotline.](#)