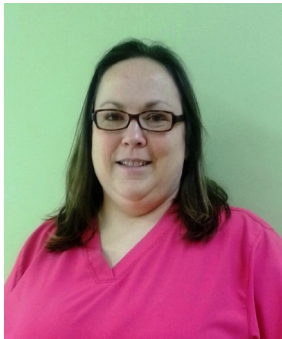


LCAH IS GROWING AND CHANGING- NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Wright is our new full time receptionist. It is no coincidence that at the same time our long time employee, Jacki Kinnis, decided to accept a new job opportunity, that Jessica began her job search as her former employer, Dr. Mary Gebhart retired from dentistry and closed her practice.

Jessica grew up in Lyon County and married her high school sweetheart, Scott Wright. Their son, Morgan, is active in soccer and has begun playing the piano. After earning her Associates degree in Science, Jessica worked as a stay at home mom until 2013, when she began working at Dr. Gebhart's Dentistry office.

As active members at Macedonia Baptist Church, Jessica and her family have been on several mission trips to both Mexico and Guatemala. In addition to mission work, Jessica loves her 2 dogs, Rusty and Gus, cat- Gordito, and bird- Tiko.



Juju (Lejune) Floyd

is coming to LCAH as our new groomer. Originally from the area, Juju attended both public and home school. With a love for animals early on, Juju knew she would have a career working with them somehow. Since 2013, Juju has worked in the PetSmart Grooming Salon in Paducah, where she received professional training. Juju's training allows her to groom a variety of different breeds and create specific looks. Her favorite styles to groom include poodles and shih-tzu's.

At only 21, Juju is excited to be coming back to the area and starting her solo grooming career with us at LCAH. One companion that will be making the move with her is her dog, Parker. She rescued him from the roadside one year ago. Together, they enjoy family road trips and just about anything outdoors.



Thank you for your patience and support in our time of change! LCAH strives to offer you highly trained staff who can help you and your pets along your journey with the most current and comprehensive knowledge available.

Even Bigger Changes!

Our Veterinary Technician, Kelley, and husband, Nick, are expecting their first child to arrive in September!



Spring Rabies Clinic

March 26- April 2

1yr Rabies \$5.00

All other vaccines and wellness screens are discounted!

Lyon County Animal Hospital

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Eddyville, KY 42038

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E-mail: Lyoncountyanimal@bellsouth.net

Visit us at www.lyoncountyanimalhospital.vetstreet.com

Lyon County Animal Hospital

Spring 2016

Around the Watering Bowl

Keeping You Informed on "Ruff's Up"



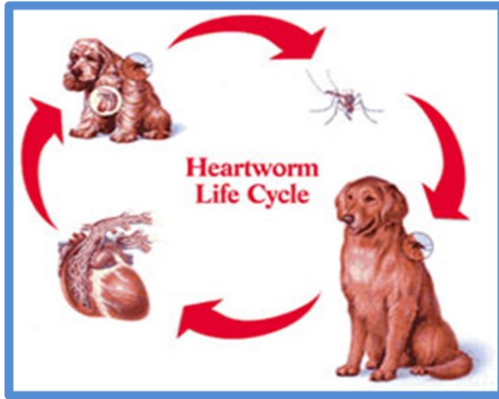
Inside:

- The Truth about Heartworms
- Heartworm Prevention is Easy!
- New Faces at LCAH

Tel: 270-388-0334



HEARTWORM DISEASE- WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



What Are Heartworms and How Do They Affect My Pet?

Heartworms (*Dirofilaria immitis*) are a parasite that infect predominately dogs but can pose a threat to cats as well. This parasite is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito harboring *microfilaria*, or immature heartworms. The *microfilaria* then travel through blood vessels until they reach the major blood vessels of the heart and lungs where they will reside. **One heartworm can grow up to 12 inches long.** An infected animal can harbor anywhere from one single heartworm up to hundreds of worms.

Heartworm disease risk is epidemic in the southeastern United States where warm climates allow for large mosquito populations. In colder climates, the risk is still a cause for concern. Also, areas with wild dog, wolf, and coyote populations increase the risk as they are vectors for heartworms. Recent expo-

nential growth rates of the occurrence of heartworm disease reinforce the need for year round heartworm prevention protocols. **Here at LCAH, we diagnose between 20-40 new cases per year!**

What Are The Symptoms of Heartworms?

Routine testing for heartworms is highly recommended because a heartworm positive pet may not show any clinical symptoms for years, or until there is irreversible damage to the internal organs. The nature of this parasite is to reside in the major blood vessels of the heart and lungs making it difficult for the heart to move blood and oxygen efficiently. A dog with a large number of heartworms can be equated to a human with severely clogged arteries and heart disease.

Dogs with more advanced stages of heartworm disease may experience a mild ongoing cough, exercise intolerance, fatigue, and weight loss. Severe or end stage heart disease additionally may present with fluid buildup in the lungs or abdomen, heart attack, liver or kidney failure, and death.

How is Heartworm Disease Treated?

Once a patient has tested positive for heartworms, the veterinarian will decide upon the best treatment protocol for that pet. Generally, radiographs and blood tests are used to confirm and show the severity of the disease. Unless the progression of the disease is severe and the patient is in poor health, the treatment will begin.

Heartworm treatment involves a series of injections of a potent medication that slowly kills the parasites over 2-3 months. During this time, limiting exercise is crucial. The veterinarian may also prescribe antibiotics and anti-inflammatories to minimize the risk of reaction and side effects of the treatment (which may include pain, fever, lethargy, etc.) Heartworm treatment is also costly, and does not eliminate the chances of re-infection in the future.

Once Monthly Heartworm Prevention is as Easy as Marking Your Calendar!

Monthly Oral Tablet



Monthly Topical



How Can I Prevent Heartworm Disease in My Pet?

Heartworm preventatives are safe, inexpensive, and highly effective when used properly. Most preventatives are given once a month and come in the form of a chewable treat. Year-round prevention is recommended not only for protection against mosquitoes on those occasional warm winter days, but the preventative medicines also protect against certain intestinal parasites that live in the environment.

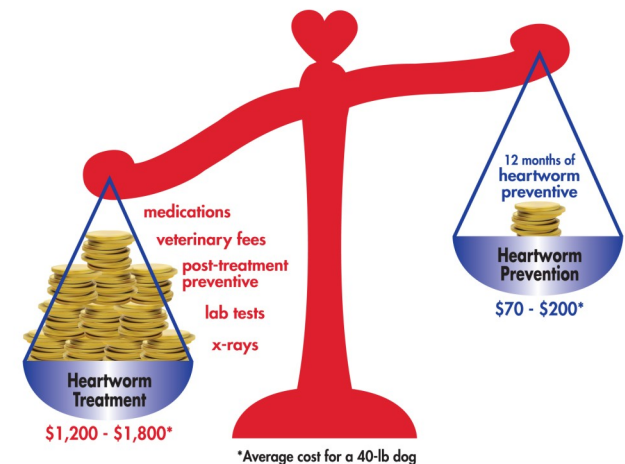
A heartworm test must be completed before starting a preventative medication. Additionally, a dog should be tested annually for heartworms. A quick test is performed in the veterinarian's office and only requires a small amount of blood. Results are ready in about 8 minutes. A drop of blood can also be examined under a microscope to see the presence of *microfilaria* (immature heartworms). Most heartworm tests also detect tick borne diseases such as Lyme disease and Ehrlichia.



A Heartworm Test takes 8 minutes to get results.

Weigh the Costs

Heartworm Treatment vs Heartworm Prevention



PROTECT YOUR PET FROM HEARTWORM 12 MONTHS A YEAR. TEST FOR HEARTWORM EVERY 12 MONTHS.
www.heartwormsociety.org

Go to www.heartwormsociety.org for more information and detailed graphics