

## We've joined the .com society!

Our fast evolving culture turns more and more to internet and social media for resources and obtaining information. Lyon County Animal Hospital now offers a website complete with the tools to make pet ownership easier and more convenient.

Pet Portal is a great program that our website offers where you can create a username and password to securely access your pet's history and vaccine records. Also, through the website, you can schedule appointments, email questions, and print off clinic forms.

Interested in learning more about LCAH? On our website, you will find a virtual tour of the hospital, along with bios for Dr. Davis and each staff member. Over 100 pages of care guides are available to provide insight on important pet issues such as training, specific disease, first aid, and much more.

If that isn't enough, our website has an online pharmacy where you can purchase all of your pet's medications, leashes, treats, and food. Now you can shop with piece of mind knowing that prescriptions are verified through LCAH first for the safety of your pet, every product is backed and supported by LCAH, and you are helping to keep business local. Prices are based on the ever changing market of online pharmacy prices.

We are here not only to provide exemplary medical care for your pet and give you the knowledge you need to be a successful pet owner, but also to make such care convenient and affordable. Our website now tailors to your every need and provides information to keep you informed. Visit us at

**[www.lyoncountyanimalhospital.vetstreet.com](http://www.lyoncountyanimalhospital.vetstreet.com)**

Don't forget you can also "Like us" on Facebook!



*Congratulations Elora and Keith! Baby Chloe*

*Diane Blue was born on May 14th at 7:45pm!*



★★★★★**COUPON**★★★★★

**\$6.00 Nail Trim**

with Coupon

(Regular Price \$9.50)

\*Limit 4 pets per family. Coupon expires 7/31/2012

## Buyer Beware!- What Are You Really Buying With Over-the-Counter Parasite Preventations and Treatments?

Large retail stores are now able to sell monthly parasite preventatives and treatments at advertised lower prices. Yes, it may be convenient to pick up your pet's medication at the same place you pick up the groceries, but consider the risks involved before you buy.

As the campaign for the generic product claims to have the same ingredients as Frontline TopSpot, while the active ingredient may be the same, the carrier agent in the generic brand is not the same; and in fact, Frontline TopSpot is the original formulation of the product. What is sold in clinics and stores currently is Frontline Plus, which in addition to having a product to kill fleas and ticks, also has a product to prevent larval flea stages from maturing into adults (which the generics do not include).

Monthly Heartworm Preventatives are now being sold outside the Veterinary Offices. Although presumed effective in Heartworm prevention, products NOT sold through a Veterinarian are NOT backed by manufacturer's guarantees. In addition, an annual negative heartworm test is required for the purchase of Heartworm Prevention (to prevent potentially severe side effects), and retail stores may not be aware of or abiding by this policy. It is for the safety of your pet that these tests are required. Contrary to some TV advertisements, prescription products DO require an active patient-veterinarian relationship.

Worried about prices? Take a minute to review our prices on Manufacture guaranteed products and with our rebates, verses generic products over the counter with no guarantee. Contact us at 270-388-0334, or come to our office to see our competitive rates! You will be surprised!



Follow Skeeter on our Facebook page! Skeeter will be going on adventures to businesses in Eddyville and blogging about his experiences!

### Lyon County Animal Hospital

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**Lyon County Animal Hospital**

June– July 2012

## Around the Watering Bowl

A Quarterly Newsletter



### Inside:

- All about Pet Allergies and why they itch
- Over the Counter Parasite Prevention – Do you know what you are really buying?
- LCAH now offers Boarding!
- View pet records, buy products, and make appointments on our new website

Tel: 270-388-0334

[www.lyoncountyanimalhospital.vetstreet.com](http://www.lyoncountyanimalhospital.vetstreet.com)

# WHAT MAKES PETS ITCH

## Understanding Pet Allergies by Kelley Coleman, LVT

There is something to love about every season during the year, from the feel of snowflakes landing on your face in the winter, to beautiful flowers blooming in the spring, swimming in the lake all summer long, and the crisp smell of fall; but one season I like nothing about is ALLERGY SEASON!

I am sure I don't stand alone when it comes to a stuffy nose, itchy eyes, and sinus headaches during allergy season. But what about our pets; do they suffer from allergies too? The answer is YES! Pets commonly encounter seasonal allergies, as well as allergies to various insects, foods, and materials.

Where people's allergy symptoms most likely manifest as sneezing, sinus congestion, etc.; pets who suffer from allergies present with Atopy, or itchy skin, red skin, hair loss, and occasional secondary bacterial or yeast infections of the skin. What causes Atopy? Let's break down the four main causes of allergens—

1. **Food allergy** is commonly noted by itchy skin, and redness around the flanks and perianal region. Digestive upset may also occur. The allergy may be due to a color dye in the food, or a specific ingredient. A food elimination trial with a resolve of symptoms will diagnose a food allergy.
2. **Contact allergy** is less common, but may occur with contact to specific materials such as carpets, wool, or topical products. A typical reaction may occur in the stomach, ears, and areas exposed without hair cover.
3. **Flea Allergy**, not to be confused with a mild, localized reaction to a bug bite, is a severe generalized reaction which may include red, inflamed skin, severe itching, hair loss, hyperpigmentation, and infection. A pet with flea bite allergy suffers from a hypersensitivity to the saliva from a flea bite.
4. **Atopic Dermatitis** is classified as a hypersensitivity to inhaled or dermally absorbed allergens such as pollen and dust. Pets that scratch, chew, and lick uncontrollably without any other known cause may suffer from this complex of allergic reactions.



Resolution of an allergy can be difficult for the fact that multiple contributing factors can cause identical symptoms. A pet who suffers from inhalant allergy or seasonal allergies, like people, will most likely encounter symptoms from time to time even with treatment.

Have your veterinarian examine your pet to eliminate other possible causes of irritated skin such as Demodectic Mange or internal diseases that affect the skin and hair coat. Elimination trials help to narrow the possible allergens when symptoms improve after removal of a pathogen (i.e. food ingredients, keeping the pet away from grasses). Treating your pet with a monthly flea preventative will help reduce the number of bites. Allergy testing can be done to determine the level of hypersensitivity to specific pollens, plants, and insects.

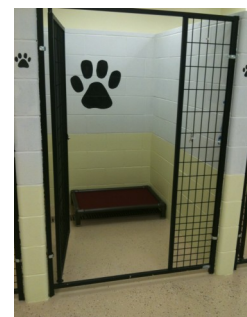
Daily oral medications such as antihistamines, over the counter allergy medications, and essential fatty acid supplements all help to reduce allergic symptoms. In severe cases, steroids and antibiotics may be needed to counteract the affects of chronic allergies. Unfortunately, there is no cure for an allergic pet or person, only ongoing supplemental treatment! Visit our website link to the newsletter for more information and pictures about Pet Allergies!

## Quiz— Test your knowledge on common parasites!

1. **True or False—** Heartworm prevention does not need to be given in the winter.  
False— Even in the winter, intestinal parasites can still be transmitted through the soil. Mosquitoes can hatch out any time the temperature gets above 50 degrees!
2. **True or False—** Fleas do not fly.  
True— Fleas do have wings, but do not fly. They do, however have the capability to jump up to 200 times their body length.
3. Ticks are a member of what family?  
A) Arachnid B) Insect C) Mite  
\*The answer is actually A— Ticks are considered ectoparasites in the arachnid family that feed on the blood of mammals.
4. How many eggs can 1 flea lay per day?  
A) 5 B) 50 C) 500  
\* The answer is B— One adult flea can lay 50 eggs per day; imagine how fast that population can grow!



## Going Away? Let Your Pet Stay With Us!



Each dog run comes with a Kuranda Bed for comfort!

Along with our new kennel service, we also offer day boarding, behavior training, and full service grooming services. **Summer Special- For June and July, board your cat for only \$7/night and your dog for only \$11/night!**



Cat condos have access to multiple "rooms" and hiding spots, as well as a view of the waiting room.

We now offer an upscale boarding facility for both dogs and cats! Our trained staff will cater to your pet's needs, and give them plenty of attention and exercise. To ensure your pet's safety, we require that all pets must be current on all vaccines. We also guarantee a flea free environment. For extended stays, pets will receive a free bath and brush out. All other guests are offered baths at a discounted rate.

5. Ticks can transmit what diseases?  
A) Ehrlichia B) Tapeworms C) Lyme Disease  
D) Both A and C  
\* The answer is D— Tapeworms can be transmitted by fleas, not ticks.
6. Pets can get these parasites year round from the dirt-  
A) Roundworms B) Hookworms C) Mealworms  
D) Whipworms E) A, B and D  
\* The answer is E— Mealworms are not intestinal parasites.
7. Flea larva have the ability to hibernate in your home for?  
A) 2 weeks B) 6 months C) 350 days  
\* The answer is C!— Flea larvae will wait for ideal conditions before they hatch out, which may be months after a flea problem seemed to be eradicated.
8. **True or False—** Mosquitoes transmit Heartworms, which can cause irreversible damage to the heart.  
\* TRUE!
9. Tapeworms passed in the stool often look like  
A) spaghetti B) Grains of Rice C) Not visible  
\*The answer is B— Tapeworms are passed in small segments, where Roundworms are passed in the stool whole and resemble spaghetti.