

January 2013

Mild Winters and Parasite Prevention

We've had a pretty mild Winter thus far, and we'd like to offer some tips on how to help you understand the importance of parasite prevention even during our colder months.



Many people believe that winter time is a good season for their pets, because fleas and ticks won't pose much of a problem. It's quite the opposite. The very mild winter weather we've had is likely to make the spring of 2013 even buggier. It hasn't been cold enough to kill off the outside flea and tick populations. These little parasites are continually looking for a warm place to inhabit. They hop on a passing, unprotected pet not only causing havoc to him/her, but also gaining access to the house. Once a flea is inside, there can be a population explosion that can be difficult to control. We are expecting a significantly more intense (and

earlier than normal) flea, tick, and mosquito season. Many insects can survive a short cold spell. Even if we have a bit of the winter chills in March, we could still have a serious insect problem this Spring. Be ready! And since we've had a wet winter, there has been a lot of water around for mosquitoes to get an early start. Mosquitos carry the virus that causes heartworms in dogs. Make sure your pets are protected from all of these parasites by using monthly medications to prevent infestations. Most of our products and treatments work for 30 days. They kill the existing fleas. But during those 30 days, new flea eggs are hatching, as well. As soon as the 30 days are up, studies show the product isn't as effective.

Consistency is the key. You can also help protect your pets by treating areas of your yard in which s/he plays, vacuuming each day (emptying the bag every time,) and washing all bedding regularly. To conclude, start now and/or be consistent with your pet's parasite prevention medication.



*January and February are Dental Health Awareness months at
Pace Veterinary Clinic.*

*We will be offering a 10% DISCOUNT on all dental cleanings during this time. In addition, **Virbac**, the maker of fine animal products, has given us two gift baskets to GIVE AWAY! Anyone who has a dental appointment during these two months will be ENTERED to WIN one of the baskets valued at well over \$100 each. Schedule your appointment today!*

Your pet deserves a healthy, bright smile.

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