

IN THIS MONTHS ISSUES!

- Happy Easter!
- April is National Heartworm Awareness Month!
- Adopt; Don't Shop By Dr. Goessling



EASTER SAFETY TIPS!

- All parts of the Easter lily, day lily, tiger lily, rubrum lily, and others are toxic to feline
- Most chocolate contains high amounts of fat and methylxanthine alkaloids (theobromine and caffeine) that cause constriction of arteries, increased heart rate, and central nervous system/cardiac muscle stimulation.
- Keep Easter basket 'grass' and foil candy wrappers away from pets.
- As tempting as it may be to let your pups gnaw on the ham bone or enjoy other scrapes from your holiday dinner, there are many problems that can be avoided by not letting them eat people food. Instead, you could always buy a special dog treat for them in celebration of the holiday!
- Be cautious with any new plants you bring into your house or yard. There are many plants that are toxic to dogs and cats so plant accordingly!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HEARTWORM DISEASE

- **What is Heartworm Disease?**

Heartworm Disease is a potentially fatal disease where adult worms live inside the pulmonary arteries. Heartworms can cause lasting damage to the heart, lungs and arteries.

- **How do dogs contract Heartworm Disease?**

Heartworms are transmitted from one dog to another by mosquitoes, which pick up tiny immature heartworms, called microfilariae, when they bite an infected dog. Larvae develop and are then transmitted to another dog when that dog is bitten by the infected mosquito.

- **What dogs are at risk for Heartworm Disease?**

All dogs are at risk for Heartworm Disease. This disease is spread by mosquitos and even dogs that are primarily indoors are at risk.

- **How do I know if my dog has Heartworm Disease?**

A yearly blood test done at your pets' annual visit with their Veterinarian will tell if your pet has been infected with Heartworm Disease.

- **Are cats at risk for Heartworm Disease?**

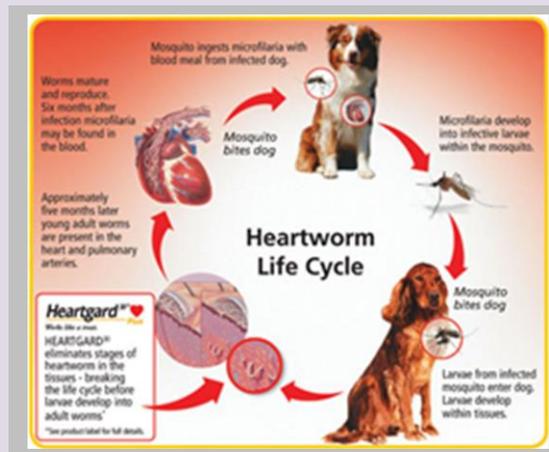
Cats are not a typical host for Heartworms and most heartworms in cats will not live to adulthood. However, there are risks to cats from even having immature worms. There can still be damage which causes a condition called Heartworm Associated Respiratory Disease.

- **What can I do to prevent Heartworm disease in my dog?**

The best way to prevent Heartworm Disease to keep your dog a monthly preventive from your Veterinarian. Our preferred medication is Heartgard, which is a beef flavored chewable table that most dogs love!



HEARTGARD PLUS



HEARTWORM LIFE CYCLE

Adopt; Don't Shop!
By Dr. Jennifer Goessling

Did you know that the ASPCA (American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) was founded on April 10, 1866? The ASPCA is a broad organization that has not only helped ensure the welfare of our furry friends for over 150 years, but also works with shelters all over the country to help find surrendered and stray animals a loving, forever home.

If you are thinking of adding a four legged friend to your home, we at Abbey urge you to consider adoption versus buying a puppy or kitten from a breeder. Some perks of adopting a shelter animal include:

1. The satisfaction of knowing that you have given that cat or dog (or rabbit, etc.) a second chance at a loving home.
2. Many shelters do behavioral testing prior to putting animals up for adoption, so you should have a good idea of if the pet will be good with other pets or kids before you take it home.
3. Many shelter pets already have their first round of vaccines and at least one, if not multiple, exams by a veterinarian, so you should know in advance any health problems the potential pet may have. Many have also already been spayed or neutered so you don't have to worry about that expense down the road.
4. Some shelters will provide basic obedience training prior to adoption or will have obedience classes at reduced rates for adopted pets.
5. Many shelter pets are already house-broken or litterbox trained.
6. By adopting a shelter pet, you are opening up space for the shelter to take in another cat or dog and save it from being euthanized.
7. Getting a new puppy can require A LOT of time and effort, but adopting an older dog or cat can be a better fit for many families- they are usually more laid back and don't require as much supervision.



ABBEY ANIMAL HOSPITAL



Spring is here! Don't forget to start using your monthly flea and tick preventive!



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OR

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www.abbeyanimalhospital.com

www.abbeyanimalhospital.com



Abbey Animal Hospital

8858 Belair RD
Perry Hall, MD 21236
410-256-0742