



# CROSSROADS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

## PetTalk

### Avoid the Summertime Blues

#### Your Pet Needs Protection from These Dangerous Parasites

These menacing parasites would love to invade your pet's body and destroy their health. Some worms can also infect the human members of your household! Following are 5 common varieties of parasites:

**Heartworms:** Heartworm disease can devastate a pet's quality of life. Spread to a cat or dog when they are bit by an infected mosquito, this parasite can grow to a foot long, living in the heart and lungs. Heartworm treatment for dogs is very harsh on its own and requires hospitalization. There is no cure for cats—prevention is the only option.

**Hookworms:** More common in dogs, eggs from adult hookworms are shed into the environment where their larvae can be ingested or can penetrate the skin of your pet. Hookworm infestation causes diarrhea, weight loss and anemia, and can cause severe anemia in puppies and older dogs.



**Roundworms:** Growing from 3 to 5 inches long, roundworms migrate to the lungs where they are often coughed up. Infected mothers frequently transmit the parasites to their puppies and kittens, who may have respiratory problems and appear pot-bellied.

**Whipworms:** More common in dogs than cats, whipworms live in the large intestine and are often difficult to diagnose because they shed very few eggs. The eggs can survive for years in soil, water, food and feces. Infestation can cause dehydration, anemia, and weight loss.

**Tapeworms:** Tapeworms are long, segmented worms that attach themselves to your pet's intestines and can grow large enough to cause an obstruction. They are transmitted to your pet through fleas and infected animals. Small segments that look like rice may appear in the stool or under the tail.

Worms can infect your pet year-round. How do you prevent these health-stealing parasites from infecting your dog or cat? Rigorously follow the parasite protection plan we recommend!

#### Microchip Technology: Peace of Mind for Pet Owners

Few things are more upsetting for a pet owner than to suddenly discover that a beloved dog or cat is missing. As much as they love the wonderful home you provide, sometimes the natural instinct to roam just gets the best of them. If they're unable to find their way back home, both you and your pet can have a real problem.

Fortunately, today's microchip technology can greatly increase the likelihood that your little darling will return home safely. A study conducted by the American Veterinary Medical Association found that dogs are 2.5 times more likely and cats are 21.4 times more likely to be returned to their homes from a shelter if they have a registered microchip.

The electronic microchip is about the size of a grain of rice. It's implanted under a pet's skin with a hypodermic needle in a quick procedure that causes no more discomfort than a typical injection. If your lost pet is found, a veterinarian or shelter uses a scanner that is passed over the area, and the chip transmits an identification number that guides them to the database where your contact information is stored.

If your pets are not yet microchipped, please call us to make an appointment and increase the likelihood that your lost pet will return home!

**August 15 is National Check the Chip Day.** Be sure to update your registered contact information and have us test your pet's microchip on your next visit. Then, put Check the Chip Day on your calendar for next year!



#### Snakebite Risk

Snakes are active spring through fall, and dogs are bitten more than any other domestic animal. The venom in snakebites can cause severe pain, inflammation, numbness, clotting defects, tissue destruction, loss of limbs, and paralysis.

Symptoms include puncture marks, drooling, trouble breathing, pale gums, swelling, weakness, vomiting and disorientation. Some symptoms may not appear for several hours. If your pet is bitten, keep them calm and seek medical care immediately. A snake bite is always an emergency! It is helpful to the vet if you can find and identify the type of snake.

The best way to avoid snake bites is to keep your dog on a leash and stay on a known path instead of allowing them to explore on their own. Many snakes are nocturnal, so be especially careful at night.

Prepare for snake bites by keeping our hospital phone number and emergency numbers handy. Keep Benadryl on hand to reduce the reaction. If your surroundings put your dog at high risk, ask us about snakebite vaccines.



#### Summer Heat Warning!

Hot weather poses many dangers to pets, including hyperthermia or heat stroke. Heat stroke most often occurs because a pet is left in a parked car, isn't provided with adequate shade and water, or is allowed to exercise too strenuously in hot weather. Follow these tips to keep your pet safe:

- NEVER leave your pet in a car. Even with the windows cracked or parked in shade, the inside temperature of a car can reach 120 degrees in minutes!
- Dogs often don't know when to quit while they're having fun—it's our responsibility to limit their play in hot weather. Walk them only during cooler hours of the day.
- Don't allow pets to walk on hot pavement where their feet can be burned.
- Keep pets indoors during extreme heat. If they must be outdoors, be sure they are completely under shade.
- Pets require more water to stay cool in the summer. Keep water dishes full, fresh, and in the shade.
- DON'T shave your pet's coat except for medical reasons. Your pet sheds its warm undercoat as temperatures rise, and its remaining outer coat protects its skin from the sun, insects and dehydration.



Call Crossroads Animal Hospital today at (512) 321-0506!

## Paws for a Thought: Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?

Wildfire season is approaching, and as many people from Bastrop County know, disaster can strike at any time. Last year, the county endured three major events: the Memorial Day flood, the Hidden Pines fire and the Halloween flood. Disasters such as these can have people and pets scrambling to get out fast!

Take these steps to help keep your pets safe:

- Stay aware of weather warnings in the area. If the weather service is predicting the possibility of flash floods, or red flag warnings are posted when we've been short on rainfall, believe the warnings.
- Prepare an emergency kit for your animals. This should include food for a week, drinking water, medications, a copy of vaccination records, photographs of you and your pets, leashes, and carriers.
- Be sure your pets are microchipped and have a collar with identification and current rabies tags — even if they are "indoor only" pets. They may escape your home in fear during a disaster. And you want to help someone who may find them be able to identify your pets.
- Know ahead of time places where you can board or stay with your fur friends. In the Bastrop area, Crossroads Animal Hospital has a fully staffed boarding facility, and Best Friends Boarding Kennel has two locations in the area. Pet-friendly hotels include Comfort Suites in Bastrop and America's Best Value Inn in Smithville.
- Exchange pet information and access to spare house keys with a trusted neighbor. If you are away from home when disaster strikes, they may be able to help evacuate your animals for you.



**Refer a Friend and Save!** Refer a new client and you'll each **SAVE \$10** on your next doctor's visit! Be sure to mention this ad when you make your appointments!

### Vaccines Super Savings

**SAVE 20%**  
on regular vaccination packages  
Canines: \$129.66 (Reg. \$162.07)  
Felines: \$93.56 (Reg. \$116.95)  
Call us today for more details  
on our special vaccines packages!  
Expires 8/31/2016.

### Dental Package Savings

**SAVE 20%**  
Includes:  
Blood Panel, Exam, Anesthesia, post-surgical care,  
IV or subcutaneous fluids,  
Scaling, Polishing & Fluoride  
Antibiotics if needed, Complimentary Nail Trim  
**\$176 (Reg. \$220)**

**SUPER SAVINGS: Save an Additional \$10!**

Expires 8/31/2016. Excludes extractions.  
Not valid with any other savings. May omit items but price  
remains same — no substitutions.

### Save on Doctor's Visit

**SAVE \$10**  
on Veterinary Services of \$30 or more  
Must be presented at time of purchase.  
Not valid with any other offers. Expires 8/31/2016.

### Canine or Feline Spay or Neuter

**20% SAVINGS**  
on Tuesdays & Thursdays  
**SUPER SAVINGS: Save an Additional \$10!**  
Expires 8/31/2016.

### Canine or Feline Senior Wellness Package

**50% SAVINGS**

Includes:  
CBC (Complete Blood Count), Blood Panel, Thyroid Test (T4),  
Urinalysis, Urine Protein Creatinine Ratio  
Expires 8/31/2016.  
Valid for preventative care only.



ENRICHING THE LIVES OF PETS AND PEOPLE

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[www.crossroadsanimalhospital.vet](http://www.crossroadsanimalhospital.vet)

### Mobile App Users Drawing!

Download our new mobile app  
(Crossroads Vet) and enter to win  
a \$100 Visa Gift Card

To enter, click "Enter Drawing" link on app.  
Drawing will be held August 31, 2016.

Call (512) 321-0506 to schedule an appointment!



See our  
**Cool Summer Savings**  
for the  
hot days ahead!

Call  
**(512) 321-0506**  
to make an appointment.