



Summer 2017



Cross Keys Animal Hospital

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You can also find us on
Facebook!

Hospital Hours

Monday and Thursday

8:30 am – 8 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

8:30 am – 7:30 pm

Saturday

8:30 am – 12 pm

Closed Sunday

In this Newsletter:

Flea and Tick Prevention Guide
Pet Health Tips
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Heartworm Disease Info

Protect Your Pet from these Common Summer Hazards

Hot summer weather, more time outside, and family picnics are fun for both humans and their furry friends, but they can pose a danger to pets, too. Keep reading to learn more about potential summer pet hazards to watch for over the next few months.

Dehydration and Heat Stroke

We might be in the last official month of summer, but scorching temperatures and high humidity always hang around a little bit longer. This type of weather makes it difficult for your pet to cool off. Heat stroke occurs when an animal's body temperature reaches an unhealthy range. To prevent dehydration and heat stroke, make sure your pet always has access to water and has a place where she can cool off. Pets should not be left outside for long periods of time during the summer and should always have the option of coming inside. NEVER leave your pet in a car, even for a brief period of time. Try to limit exercise to the cooler parts of the day. On especially hot days, it might be best to skip exercise outdoors and find ways to keep your pet entertained inside. Be particularly careful with overweight pets, pets with thick coats, and short-nosed pets like pugs. Watch out for symptoms like excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor, or even collapse.

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Head's Up! Take Advantage of Our Fall Promotions Coming Soon

First up in September is Senior Pet Wellness Month. Specials will be available on senior wellness bloodwork for your pet and on senior care products. Read more about the special needs of senior pets on page three.

As usual, October will be our Dental Health Month featuring special discounts on dental cleanings and all dental products including toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental chews. Keep an eye out for more information as October approaches.

You can also prepare for fun seasonal activities like a Halloween Pet Costume Contest on our Facebook page and our annual Pet Pictures with Santa event benefitting Save the Animals Foundation. Our Facebook page, website, and your email will keep you up-to-date with reminders about all of our upcoming promotions and events.

Keep the Pests Away! A Guide to Flea and Tick Prevention

Once warm weather arrives, fleas and ticks emerge in full force. Not only are these pests annoying but ticks can carry Lyme disease and fleas can infest our homes making us and our pets extremely uncomfortable. We all want to keep fleas and ticks off of our pets, and the best way to do that is to use flea and tick prevention. However, it can be overwhelming for pet owners to choose a flea and tick preventative from the many options available, including topicals, chewables, and collars. To make it easier to sort through the many flea and tick preventions on the market, the table below gives information on the most popular products we carry at Cross Keys Animal Hospital.

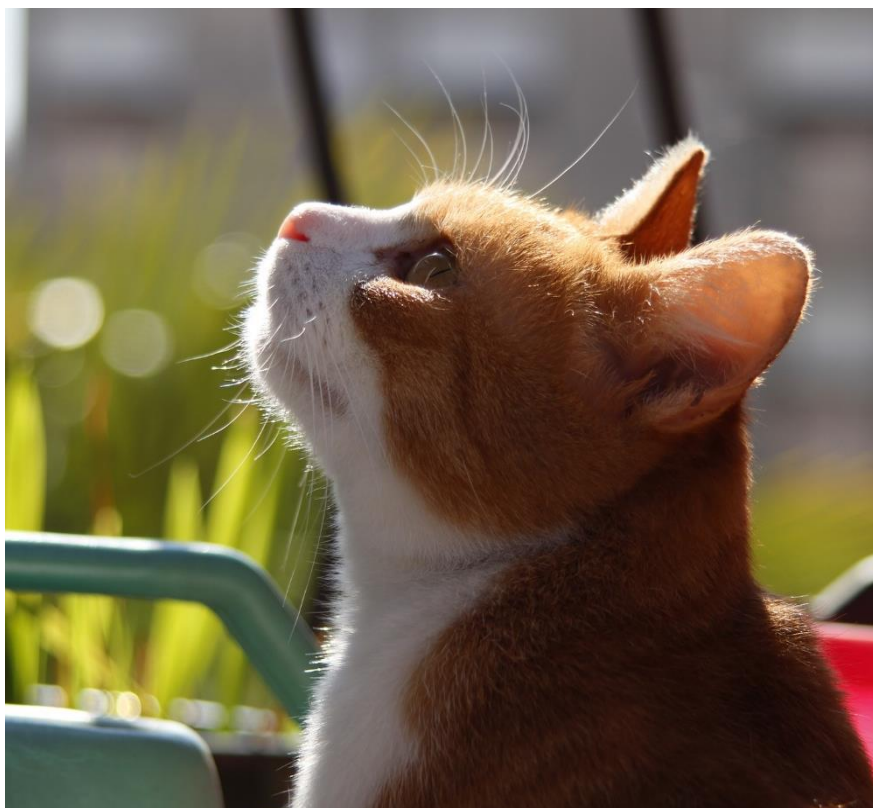
We always have specials for flea and tick prevention available at the Cross Keys. Seresto collars come with \$15 mail-in rebates. Each box of Nexgard, Advantix, Frontline, and Advantage comes with one free dose. Stop by anytime to take advantage of these great promotions available all year long.

Seresto Collar (cats and dogs)	A collar that prevents fleas, ticks, flea larvae, and chewing lice. A huge advantage to the Seresto collar is its longevity. It protects your pet from fleas and ticks for 8 months, as long as he doesn't swim or bathe in it. It can be taken off for both swimming and baths. Many owners worry that it will leave a residue or make their pets fur greasy, but luckily the Seresto collar has none of those side effects.
Nexgard (dogs only)	A beef flavored chewable that prevents fleas and ticks in dogs. Nexgard is given once every 30 days. One of the benefits of using Nexgard is its convenience. Most pets take Nexgard like a treat, avoiding the hassle of applying a topical.
Advantix (dogs only)	A topical that prevents fleas, ticks, mosquitoes, biting flies, and lice in dogs. Advantix is applied to the skin once every 30 days. Advantix is toxic to cats, so it is not recommended for use in houses with cats.
Frontline (cats and dogs)	A topical that prevents fleas, ticks, flea eggs and larvae, and chewing lice. Frontline is applied to the skin once every 30 days. It is a very affordable option if you prefer to use topical products.
Advantage (cats and dogs)	A topical that prevents fleas, flea larvae and eggs, and lice. Advantage does not prevent ticks. It is applied once every 30 days. Advantage is great for indoor cats but because it lacks tick prevention, does not work well for owners concerned about ticks or pets that spend time outside.

7 Ways to Keep Your Pet Healthy

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), here are 7 simple things you can do to keep your pet healthy:

1. Keep your pet at a healthy weight
2. Exercise your pet
3. Feed your pet a balanced and nutritious diet
4. Have your pet examined by a veterinarian at least once per year
5. Vaccinate your pet against potentially deadly diseases like rabies and parvovirus
6. Keep your pet free of parasites like fleas, ticks, and heartworms – consult with your veterinarian for the best product for your pet
7. Spay or neuter your pet



Ticks

Ticks are year-round hazards but are significantly worse during the warmer months of the year. They tend to live in tall grass or weeds. Ticks carry Lyme disease, as well as other diseases, that can be transmitted to your pet. Symptoms include lethargy; swollen, painful joints; lameness; fever; decreased appetite; swollen lymph nodes; and more serious complications if not treated. Ticks are tricky because of their small size; it's easy to overlook one, especially on dark or long-haired pets. You will want to check your pet for ticks regularly by running your hands through his fur. Ticks typically prefer the head, neck, ears, paws, and the inside of the legs but can be found anywhere so be thorough. You should also consider using a flea and tick preventative product for your pet.

Cars

NEVER leave your pet inside a car. Even quick trips into the store while your pet waits in the car can be extremely dangerous since the temperature in a car can reach over 100 degrees in just 10 minutes on a warm day.

BBQs and Family Picnics

Many of the foods people enjoy at picnics are dangerous for pets. Fatty, greasy, or spicy foods can cause gastrointestinal upset for your pet including diarrhea and vomiting. Raisins, grapes, onions, garlic, chocolate, and the sweetener xylitol are all toxic to pets. You should also avoid giving your pet corn cobs which can cause an obstruction since our pets cannot digest them. You should also never give your pet bones from meat. Bones are difficult to digest and in some cases, may splinter and harm your pet's gastrointestinal tract. To your pet, the bones and corn cobs smell just as good in the trash as they did on your plate, so make sure to keep trash away from your pet, too. Use a covered container and try to place trash in an area your pet cannot access.

Pesticides and Fertilizers

If you use pesticides or fertilizers in your yard, look for pet-friendly products. Some pesticides and fertilizers are dangerous for pets so check whichever product you have before using it. If you're not sure, it's best to contact the company.

Get Ready for Senior Pet Wellness Month Coming in September!



Senior pets need special care so we are dedicating the entire month of September to them. Throughout the month, we will be offering special discounts on senior wellness bloodwork and senior care products. Read ahead to learn more about senior pets, the benefits of having senior bloodwork done, and easy changes to make at home to keep a senior comfortable.

Our pets are considered seniors at seven years old. Much like their human counterparts, senior pets become more susceptible to diseases like diabetes and kidney disease as they age. Many of these diseases start out with small changes that may go unnoticed until the problem becomes serious. That's why senior bloodwork is so important. It can help us spot these health issues early. Hopefully, early detection and treatment of disease will help maintain health and prevent further illness. In addition to promoting early detection of disease, senior bloodwork also establishes baseline values for your pet creating a point of comparison should he ever become sick in the future.

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Senior Wellness Month *(Continued from page 3)*

Home care during your pet's golden years makes a difference, too. Providing your pet with a healthy environment keeps him happy and comfortable as he ages. Here are a few easy tips to help you keep your golden oldie feeling young.

1. Provide plenty of soft bedding for a senior pet to sleep on. Soft, thick bedding is better for his joints than a hard surface.
2. Depending on your senior pet's mobility, you might have to change where he sleeps. If he is no longer able to climb the steps every night, he will need a new comfortable place to sleep downstairs.
3. Keep your pet active both physically and mentally. Senior pets can experience senility so try to interact with him to keep his mind sharp. You will also want to continue physical activity though you might have to alter it to best fit your pet's needs and abilities. For example, instead of an intense game of fetch, your senior pet might enjoy a walk around the neighborhood.

With plenty of TLC, your furry senior will be as happy as ever in his old age. We want to help keep him healthy, too, so don't hesitate to schedule your pet's senior check-up or bloodwork this September. Specific information regarding special discounts will be available on our Facebook page and website very soon.

Here's What You Need to Know About Heartworm Disease

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease caused by worms that live and grow in the heart, lungs, and associated blood vessels of affected animals. Heartworms are transmitted to our pets by mosquitoes. Heartworm disease has been diagnosed in every state in the U.S. The most recent study conducted by the American Heartworm Society (AHS) found that more than one million pets in the United States have heartworm disease.

Heartworms cannot typically survive in cats but dogs are natural hosts for them. Mosquitoes carry and transmit heartworms, infecting your dog when they bite. If a dog is infected, heartworms can live and grow inside him and begin to reproduce. An owner might not notice any signs of infection in the early stages of the disease, however, with time and as the infection worsens, symptoms like coughing, reluctance to exercise, decreased appetite, weight loss, and fatigue may become apparent. Since heartworm disease is a progressive disease, early detection is of great importance. The only way to diagnose heartworm disease is with a blood test performed at a veterinarian's office. Heartworm disease can permanently damage the heart, lungs, and arteries, so heartworm prevention and routine testing are the best and safest options for keeping your pet heartworm-free.

Once your pet has been started on a heartworm prevention plan, we recommend heartworm testing every other year to ensure the preventative is working correctly. While heartworm prevention is typically very effective, it does not guarantee 100% protection so a test every other year is necessary to ensure a dog is heartworm-free. Any lapse in heartworm prevention makes a pet vulnerable to heartworm infection. Any pet who has missed three doses or more of preventative should be heartworm tested before restarting prevention. Once your dog has started heartworm prevention, it is most cost-effective and safer to continue heartworm prevention every month with no missed doses.

Heartworm prevention is one of the easiest ways to keep your dog healthy and protected. Heartworm preventative is affordable and easy to administer. If you would like more information about heartworm disease, testing, and prevention, head to heartwormsociety.org where you can find great resources for pet owners.