



First QUARTER 2020



Heartworm Prevention is im-PAW-tant!



What are heartworms?

Heartworms are parasitic worms that infect, and can live in your pets heart and arteries. These worms can grow up to 16 inches long. They cause damage to the heart and lungs, and can even cause death to their host.

Transmitted?

Heartworms are transmitted by infected mosquitoes. Mosquitoes become infected by biting an animal that has heartworms. The blood that the mosquito takes from the infected pet has baby heartworms (microfilaria) in it, and they are transferred to the next animal that the mosquito bites.

What prevention options are available? Luckily, heartworms are easy to prevent. There are two prevention options for dogs that our doctors recommend.

ProHeart6: This is an injection administered by a veterinarian. ProHeart 6 lasts for 6 months. This is an easy and convenient way to keep your dog protected from heartworms. This takes the hassle out of remembering to give the prevention to your dog monthly.

Heartgard: Another option for dogs is called Heartgard: Heartgard is a monthly beef flavored chewable.

It is important that heartworm prevention is given 12 months out of the year. For cats, we recommend Revolution Plus. Revolution Plus is applied topically once a month. It is a comprehensive flea and heartworm preventative. It is important to keep your cats on Revolution Plus all year round to ensure their protection.

What if my dog tests positive for heartworms?

Being positive for heartworms is a big deal. Heartworms and the treatment for heartworms can be life threatening. Treatment requires very restricted exercise for several months. Physical exertion can cause more damage to the pets heart and lungs. After your pet is assessed by a doctor, a strict plan will be created for your pet that will include long term medication. Being diagnosed with heartworms is very serious and is why prevention is so important.

Your Pet. *Our* Passion.



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Tiny Tim
by Amie Gates

I slowly pulled back the fleece blanket and peeked over the top. A smile crept over my face as I looked down at the fuzzy grey head of the tiniest kitten. He was neatly tucked into the arms of a boy who was standing in my waiting room.

"I found him, but he doesn't seem quite right," the boy exclaimed with a worried look on his young face.

"Well, let's take a look," I said as I lifted the small bundle from his arms. As I fully uncovered the kitten, I immediately noticed the front legs were not functioning properly. The kitten tried to balance his weight on his back end while one front leg hung lifelessly and the other twisted unnaturally to the side. I led the boy to some empty chairs and as we sat down I expressed my concerns.

"It looks like this little kitten broke a front leg here," as I pointed to the angled limb, "and this one doesn't seem to have any feeling in it," I said as I massaged the cold leg. The child paused for a moment as he thought through what I had said. He took the kitten and pressed his cheek to its soft head. After a moment he raised his head and looked at me as his worried expression deepened. "Well," the boy began, chewing on his bottom lip, "can you do anything for him Doc?"

Leaning back in my chair I mentally scrolled through my busy day ahead with the surgeries, the sick patients, and the calls I needed to make. I glanced again at the boy as he sat still, peering at me with distressed anticipation. While watching his face I was reminded of my younger self, out to save every abandoned or hurt animal I could. "Leave him here with me and I'll see what I can do. Check back in with me tomorrow afternoon," I said. The worried look slipped from his face as the boy planted an endearing kiss on the kitten's pink nose and handed him over to me.

My day was just as busy as I knew it would be and it wasn't until the early evening that I was able to operate on the kitten. A few hours later and my fuzzy little friend had a freshly pinned and bandaged leg. I rolled into bed late that night, tired, but satisfied in my decision to help.

The next day was once again full of appointments, but I made a couple stops at the kitten's kennel. The kitten seemed content to enjoy the good food, warm bedding, and endless pats and cuddles from the staff. The boy was patiently waiting in the lobby at the start of my afternoon appointments. He was delighted to see how well the little grey kitten was doing, but asked about the lifeless limb. "Let's give it a couple weeks and see how that leg does. Maybe with some time we will see some nerve healing." I hypothesized. I sent the kitten and boy out the door with some home care instructions and hoped things would work out for them.

It was only a week later that I caught site of the two in my waiting room again. The boy's worried expression was back and I asked how the kitten was doing. Initially it sounded like things had been good. The broken leg was being used as a normal limb now and the kitten didn't seem to be favoring it at all. But the boy was noticing that the lifeless leg was becoming a problem.

While the kitten was finding the limb as a fun toy to bat around and play with, he was having trouble moving. The added dead weight of the leg was preventing the small kitten from climbing into the litter box or jumping over any obstacle. The foot was also becoming ulcerated from where it was being dragged along the ground. I pondered my options as I watched the kitten clumsily pounce on his dead leg and begin grooming the ulcerated area with its rough tongue. "I think the best thing to do is to remove the leg completely," I stated. The boy's eyes filled with surprise for a brief moment, then realization set in and he agreed with me, trusting that I hadn't reached my decision lightly.

Within hours, I was once again in the surgery suite with the little grey. I was swiftly able to remove the leg and get him into recovery. As the kitten was waking up, I immediately noticed a change in his demeanor. He had a fast recovery and began playing as quickly as he found his balance. Within fifteen minutes he was jumping around his kennel and acting as if he had not just gone through a major surgery. I marveled at the change and laughed at his playful antics. He kept me laughing throughout the afternoon and it wasn't until evening that he finally settled down to sleep.

The kitten, now dubbed Tiny Tim by my staff, was the main attraction the next morning. When my young friend came to take the kitten home we took a moment to enjoy watching the kitten run around an exam room, chasing unseen prey. We both commented on how happy Tiny Tim seemed now, not having the additional weight of the leg holding him back. Finally, as the boy walked through the front doors, the kitten nestled inside the fleece blanket once more, he paused and turned back to me. He looked directly into my eyes and, in a very mature fashion for his young age, thanked me sincerely for my help.

I had the delight of seeing Tiny Tim a few weeks later to remove the pins from the previously fractured leg. He had been doing great and the boy and kitten were inseparable. It would be a few years later before I caught another look at the pair. I was leaving the practice, headed out to see a sick cow and the boy, now a young man, rode by on a bike. He raised his hand in a wave and then I saw Tiny Tim, now a much larger cat, curled about his neck with his one front leg comfortably resting on the teen's shoulder. As I watched them move on down the street I heard the boy call out, "He never looked back Doc, not once, thanks to you!" A grin spread across my face and I was once again reminded that it was moments like these that make me happy that I became a veterinarian.



February: Dental Month

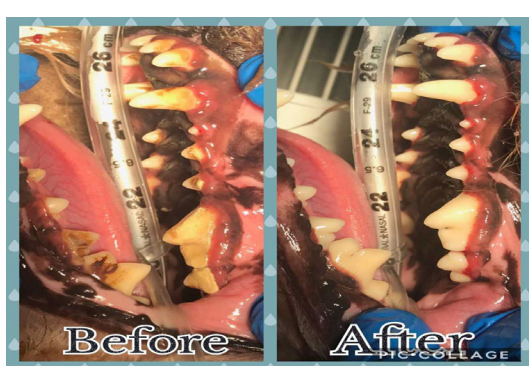
Tired of your Pet's bad breath? Save 20% off on dentals during the month of February!

Dental disease can lead to:

- Heart disease
- Kidney disease
- Liver disease

Dental disease does not always present as visible tartar and bad breath. Teeth can look spotless, but having redness around the gumline is a form of dental disease.

Be sure to claim your spot and not miss out on these great savings. Call to schedule your pet's dental appointment.



Save
20%
on Dental
Cleanings

Let's Go on an Adventure

National Walk Your Dog Day is February 22nd

McDowell Creek Falls a pet friendly 3 mile walk just 16 miles outside of Lebanon, OR. View the falls from viewing docs and bridges. There is beautiful, lush forest surrounding the falls. This is a great spot to get out and explore with your dog.

Address: 43170 McDowell Creek Dr, Lebanon, OR 97355

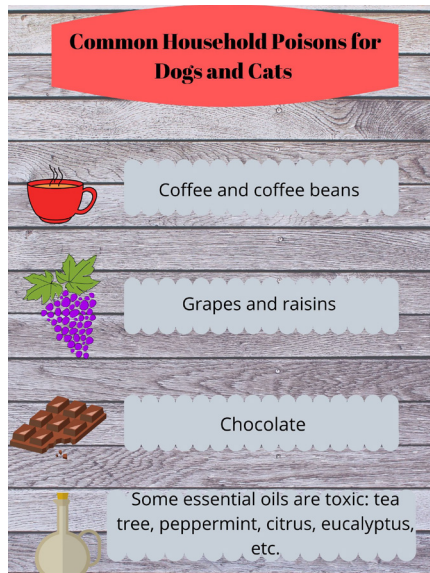


Poison Prevention

March is National Poison Prevention Month. Here are some common household items that are toxic to dogs and cats. If you think your pet ingested any of these items, please call the clinic as soon as possible to get instructions from your veterinarian about the next steps that should be taken.

When you call, please provide your veterinarian with the following information:

- What product your pet ingested
- How much of the product they ingested
- What time your pet ingested the product
- If your pet has vomited since ingesting the product
- Providing product packaging can be helpful as well



Ask us about the Pet Desk App
Earn points that can be redeemed in the clinic
Schedule appointments
Reminders of when your pets are due for vaccines
Leave us reviews
AND so much more

There is an App for that!

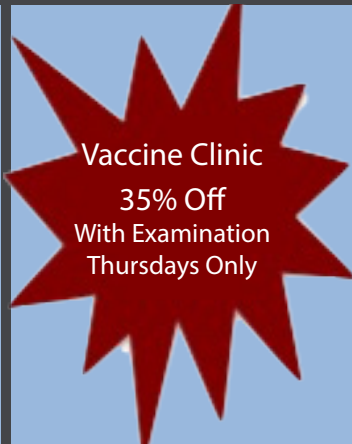


Sweet Home Veterinary Hospital

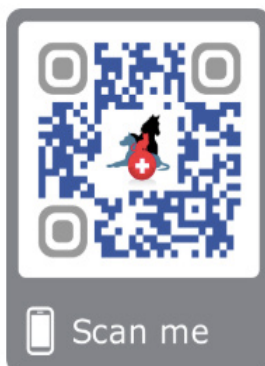
1214 Long Street
Sweet Home, OR 97386

[Recipient]

Address Line One
Address Line Two
Address Line Three
Address Line Four

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00AM-5:30PM	8:00AM-5:30PM	8:00AM-5:30PM	8:00AM-5:30PM	8:00AM-5:30PM
<p>The highest compliments our clients can give is the referral of their friends and family. <i>Thank you for your trust.</i></p>	<p>REFER A FRIEND, GET A \$30 GIFT CARD</p>	<p>Ask us about Petdesk and manage your pet's health online!</p> <p>We look forward to seeing you and your pet soon!</p>		<p>Calendar Savings not Valid with Other Offers</p>
<p>We welcome your suggestions on how to better serve you and your pet.</p>		<p>\$10 Off Veterinary Services of \$35 or more involving a doctor. Coupon must be brought in and presented to be valid.</p> <p><small>Expires: 04/30/2020</small></p>		

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