

Riverside Gazette

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Issue 2

Infected By Your Pet?!?

Do you let your pets sleep with you? Ever woken up to them curled around your head or pawing at your face? Its sweet how much they love us and want to be around us. Not so sweet, however, are the potential parasites they are giving us!



Roundworms are large parasitic worms that live in, as adults, and feed off the small intestines of dogs and cats. After your pet ingests the eggs and the larvae hatch, they travel through the liver and lungs before ending up in the small intestines. A roundworm infection can cause vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, and lethargy. You may even notice long, spaghetti-like worms in their poop or vomit!

Adult roundworms can produce up to



85,000 eggs per day; this definitely increases the risk of infection!

Dogs and cats pick up roundworms after eating soil, poop, or dead animal which is contaminated with roundworm eggs.

If a person ingests a roundworm egg, the infection can lead to eye, lung, heart and neurological problems!

Canine and feline hookworms are small, whitish or reddish-brown worms that are hooked at one end. As adults, they also live in the small intestine of dog and cats. Your pet can be infected through their skin or by swallowing hookworm eggs. Hookworms can cause skin, lung, and intestinal disease in dogs and cats, as well as life-threatening anemia in puppies and kittens. Adult hookworms produce up to 20,000 eggs per day, so in a short time



there are huge numbers of eggs and larvae!

The larvae of some hookworms can also penetrate human skin. Infections appear as itchy, reddish, coiling lesions. Rarely, hookworm adults may also infect the intestines of people. Recurrent abdominal pain is a common symptom.

Tapeworms are thin, segmented parasites that can grow up to several feet long. Intestinal tapeworm infections may go undiagnosed

because infections usually do not cause detectable symptoms in dogs and cats.

By eating an infected flea, usually



during self-grooming, a dog or cat can become infected with tapeworms. Tapeworm segments are long and thin and look like grains of rice. Human infections occur when fleas are accidentally ingested, usually by little kids. Although tapeworms do not usually cause clinical signs of disease, infections in children can be shocking when you find tapeworm segments in dirty diapers!

So how do you keep your family safe? First, make sure your pets have an exam and fecal check at least twice a year. If any intestinal parasites are found, a simple treatment with dewormer medication will solve the problem. Second, keep your pet on year-round flea/tick protection and heartworm prevention medications, as these medications also protect against intestinal parasites. Third, feed your pet a well-balanced diet to help discourage foraging on dead animals. Lastly, keep poop cleaned up and be sure to wash your hands after you do.

How Can You Tell If Your Pet's Heart Is Pumping Right?

When you're a pet owner, you know a lot about the health of your pet just by using your senses. You can see your pet's eyes when they're goopy. You can smell their ear infection a mile away. You can feel the lumps and bumps on their skin. But what about their heart? How do you know if that organ is healthy?

Heart disease affects pets of all ages. For example, certain breeds of dogs and cats are at a higher risk of heart disease at a young age. Others develop heart conditions later in life, when another illness crops up. Some pets develop heart disease at any age without noticeable signs. Yes, their heart may not be pumping right even though their tails are wagging and purring is at an all-time high!

If your pet's heart is not checked regularly, your pet may be at risk for heart disease and in some cases, a shortened lifespan. The good news is, if caught early, most issues can be treated or managed successfully for years. And if your pet already has a heart condition but is regularly monitored by our practice, often we can slow its progression.

Schedule your pet's yearly checkup. During the exam, we'll take a listen to make sure your pet's heart sounds right. We'll also perform a few other easy tests if needed to keep your pet's ticker in the best shape possible!

When we think of love, we think of hearts. And we love your pet. It's why we do what we do. Make an appointment today!

Meet Frank & Walter

These two adorable pups are up for adoption! Don't you think they would make a great addition for your family?

They were found abandoned at Sheetz in New London and were brought to Riverside.

We checked them over, perfectly healthy pups, and gave them their vaccinations. Dr. Ryan believes they are around 12 - 14 weeks old.



These little guys are a bundle of energy. Incredible friendly and loving, they get along with other dogs and love people.

We would love to find a home that could handle both of them, they've been inseparable since they arrived. If you know anyone who might be interested in adopting Frank and/or Walter, please have them give us a call!

These babies need a furever home!

Doctor's Notes

Howdy!

I hope everyone is having a great summer. I know folks are busy with vacation, family get-togethers, and yard work, but don't forget to take care of your most loving family member, your furbaby!

During July, we will be offering 50% off DIY baths at Tidy Tails, our do-it-yourself bathing facility! Come check us out. Tidy Tails provides a large, easy to get in tub for any size dog, shampoo, and dryer. You can wash your baby and leave the mess for us! We also offer ear cleaning and nail trim packages.

Don't forget Riverside Rehab is right next door, so schedule your dog for a fun, relaxing, yet exercising swim! Also if you're going on vacation and must leave your furbaby, let us take care of them and treat them to a swim, only \$10!

Summer is a fun and exciting time, but it can also be dangerously hot. Always, always provide shade and cool water for your pets. Heat stroke and heat exhaustion can happen to any size, age or breed. Make sure to monitor your baby and ensure that they are comfortable. Please contact us with any trouble breathing, staggering, or sudden gastrointestinal distress as these can all be signs of a life-threatening situation.

Enjoy your entire family and please allow us to help you care for your beloved furbaby.

Very truly yours,

Lora Ryan, DVM