

# Winslow Animal Hospital

## Summer Newsletter 2014



## Summer Tips



### Winslow Animal Hospital

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### Joke Corner

Q: Why did the dog cross the road twice?  
(answer on p 3)

If you want to be ready for a fantastic summer, consider some of these tips:

**Car Safety:** If you don't already use a canine restraint device for your dog, invest in one now. It is safer for you to have your pet still while you're driving and safer for the pet in the event of an accident or sudden braking.

**NEVER leave pets in parked cars:** Even with windows down on a day that's not too hot, a car can heat up very fast. Heat stroke can kill.

**Splish Splash:** A plastic kiddie pool is great for cooling off a hot dog. Just be sure it's not an inflatable pool that could tear or pop!

**Travel Plans:** If you take your pet with you on vacation, be sure to

check out pet rules for where you'll be staying, nearby vets in case of emergency, and doggie hangouts to visit.

**Be Brave:** Thunderstorms and fireworks are upsetting for a lot of dogs. One technique for dealing with fear of thunderstorms is by desensitizing your pet by playing low volume thunderstorm sounds. Gradually increase the volume as your pet becomes comfortable and reward calm behaviors rather than fearful ones.

**Have a Bag:** Prepare a bag for your dog which can serve as an emergency kit with basic first-aid supplies, an extra collar with ID tags, a leash, bowls, a couple of old towels or a blanket, and perhaps food with a good shelf life and a bottle of water.

# Giardia & Leptospirosis

Giardia is an intestinal parasite that is found in dogs, cats and even humans. The infection which the protozoan parasite causes is called Giardiasis. Animals develop the infection 1-2 weeks after ingesting infectious offspring, known as cysts, which are shed in another animal's feces. Direct or indirect contact can cause contamination. The organisms make their way to the intestine, potentially causing diarrhea by lining the intestine and blocking digestion. The most common mode of transmission is actually waterborne, as the parasite prefers the cool and moist environment, where they can survive for weeks. Up to 50 percent of young puppies will develop this intestinal infection, and dogs housed in kennels will develop it at even higher rates due to the massive exposure and closely shared living spaces. It is so common in North America because it is highly contagious.

Symptoms can be sudden (acute), temporary (transient), non-continuous (intermittent), or ongoing (chronic). They often are more visible in younger animals than in older animals and in some cases, dogs will exhibit diarrhea that is soft, frothy, greasy, and with a strong, awful odor or excessive mucus.

Treatment is normally outpatient, unless the pet has become sick and weak from dehydration and poor digestion. Prescription drugs can be used to fight the

infection along with bathing to reduce the likelihood of repeat infection. Fecal exams are often required to confirm that the infection has been removed, as an ongoing (chronic) infection can be debilitating for the animal.

Leptospirosis is another intestinal parasite that can be spread from infected pets to humans (zoonosis). Unlike giardia, leptospirosis is caused by a bacteria. It can lead to potentially fatal infections of the kidney, liver, brain, lung, or heart.

Leptospirosis spreads by contact with infected water, either by drinking, or activities such as swimming. Exposure to the urine or body fluids of infected animals may also spread the bacteria. Wildlife, farm animals, and pets all potentially carry the bacteria, including rodents, cattle, swine, horses and dogs, amongst others.

The infection can develop days to weeks after exposure and may include fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, jaundice, skin rash and red eyes. It is important if your pet may have a leptospirosis infection to treat all bodily fluids as hazardous. Your veterinarian will order tests such as a urinalysis or complete blood count test to verify the infection. Antibiotics can be used to fight the infection.

## INTESTINAL PARASITE SCREENING

**~Methods of Infection** : Some parasites are contracted trans-placentally, simply passing from mother to baby. Others are contracted via direct contact with infected feces, infected stagnant water, through infected hosts (mice, rabbits, fleas etc) or through skin penetration via contaminated soil.

**~Types of Parasites** : Most common to U.S -Hookworms, Whipworms, Roundworms, and Tapeworms. Protozoal infections (one-celled organisms) such as Coccidiosis and Giardia masquerade as 'worms' and cause identical symptoms to other parasitic infections.

**~Signs of Parasitic Infection** : Pets may NOT show clinical signs which is why preventative care is so important. Most common symptoms include diarrhea, bloody stool, weight loss, lethargy, distended abdomen, abdominal cramping, dullness of coat, dehydration or anemia especially when infected by a 'blood-sucking' variety of parasite.

**~Prevention** : Veterinarians recommend regular stool sample screenings, at least once per year for most pets. However, every 6 mos. for pets that have chronic parasitic infections or whenever suspicious symptoms begin. Do not allow your pet to drink stagnant water and keep away from environments that are heavily contaminated with feces, such as dog parks. Clean up your pet's environment on a regular basis to avoid soil contamination.

**~Sample Testing** : Walnut sized fecal samples for testing should be fresh, no more than 24 hours old, and in an airtight container.

# Employee Spotlight

## New Out-Patient Team Leader

Barb Susko joins us with 32 years of experience in the animal science field. She began her career with animals at a young age. Her first experiences were in a private veterinary practice, and she worked hard to join the team at the University of Pennsylvania Emergency Service working the grueling overnight/weekend shift. The progression of her career has led her into management at Winslow Animal Hospital. Personal interests include canine behavioral rehabilitation with shelter dogs, a healthy vegetarian diet, hot yoga, and mixed martial arts.



Dr. Coudrai and Butters welcome our new Out-Patient Team Leader, Barb Susko.



Our newest receptionist, Debbie Volusher with Wilson.

## New Receptionist

Winslow Animal Hospital also welcomes a new receptionist, Debbie Volusher. Her many years of experience have been in private practice. Eight years as a veterinary technician have given her solid technical knowledge that was well utilized in previous management positions and her new role as a Winslow Animal Hospital employee.

Her personal interests include cooking, baking, gardening, reading, and spending time with family, especially her grandchildren.

## Immunization

August is National Immunization Awareness Month. Vaccines are vital to prevent disease. While the month was not created specifically to promote pet vaccines, now is a really great time to learn about them and make sure your pets are caught up and covered on all their vaccines. One of the shots given to dogs is DHLPP, which covers 5 different diseases. Cats have a similar multi-vaccine called FVRCP. These two vaccines are great means of reducing the risk of these awful diseases and protecting the health of your pet. Other dog vaccines include Bordetella (canine cough) and Lyme. For both dogs and cats,

rabies is a hugely important vaccine.

Vaccinating them is not just good for your pets, but human beings, as well. Rabies is the best example, because this deadly disease can be transmitted from an infected animal to a human through a bite. Vaccines that protect against diseases that humans cannot get are beneficial, too. Contracting and spreading the diseases would cause your pet and others' to suffer and require care, which could get costly.

Vaccines have changed over the years and become even more convenient and useful. Many went from being 1-year vaccines to being 3-year vaccines, so pet

owners do not have to worry about them as often. Feel free to call us to make sure your pets are up-to-date on all their vaccines. This National Immunization Awareness Month, make sure your pets are up-to-date on all their vaccines!

## Joke Corner

(continued from p1)

A: He was trying to fetch a boomerang!



@WinslowVets

Winslow Animal Hospital

## Our Mission

The doctors and staff of Winslow Animal Hospital will act as pet advocates by caring for your pets as if they were our own. We will strive to extend and enhance the quality and duration of their lives by delivering high quality and cutting edge medical, surgical, and dental services in a friendly and compassionate environment. It is of great importance that we show respect for our clients, our co-workers, and most of all, the pets to whom we provide care.

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## Let's Celebrate

### June

ASPCA's Adopt a Cat Month  
Pet Appreciation Week (first week)

### July

Pet Fire Safety  
Nutrition and Obesity Month  
Warm Weather Safety Month

### August

National Immunization  
Awareness Month  
Parasite Prevention Month  
Feline Health Month  
National Holistic Pet Health Day

## CVT Certifications

We are proud of the accomplishments of our Winslow Animal Hospital staff! We have several technicians who have recently earned the title of Certified Veterinary Technician.

Congratulations to Elaine Worden-Tedesco, C.V.T! Elaine joined the Winslow Animal Hospital team in 2012. Her hobbies are kayaking, hiking, music, and art. She has two dogs, Dakoda, a Siberian husky, and Harlow, a pitbull, and two cats, Truffle and Beanie.



Congratulations, Christie Bush, C.V.T! Christie has a passion for animals, which has led her to rescue a number of dogs and cats. Here she is pictured with her beloved Hades. Christie first joined Winslow Animal Hospital in 2011.

Congratulations, Amy Black, C.V.T! Amy has been with Winslow Animal Hospital since 2012. She works with Linda Franzini, CCRP in the rehabilitation therapy center to help patients recover from surgeries, arthritis, injuries and other health challenges with a number of therapies including our aquatic treadmill. To the right, Amy poses with Khaleesi, her German Shepherd.

