



Country Doctor

Quarterly Newsletter

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Important Health Update for Your Pets
Dr. Charles A Curie

This is hot off the press news regarding heartworm disease, treatment and prevention. It is critical to the health of your dogs and cats. Effective immediately we will adopt the new guidelines as set forth by the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC). This is a group of our Nation's most prestigious parasitologists. These people study any and all parasites which affect animal and human health.

All of our veterinarians at both clinics, myself, Dr. Veale, Dr. Hanzel, Dr. Moseley and Dr. Ganga, have been constantly monitoring the rapid rise in the incidence of Lyme disease and the development of a resistant strain of Heartworm. With the release of the new heartworm guidelines by CAPC resulting from the development of heartworm resistance to all of the preventives currently on the market, and the rapid rise of ticks and Lyme disease in Ashtabula County we will now test every dog every year. The test we will be using will look for not only heartworm disease but also Lyme and two other tick borne diseases.

We always strive to provide best medicine to our patients. A number of years ago I decided that we would adopt the then current guidelines of testing for heartworm every three years for those clients who were faithful in administering preventatives. That was then. Things have changed. The heartworm is doing what parasites do best. It is adapting to our efforts to control it and becoming resistant to the medicine we are using to prevent it.

This combined with the explosion of ticks and Lyme disease necessitates that we change with the conditions around us. Thus - the necessity for annual testing. CAPC is concerned, all of our veterinarians are very concerned about these developments and pet owners should be! Please read on. The following are some excerpts from the CAPC news release.....

"The Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) has altered its guidelines after evidence of preventive-resistant *Dirofilaria immitis* (heartworm) strains was presented at the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists Conference at the end of July in Chicago. Researchers have now identified heartworm isolates from the Mississippi Delta region that develop in adult dogs receiving routine monthly heartworm preventives."

"At the conference, a number of parasitologists—including Byron Blagburn, PhD, of Auburn University, Dwight Bowman, PhD, of Cornell, and others—presented the findings of investigations funded by Novartis Animal Health. "All currently approved products have failed to prevent heartworm development in dogs when tested in experimentally induced infection models with Mississippi River Valley isolates." These products include ivermectin, selamectin, milbemycin oxime and moxidectin."

"This means treatment of heartworm-positive dogs should be immediate and aggressive, as noted in the newly revised CAPC guidelines. The "slow kill" therapy sometimes prescribed by veterinarians is never appropriate."

"Parasitology specialists emphasize that evidence for resistance does not mean abandoning current protocols but following them even more rigorously. "The new evidence confirming heartworm resistance underscores the importance of protecting pets year-round without gaps in prevention," Bowman says in a statement from CAPC. "Veterinarians also should continue to emphasize annual heartworm testing. In areas where heartworm is more prevalent or breaks are appearing, testing every six months is recommended."

While new strains may be preventive-resistant, CAPC says current products are still effective against many strains of heartworm and several control other parasites, including intestinal helminths, fleas and mites. "Preventives are still the best protection we have, and consistently administering them is key to maintaining pet health," says CAPC board member Susan Little, DVM, PhD. Though the preventives cannot guarantee that infections will never occur, Little encourages veterinarians to "test dogs regularly to be sure they have not become infected, and when infections are identified in dogs, we have to treat whenever possible."

WOMEN WHO WINE
October 9th
6:00 PM
Spring Hill Winery Geneva
We will host the next event on October 9, 2013 starting at 6pm. Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite costume and the radio station will be offering prizes for the best ones! However costumes are not required. I decided since this is an event strictly for women, we should focus on you. I need everyone to help me out here. Please submit stories and pictures to us by October 1st. so that we can prepare the presentation. My staff and I will transform all of your submissions into a great power point show. We will just share fun stories about ladies and their pets! Send stories to geneva@countrydrvet.com

