



Spring Newsletter 2005

"You and Your Pets Are Part of Our Family"

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Greetings from Dr Christopher Taylor!

It's hard to believe it is been almost a year since taking over from Dr. Foell. We've been very busy with repairs and upgrades to the facilities and helping our clients take the best possible care of their pets. Seniors Month and Dental Health were very popular, and the charity event "Pictures with Santa" was such a hit that we will definitely be repeating it this year. But for now, summer is coming, so don't forget about getting your pets ready for the holidays. Many boarding facilities require Kennel cough vaccination for dogs in addition to the usual "booster shots". Be sure to check if you need this before dropping your furry friend at Club Pet. By the time you get this newsletter we should have our new outdoor signs. Watch THAT space for up to date happenings at Abby Vet!

HEARTWORM

How Heartworm Spreads

"Shadow", a Labrador retriever, lives in the Okanagan with his owners. (This is only one of many heartworm-endemic areas.) He has heartworms, but his owners don't know it because the disease is not easily detected until its later stages. "Shadow" travels with his owners on vacation to an area where there are fewer incidences of heartworm disease, like the Lower Mainland. While in the Lower Mainland, "Shadow" is bitten by a mosquito, which picks up the heartworm larvae from his bloodstream. Later, the same mosquito bites a healthy local dog, infecting him with heartworm. The cycle continues.

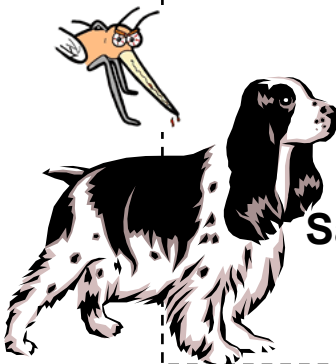
A problem can also result if a dog from a low-incidence area like the Lower Mainland travels into an area where heartworm disease thrives, is bitten by a mosquito and then brings the disease back home.

We can check your dog for heartworm disease and recommend preventive measures.

Don't take a chance on exposing your pet to heartworm when prevention is as easy as a tasty, once-a-month tablet!

What's the Big Deal About Heartworm?

- Spread by mosquitoes
- Symptoms may not become apparent for a couple of years
- Heartworm Disease can be fatal
- Heartworm Disease can be prevented



**Save \$5.00 Off Your Dog's Heartworm Test
With This Coupon**



Do You Know How Easily It Can Be Spread?



In B.C., the Brown Bat is the most common carrier of rabies. Bats can have rabies and survive for quite a long time. (They don't just get ill and die.)

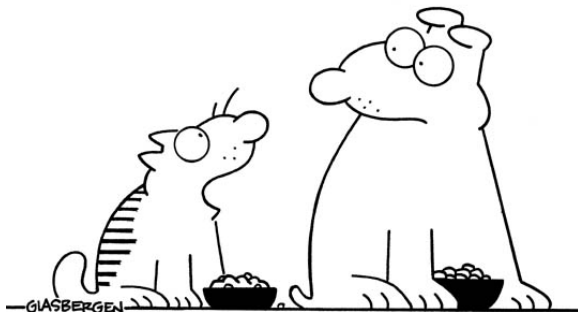
When all animals with rabies get ill, they don't act normally - animals like bats that normally only come out at night will start to fly during the daytime.

As well, all wild animals that would normally avoid contact with other animals and humans will tend to lose their fear and not run/fly away. Bats will no longer avoid flying into people's houses.

This is where even in-door only animals can be at risk: bats will lose their fear, fly during the day, will not have the same strength to avoid capture, and may die while inside a house.

Cats that never go outdoors can contact rabies in this way!

Since rabies is a disease that humans can contact as well, it is important that all cats and dogs, even those that never go outside, are protected with a rabies vaccine. This way, even if the "call of the wild" comes indoors, pets and their human friends will remain safe.



—GIASBERGEN—
 "The vet says I need a hobby. I thought eating and sleeping were my hobbies!"

Is Your Dog a Nudger?

Is your dog a "nudger?" If your dog consistently comes up to you and demands to be petted by nudging your hand or leg, then he or she is a "nudger".

This is a dog's habit or way of getting your attention. You may not think this is a problem, but if permitted, unwanted attention may become a nuisance to you and your family. If your dog is trying to consistently get your attention then you can't reward this behavior.

Begin to teach your dog in essence to say "please". Your dog will not get what it wants until it learns to firmly sit/stay, which is the equivalent of your dog saying "please".

When the dog is in a firm sit/stay, then you can go and pet the dog. A big reason why dogs become "nudgers" is when owners begin to reward attention-getting behaviors.



For example, if your dog nudges you to be petted and you respond by petting the dog then, you've just rewarded your pooch's demand.

Make your dog work for what it wants. In essence, your dog needs to say "please, can I be petted?". If your dog is a "nudger" it doesn't mean he or she is a bad dog, but just needs to learn better manners.

Did You Know?



Hamsters and Ferrets Can Catch Your Cold

If you have a cold or 'Flu, you should ask another member of your family to look after your hamster or ferret until you are better. These are diseases that we can pass on to our little hamster and ferret

TASTY TREATS FOR CATS

Medi-Treats are popular with cats *and* their owners. They help prevent tartar, help prevent hairballs and are very tasty, too.

Next time you're in, pick up a bag for your favorite feline friend!

NEW SURGERY MONITOR

Now Anesthesia is Safer Than Ever at Abby Vet Hospital!

We're very pleased to announce the recent purchase of a new monitoring system for our surgery suite! This new monitor combines technologies that measure **blood pressure**, the **level of oxygen** that is circulating in the blood ("pulse ox"), **heart rate**, body **temperature**, and can even provide an **ECG** measurement of the heart's electrical activity! Previous to this, we had several separate pieces of equipment that could do many of these functions separately, but now we have all of the main vital signs displayed to the doctors and technical staff in one place. This allows us to adjust the level of anesthetic so that the patient is as safe and as comfortable as possible.



Excellent monitoring by trained staff, modern human-grade anesthetic drugs, pre-anesthetic blood testing and intravenous fluids all work together to make veterinary anesthesia as safe as possible!

HOMEMADE DOG TREATS

Beggin' Breakfast Bars

This recipe makes a lot & it's very easy, you just throw everything into the bowl, mix & pat onto 2 greased cookie sheets, no rolling or cookie cutters.

- 12 c. oatmeal
- 4 c. whole wheat flour
- >8 eggs
- 3/4 c. oil
- 2/3 c. honey
- 1/2 c. molasses
- 2 c. milk
- 1 large can solid pack pumpkin

Preheat oven to 325°. Grease 2 cookie sheets
Dump everything into a VERY large bowl. Mix together (using your hands is easiest), pat onto greased cookie sheets & bake for 1 hour. After 1 hour turn oven off, crack oven door & allow cookies to cool in oven. Break into whatever size you want. These freeze really well.

PROTECT DOGS AND CATS ON FARMS

Vaccinate Your Dog And Cat Herds, Too!

Yes, populations of dogs or cats can be referred to as herds. Many of these "herds" go unvaccinated and create a real risk to themselves, other animals in the population, as well as a potential public health risk.

One of the greatest risks for diseases like canine distemper, canine parvovirus, feline distemper (panleukopenia) and rabies comes from unvaccinated cats and dogs on farms and ranches.

From a disease control perspective, the vaccines that should be given are referred to as "core vaccines", or those every puppy/kitten should receive.

Needed for Dogs:

- Canine Distemper Virus
- Canine Adenovirus 2
- Canine Parvovirus
- Canine Parainfluenza is often included in combination with the above
- Rabies

Needed for Cats:

- Feline Panleukopenia (cat distemper)
- Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis (Feline Herpes Virus 1 usually called "Rhino")
- Feline Calicivirus
- Rabies virus

This simple vaccination program for farm dogs and cats provides an additional benefit: it helps reduce the chance for infection of the wildlife species that are also susceptible to many of these diseases. Importantly, too, it would improve public health with regard to prevention of rabies.

Give us a call to schedule your dog and cat "herds" to be vaccinated!

PLEASE SPAY OR NEUTER YOUR PETS!

If you have an unaltered pet, please consider having it neutered as soon as possible.

Did you know that just one unspayed female cat and one unaltered male cat can begin a progression of births that, after 7 years, could produce 150,000 kittens?

Sadly, very few of these will find homes.



THOSE PESKY PARASITES

De-Worm Regularly To Protect the Ones You Love



In households with children or immuno-compromised people it is particularly important to de-worm your pets regularly.

Children are at greater risk of contracting zoonotic parasites like roundworm or hookworm due to the tendency to put their hands to their mouths, combined with the fact that they have more physical contact with pets and soil in gardens and playgrounds.

The Centre for Disease Control recommends de-worming cats and dogs 4 times a year.

We have broad-spectrum de-wormers to help rid your pets of intestinal parasites and help protect the ones you love. *Hint: an easy way to protect your dog from heartworm and internal parasites at the same time is by using Interceptor*

Ask us about the best protection for your pets!

VETERINARY INFORMATION PARTNERS

“If we are not moving ahead, then we may be falling behind”

VIN

At Abby Vet, we are proud to be part of a vast network of information available at VIN Online.

For the past eleven years, VIN has enhanced the lives and practices of thousands of veterinarians. Members benefit from the information available regarding new technologies and from the online continuing education taught by the leading experts in the veterinary field.

There are over 125 consultants in many areas available to answer questions about cases and there are vet-to-vet discussions.

There is a place to find information about the latest veterinary products and services.

The Reference Center contains information from a wide range of respected sources, and if we want in-depth knowledge of a specialty area, we can immerse ourselves in the Information Centers.

It is like having specialists and libraries available to us 24 hours a day!

INTRODUCING "APPLE"!

A very special little cat

Apple used to be just a barn cat, but now she's the Apple of our eye! Apple was brought to us by a local farmer after she was injured. Apple's right hind leg had been wounded and had become infected. The bones were badly damaged, and the leg needed to be removed. Apple's old owners weren't able to take care of her, so our Dr.'s and staff decided to take her on as a special project.

Apple had surgery to remove her injured leg, and will need to have surgery on some of the toes on her front feet that were also damaged.

Apple is a very special little cat, and we're pleased to be able to help get back on her remaining feet!



Arlette and "Apple"

New Late Hours for Your Convenience

We are now open late on Thursday nights until 7:30, to serve you and your pets even better!

Check Out Our Website: www.abbyvet.com

If you haven't been to our website this month, then you haven't been at all! Check out our new videos on how to give medication and trim toe-nails. There's that and a whole lot more... If you'd like to receive this newsletter via email in the future, drop us a line at: staff@abbyvet.com

Wishing you and your pets a fun and healthy summer!