







# AVC'S Bark and Meow

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## Prevention Corner!

### Unseen Creepers: What you need to know!

Winter weather will soon come to an end, and that means all sorts of dormant creepy crawlers will be coming out to play with our pets. There are several parasites that can “bug” your pets; however, four groups merit special attention due to their high prevalence and health problems they can cause:

-  Fleas
-  Ticks
-  Intestinal Parasites
-  Heartworm









**Fleas:** These are ectoparasites, meaning they live on the outer surface of our pets. They can come into contact with our pets via wildlife, other pets, outdoor environments, and our clothing. Fleas have a 4 stage life cycle (eggs, larvae, pupae, adult) extending over a period of 3 months. Where there is one adult flea, there are hundreds of eggs, larvae and pupae. Their meal can consist of dead skin cells/hair (larvae) and blood (adult flea). Flea infestations in our animal friends fleas can lead to skin infections, hair loss, anemia (loss of blood), and parasites (tapeworms). In humans, fleas can transmit disease such the Bubonic Plague. If fleas have already set up shop in your home, it is important to not only treat your pets but your household as well.

**Ticks:** These are another type of ectoparasite with several species that are native to northern Wisconsin, many of which can use both animals and humans as hosts. Ticks, like fleas, have a 4 stage life cycle (egg, larva, nymph, adult). Each stage except for the egg needs a blood meal in order to morph into the next stage.

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## Clint's Q/A

**Q: My pet doesn't go outside except for the back yard. Why would they need testing or preventives?**

**A:** Any outdoor activity puts your pet at risk for parasites. Although your pet may not go outside much, we humans bring the outdoors in with us every day.

**Q: My pet is healthy. They couldn't have intestinal worms, Lyme disease, or heartworm, could they?**

**A:** Yes, they could. Many pets can be asymptomatic when found to be positive. However, treatment is recommended because if left untreated they can develop serious illnesses and some parasites are transmissible to you and your family.

**Q: My pet is on a monthly preventative. Why do we need to test yearly?**

**A:** Doses can be missed or pets spit out medication without you noticing. When we do a 4Dx blood test, we are not just testing for heartworm, we're also testing for 3 types of tick-borne diseases. As for Fecal testing, there are some parasites that pets can carry which are not controlled by routine monthly deworming.

Ticks can transmit multiple pathogens including bacterial, viral, protozoal, and parasitic diseases. The most well-known tick transmitted disease is Lyme, which is actually a bacterial infection. Ticks can survive 2-3 years without a blood meal. Contrary to popular belief that our ticks do not like the cold, their activity decreases during the cold weather but, does not stop. They are still ready and willing to take a blood meal and pass on disease.

**Intestinal Worms:** Your pets can get these little buggers through exposure to eggs in the environment, infected fecal matter. Humans become infected by coming in contact with fecal matter, contaminated soil and/or foods. Common intestinal worms seen in pets include tapeworm, roundworm, hookworm and whipworm. Tapeworm segments may look like rice grains, whereas hooks, and whips often resemble spaghetti. Infestations in our pets can lead to weight loss, decreased appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, anemia, and intestinal blockage. Parasitic larva in humans can lead to a several health problems including visceral (GI), cutaneous (skin), and ocular (eye) larval migrations.

**Heartworm:** This parasite is transmitted to our furry friends when a mosquito takes a blood meal. Once in the dog, larvae travel through the tissues where they become young worms. These travel to and reside in the heart (pulmonary artery), becoming adults. 100% of dogs can avoid this disease with the proper monthly prevention, which is far less expensive compared to treatment.

### **AVC Community Events**

- 🐾 June 2<sup>nd</sup> -Rummage Sale and Brat Fry
  - 8am-4 pm at Antigo Vet Clinic
- 🐾 July 4<sup>th</sup> – we will be the Antigo Parade (7pm) and White Lake Parade (10 am)
- 🐾 September 29<sup>th</sup> Fly into Fall
  - 11-2pm at Antigo Vet Clinic

## **HOMEMADE DOG BISCUITS**

Makes about 1 dozen.

### **INGREDIENTS**

- 🐾 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 🐾 1 cup oats
- 🐾 1/2 cup flaxseed
- 🐾 1/2 to 1 cup beef broth
- 🐾 1/4 cup peanut butter



### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Stir together the flour, oats and flaxseed.

Mix in 1/2 cup beef broth and peanut butter. Mix well, adding additional beef broth if necessary to bring the mixture together to a thick dough.

Form into a ball and turn out on a lightly floured surface.

Roll to about 1/4 inch thickness and cut out to desired shape.

Bake for about 20 minutes or until golden brown, flipping halfway. Cool completely, and then keep in an airtight container for about one week.

## **AVC News to Know**

### **Referral Program**

- 🐾 When you refer someone new to our clinic, \$15 will be credited to your account, and your friend will also receive \$15 credit on their account.

### **Blue Pill Vials**

- 🐾 Help us recycle your unused blue pill vials. They are beginning to feel lonely and we can give them a great new home. All vials must be from our clinic and you can bring them in with you at your next visit.

### **Credit Card Convenience fee**

- 🐾 At your next visit you could receive a 3.75% discount if you pay for the visit with a check, Care Credit or cash!

### **15% OFF Dentals**

- 🐾 Receive 15% off our dental package when scheduled same day as your appointment. Dentals must be scheduled within 30 days

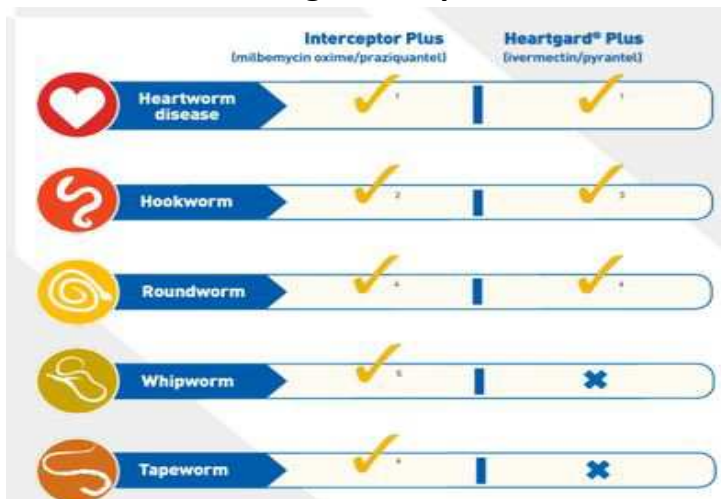
## Quarterly Case Highlight: Chiropractic Care

🐾 Meet Pissy who is a 9 year Male Neutered, DSH



- 🐾 Pissy was diagnosed with right rear hip dislocation after being hit by a car in 2013. He had closed hip reduction performed.
- 🐾 Presented in 2017 for his annual wellness exam and was noted to have hair loss, dullness, thinning of his hair coat, and sensitivity to touch on the lower back.
- 🐾 It was recommended that Pissy receive chiropractic adjustments prior to starting any pain relief. After two treatments the hair was starting to re-grow and he was not as agitated with this area being touched.
- 🐾 He is currently not on any pain relief and has lush hair growth along his back-end.
- 🐾 We would like to share that we have a chiropractor that comes to our facility once every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday to perform treatments on cats and dogs.

## Introducing Interceptor Plus!



Interceptor provides more coverage for those pesky parasites at a similar cost to Heartgard

## Meet our Chiropractor!



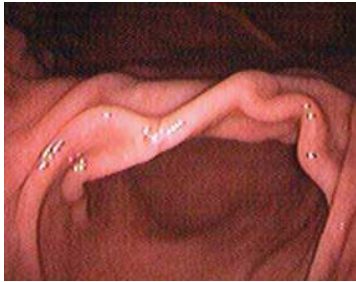
Dr. Kristy resides in Bonduel, WI with her husband, 2 children, 2 dogs, cat & Shetland pony. She grew up surrounded by dogs, cats, goats, chickens, horses and just about every house pet you can imagine! She attended chiropractic school at Northwestern Health Sciences University knowing she was going to work on animals. When she was finished with school she attended the Animal Chiropractic program at The Healing Oasis Wellness Center in WI and graduated in 2008. For the past 10 years she has been working at various veterinarian clinics in WI treating dogs, cats and horses.

When she is not working on animals, Dr. Kristy also owns a human chiropractic clinic in Shawano, WI and a small gym. She enjoys staying active and loves to teach others how to stay healthy through nutrition and exercise.



- 🐾 Chiropractic is great for
  - Previous joint/muscle injuries
  - Osteoarthritis
  - Maintaining spinal alignment
  - Relieving chronic pain
- 🐾 Chiropractic care can reduce or eliminate the need for prescription pain medications

## **New Service: Small Animal Endoscopy**



Flexible endoscopy is a diagnostic and therapeutic tool now available at Antigo Veterinary Clinic. This allows us to visualize the inside of the esophagus, stomach, upper small intestine, and colon in an anesthetized patient. This tool can be used to remove foreign objects in the stomach, obtain biopsies of the stomach, intestine, and colon, and visualize the caudal (back) portion of the sinuses.

Patients that can benefit from endoscopy include pets with gastric foreign objects, pets with chronic gastrointestinal symptoms like vomiting and diarrhea, appetite loss, or weight loss which cannot be explained with routine blood tests or x-rays. Patients with chronic sinus symptoms (sneezing, nasal discharge, and nosebleed) may also benefit.

Endoscopic biopsies of the gastrointestinal tract are a less invasive way (compared to exploratory surgery) to determine the cause of gastrointestinal problems. Your pet is often able to leave the hospital the same day of the procedure, and will not need to have activity restriction for two weeks, such as is the case with abdominal surgery.

Most frequently, biopsies help determine if there is a chronic inflammatory condition such as inflammatory bowel disease, or if there is gastrointestinal cancer present. Treatment of these conditions, and expectations for outcome, can be very different.

If you have questions about endoscopic services for your pet, please give our doctors a call.

## **New Service: Massage and Rehabilitative Therapy**



Dr. Lauren has completed comprehensive training in massage and rehabilitative therapy for pets, through the Healing Oasis Wellness Center in Wisconsin.

Massage and rehabilitative therapy are important components of helping your pet recover from injury, orthopedic surgery, or chronic debilitating conditions.

Pets with chronic pain and reduced mobility can experience improved comfort and range of motion, as well as improved muscle tone and strength.

Rehabilitative therapy can also be combined with therapeutic laser and chiropractic care for added benefit.

**Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter!**

