



Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown

"We'll treat your pet like family!"

Newsletter

January – March 2012

Vectra 3D –

Many of us have experienced the overwhelming task this year of fighting fleas. A lot of pets that have never had fleas before are suddenly infested! There are numerous reasons why this can be happening:

- 1) There are more fleas in the environment than previous years.
- 2) Flea medications are not being applied properly.
- 3) Flea medications are being washed off with frequent bathing.
- 4) Flea medications are counterfeit (happens most often with medications purchased online).
- 5) Not all pets in the household (inside and outside) are being treated.
- 6) Flea medication is not being applied at the proper intervals; i.e. once a month.
- 7) The flea medication itself is not effective and potentially harmful. Hartz, Sargents, and Bio Spot are a few such medications.

Whatever the reason, fleas can get out of control quickly. And the bad news is, if the pet is infested, the home also then has all stages of the flea life cycle just waiting to emerge and make your pets into dinner!

For every adult flea you see, there are hundreds that you don't. One adult flea can lay thousands of eggs in its lifetime.



Not only do fleas cause itchy skin, some pets develop allergies to the flea bites called flea allergy dermatitis. Fleas can also cause tapeworms in pets and humans and anemia from the large amount of blood that the fleas feed on. Fleas are also known carriers of the bubonic plague!

There has been an outcry from our clients for a flea product that actually works. Many folks feel that Frontline Plus is no longer effective and while Frontline Plus has long been our choice for flea and tick prevention, we feel a better and more effective product has been introduced: Vectra 3D. Vectra 3D is

only sold by veterinarians to their patients. There are so many over the counter flea and tick preventions on the market that is difficult to know which one will work the best and is safest for your pet. We have taken the guess work out of the equation for you.

Vectra 3D not only kills fleas and ticks, it also repels mosquitoes, and other biting parasites. It works quickly (kills 99% of fleas within 6 hours) and lasts for an entire month. As with any flea and tick prevention, Vectra 3D should be used monthly and year round as any break in protection will allow the fleas to re-infest the environment.

Vectra 3D is ONLY for dogs. One of the active ingredients, permethrin, is toxic to cats if ingested and can cause anything from drooling to death. Once the product is dry however, it poses no threat to cats. So this simply means that if you have a mixed species household, the cat and dog should be kept separate until the product has dried completely. For our feline patients, we will continue to carry Frontline Plus and Advantage Multi.

Vectra 3D is waterproof and the pet can be bathed as soon as 2 days after application although a soap-free shampoo is still highly recommended. If you would prefer to bathe before applying the Vectra 3D, you only need wait until the pet is dry; not 48 hours as recommended with Frontline Plus. This ensures no break in protection.

It is certainly tempting to grab a pack of OTC flea and tick prevention at Wal-Mart or PetsMart while you are there, but think about this; how much do you really know about those products? Can the teenager working the register really make a better recommendation than your veterinarian? Our doctors and staff have devoted their lives to the care and safety of our patients and are prepared to answer questions and make educated recommendations.

Vectra 3D is available now and can be purchased in place of your Frontline Plus when refill time comes.

Thank You –

We would like to say a gigantic "Thank you" to our wonderful clients for helping us to raise nearly \$800 this season! Between the pet pictures with Santa and our annual stocking fund raiser, we were able to purchase supplies to send to our K-9 Military teams. We purchased such items as winter coats, boots, sweaters, bedding, and food and water bowls and sent them to the teams that are in need. We also were able to purchase some

necessities for the handlers such as chap stick, gloves, tissues, snacks, and games. We are so thrilled to be able to help such a worthy cause and we couldn't do it without you! We will continue to collect items and monetary donations throughout the year, so feel free to drop by and donate anytime. For a complete list of items needed, you can stop by the office or visit our website at www.funkstownvet.com.



“The Dachshund is a fun loving, often comical little dog”

Breed All About It – The Dachshund

HISTORY:

The Dachshund was first developed in Germany several hundred years ago. The Dachshund and the Basset Hound probably had common ancestors. The name Dachshund comes from the word “hund,” meaning dog, and the word “dach,” for the badger they were originally bred to hunt. This low to the ground little dog is unusually strong and very courageous for its size. They are known for tackling game much larger than themselves. Larger dogs, those that weighed 35lbs. or more, were used to trail deer and foxes, and the smaller dogs were used to pursue stoats and ferrets. In the early 20th century, the miniature of the breed was introduced to hunt rabbits. In The United States, where the breed is used primarily as a family companion or used for show, their chests generally reach nearly to the ground. In Germany, France, Belgium and other European countries, the breed is still used for hunting and is better built for such.



APPEARANCE:

Size: 2 sizes: standard (9 inches) and miniature (under 5 inches)

Weight: 2 sizes: standard (10-20 lbs.) and miniature (under 10 lbs.)

Color: Various colors; solid red, which covers various shades of tan to yellow; black, chocolate, gray or white, each with tan markings; or dappled gray or brown with dark patches.

Eyes: Reddish brown to brownish black.

Ears: Long, rounded ears.

Body Structure: Light, short legged, long bodied, deep chested and compact. A muscular body and long ears set near the top of his head. Two different sizes: standard and miniature.

Hair Coat: More coat types than any other breed: smooth, longhaired or wirehaired.

Possible Health Problems: Some dogs may develop intervertebral disk

disease, diabetes. Urinary stones, pattern baldness, adrenal gland problems and acanthosis nigricans are all possible.

POSITIVE QUALITIES:

The Dachshund is a fun loving, often comical little dog. It enjoys play and is a loyal friend and companion. There is very little grooming with any of the coated varieties, and it is a good apartment pet.

NEGATIVE QUALITIES:

The Dachshund needs to be purchased from a reputable breeder; because of their body structure, they are prone to problems if not bred properly.

Calendar of Events –

January –

Sunday January 1st – HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Wednesday January 4th – Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday January 11th - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday January 18th - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday January 25th - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

February –

Wednesday February 1st - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Friday February 3rd – HAPPY GROUNDHOG’S DAY! Early Spring or more Winter?

Wednesday February 8th - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Tuesday February 14th – HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY! Give your pet(s) a smooch!

Wednesday February 15th - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday February 22nd - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday February 29th - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

March –

Wednesday March 7th - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed



*“This is where we all
come together for the
good of your pet”*



Wednesday March 14th - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Saturday March 17th – HAPPY ST. PATRICK’S DAY!

Wednesday March 21st - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Wednesday March 28th - Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. – Office Closed

Welcome!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Maria Ciaravella as our new full time veterinary associate. Dr. Ciaravella graduated from Auburn with special interests in feline medicine, internal medicine, emergency and critical care and animal behavior. She currently resides in Hagerstown with her 4-legged family, 3 cats and 1 dog. While nobody can replace Dr. Caldwell, we are very excited to have Dr. Ciaravella join our team. Stop in after January 16th to help us welcome her.

Dental Month –

The average adult dog has 42 teeth and the average adult cat has 30. Comparatively, an adult human has an average of 32 teeth. So if your family has 4 humans, 2 dogs, and a cat, that means there are 242 teeth in your house! That’s a whole lot of teeth to take care of! No wonder animal dentistry is often overlooked!

We all know how important it is to brush our own teeth every day and go to the dentist for a professional cleaning twice a year, but what about our furry companions? When was the last time you brushed Cujo’s teeth or had a professional dental cleaning done on Princess? With life being so hectic, it is easy to lose track of time: I’ll brush Cujo’s teeth tomorrow or I just had Princess’ teeth cleaned 6 months ago (more like 2 years). Perhaps you remember when you almost pass out from Cujo’s breath! Or when Princess stops eating, you may suspect her teeth are the issue. Either way, by attending to their teeth on a regular basis, you can prevent bad breath, a sore mouth, and damage to your pet’s internal organs.

Our pets cannot tell us when they hurt or feel sick. They cannot say “Hey, my tooth is sore.” Or “I have a funny taste in my mouth.” This is where we all come together for the good of your pet. At their yearly (or bi-yearly for seniors) exam, the doctor will

check the teeth and see if a professional cleaning is needed.

As always, we will be offering a \$10 discount on professional dental cleanings during the month of February. Be sure to schedule your appointment soon as they go quickly!

Don’t forget we also accept Care Credit as a form of payment for dentals among other services. Wouldn’t it be nice to get your pet the care they need and be able to make payments without interest? Ask us how!

BRVBB –

We have all seen the “reality” shows where the emergency room doctor yells to his nurse, “I need 2 liters of blood STAT! This patient needs a transfusion now or he is not going to make it!”

This conjures pictures of gaping wounds and squirting jugular veins. And while this does happen every day to people, it can also happen to our four-legged friends as well.



So while the local hospital is well stocked with every type of blood needed for such emergencies, where does the blood come from when a dog needs a transfusion?

There is a wonderful place called the Blue Ridge Veterinary Blood Bank that supplies blood all over the country to more than 500 animal hospitals. While the idea of dog blood donation is not a new one in the veterinary industry, it is certainly a new one for pet owners. In years past, and in some instances still to this day, canine blood was collected from dogs specifically kept for this purpose alone. They are caged animals that are taken out when a donation is needed and returned to their cage until they are needed again! Sounds pretty awful right?

So when the folks who started the Blue Ridge Veterinary Blood Bank put their heads together, the idea they came up with was to use canine volunteers. These are dogs that live with families who love them and live happy, normal lives. The dogs they use want to volunteer! How do we know this? Because the dogs willingly lay on a table, spooning with



the technician and gobbling down more treats than any dog should have in one day and come out happier than when they went in! If for any reason the dog is not completely at ease with the process, the BRVBB team will stop what they are doing and let the pet come back another time.

There are a few guidelines for donor dogs:

1. They must weigh more than a healthy 35 pounds (no chubby Chihuahuas)
2. They must be between the ages of 9 months and 8 years
3. They must be on heartworm prevention and up to date on vaccines
4. They can not be on any long term medications (with the exception of thyroid medication)
5. They need to be able to lay still (with help) for ~10-15 minutes
6. They must have owners that are willing to make the commitment to bring the pet in to donate every 5-7 weeks

So human nature may make us ask, what's in it for me? Your dog will have yearly blood work which includes: CBC/Profile, Heartworm and Lyme tests, and Brucella testing. And what does this all cost? For you...NOTHING! Simply your time. The BRVBB spends ~\$400 per year on their donors making sure they are healthy! And all they ask is your commitment to their cause.

One donation sample can turn into 4 life saving products. So one dog can save up to 40-50 lives per year! Just imagine how happy you would be if it was your pet being saved by the generosity of another family.

The BRVBB is based out of Purcellville, VA but Animal Health Clinic has been a donation site for the last 8 years but our donation numbers are dwindling. While many of our dogs are still donors, the number of donor dogs from the public is nearly nothing. That being said, our goal is to increase those numbers dramatically! We know that everyone has a busy life and time has to be prioritized but all we are asking for is 45 minutes every 5-7 weeks!

You may visit the Blue Ridge Veterinary Blood Bank website at www.BRVBB.com to sign your pet up and for more information. You are also welcome to call and speak with our staff as well.

Referral Program –

Wanted: folks willing to accept multiple \$20 gift certificates to be used on goods and/or services here at Animal Health Clinic of Funkstown. A strange request? Maybe at first glance. We want to be able to reward our loyal clients for referring their friends and family to us! The next time Aunt Sue talks about how her dog "Groucho" needs his shots, remember to mention us and if Aunt Sue comes to see us, we will mail you a \$20 gift certificate! It's that simple!

Referrals are so important to us, not only because we are always looking to expand our 4-legged family but also because it lets us know that we are doing our jobs! We realize it requires a great deal of trust to allow anyone to care for a member of your family, so the ultimate compliment we can receive is a referral from a happy pet parent. And rest assured there are no limits on the number of gift certificates you can receive!

Thank you again for your trust and your commitment to your pet.

www.funkstownvet.com



Animal Health Clinic
of Funkstown
26 East Baltimore Street
P.O. Box 669
Funkstown, Maryland 21734

