

# Paw Prints Newsletter

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### DID YOU KNOW...

- Female fleas lay up to 50 eggs a day in the hair coat of the pet?
- Once on an animal, an adult flea will remain on the pet for the remainder of the flea's life?
- That flea control should be used all year round?

## Keep Your Pets Lyme Disease Free

### What is Lyme Disease?

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that is from ticks. It travels throughout the body and can cause multiple problems. It is the most commonly diagnosed tick-borne disease in people, and is common in dogs also

### Transmission

Lyme Disease is transferred to a tick while feeding on a natural host, such as a rodent or deer. An infected tick then bites a human or dog and transfers the disease to them. A specific specie of tick is required, called the Ixodes tick which is found in our Tri-State area and along the East Coast. Transmission from a tick to a person or dog does not occur immediately. It takes 24-48 hours for enough bacteria to enter through the bite to cause an infection.

### Signs of Lyme Disease

Dogs who become ill from Lyme Disease are often lame in one or more joints due to joint pain, may develop a fever, or may be lethargic or

inappetant. This disease can affect a dog's kidneys, causing them to leak protein in their urine and lead to chronic kidney disease, and sometimes kidney failure. When a dog is exposed to the disease, antibodies are produced in the blood stream; these antibodies are tested for commercially available test. At Cherrydale, Lyme Disease is tested for regularly as it is a part of our yearly heartworm testing.

### What if my Dog Test Positive

Dogs that are ill will be treated with Doxycycline, a common antibiotic. The minimum treatment period is 30 days. In dogs that are very lame, anti-inflammatory medications are used also to help with joint pain. Additional tests include a urinalysis and an antibody test. These dogs are closely monitored for the development of kidney disease and other conditions. Many dogs respond well to therapy and do not require further treatment, but however sometimes this

disease remains present in the body leading to continuous or recurrent signs throughout a dog's life.

### Prevention

The mainstay of tick prevention is through the monthly application of topical flea/tick prevention products such as Frontline, Advantix or Revolution. Dogs that are out door often, especially in wooded areas, are especially at risk for tick bites. A frequent examination of dogs is helpful to ensure ticks are removed as soon as possible. A commercial Lyme Disease vaccine is available and recommended for dogs who are at risk for tick bites, while not 100% protective, it provides additional protection in case your dog is exposed. Please discuss with your vet if you would like to have your dog vaccinated.



## Travelling Internationally



Space is limited.  
Make your  
boarding  
reservations as  
early as possible.

Taking your pet with you overseas sometimes requires a lot of work. Similar to travelling with in the US, foreign countries require an International Health Certificate demonstrating your pet's good health and vaccination status. This certificate also requires a physical exam, and **MUST ALSO BE ENDORSED** by the State veterinarian. The closest State Veterinarians office is located either in Richmond, VA or Annapolis, MD.

Some Countries have very stringent entrance requirements and require specific vaccination protocols and a blood test indicating that your pet is protected against Rabies. The UK has the most rigorous requirements, which will take 7- 8 months to complete. As

soon as you think you may be taking a trip overseas, contact us immediately to inquire about what needs to be done to ensure your pet is ready to leave when you are.

### Identification Microchips

Most foreign countries require an identification chip in your pet so that they can verify its identity. There are 2 types of chips available to your pet- a US standard chip (usually 9 numbers) that is often NOT readable by foreign scanners, and an ISO-compatible chip (usually 15 numbers) that is readable by any scanner, even those in foreign countries. We carry both types of chips. If you think there may be a chance that your pet will travel overseas someday, ask us to use the ISO-

standard chip instead. If you are travelling abroad and already has a chip, but it is not an ISO-standard chip, we may have to place a second chip in your pet. Placing a second chip will not affect your pet or their first chip, as both will be readable depending on the scanner type.

Most countries are changing import regulations on a continuous basis and we would just like to share with you these links so that you can visit and select the countries and see all the requirements needed. Please also contact Embassy, here in the US or the country where you are traveling to, to gather more information if needed.

[www.pettravel.com](http://www.pettravel.com)

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/>

From all of us at  
Cherrydale  
Veterinary  
Clinic, Have a  
Splendid and  
Safe Memorial  
Day.

## Pet Pit Stops

### Did you know that ...?

There are many U.S. airports offering specially designed pet rest areas. These pet parks provide a convenient place where passengers travelling with their animals can give

them a restroom and water break and time to run around and exercise their muscles. For full details please visit [www.PetFriendlyTravel.com](http://www.PetFriendlyTravel.com) to see a list of all the

major airports that are offering this service.

## Purchasing Pet Drugs Online: Buyer Beware

A letter was sent out by the FDA warning pet owners and veterinarians of the potential pitfalls involved in purchasing drugs from internet drug companies. The following are excerpts from this letter, and the letter can be viewed in its entirety at [www.fda.gov/fdac/features/2006/606\\_pets.html](http://www.fda.gov/fdac/features/2006/606_pets.html).

“Discount pet drugs-no

but in reality they may be short changing their pet's health and putting its life at risk. The FDA recommends making sure a website is a state-licensed pharmacy within the USA before buying online. Consumers should check with their state board of pharmacy or National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to see whether an online pharmacy has a valid license and meets state quality standards.

prescription required.” This message, and others like it touted by many internet sites, may sound appealing to pet owners, but the FDA says buying drugs online from such sites can be risky. Some of the internet sites that sell pet drugs represents legitimate, reputable pharmacies, say Martine Hartogenesis, D.V.M, promotion and advertising liaison for the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine

The purpose of this article is to inform you that often times the medications sold through an internet drug company have been purchased from a third party, such as another veterinarian's office or another middle man. This means that the drugs purchased may have been stored improperly, may have been expired or may not even contain the medication claimed on the label. These medications that are not purchased

(CVM). But others are front for unscrupulous businesses operating in violation of the law. “Some of these internet companies are overseas, and there is a risk of the drugs not being FDA approved” says Hartogenesis. The FDA has also found companies that sell counterfeit pet products, make fraudulent claims, dispense prescription drugs without requiring a prescription, and sell pet drugs that have expired.

Pet owners who purchase drugs from these companies may think they are saving money, says Hartogenesis

from the manufacturer are not guaranteed by anyone. When ordering a medication from an on-line pharmacy make sure to ask the representative if the medications are guaranteed. If not, then please purchase from a reliable and guaranteed source such as your vets office or [www.myvetmeds.com](http://www.myvetmeds.com) . Please call us with questions.

### SPECIAL OFFER

Dentals are 10% off through the month of May, take advantage of this great offer today.

## The Trouble with Ears

Ear infections are one of the most common reasons pets are seen by a veterinarian. These infections can be painful and itchy for dogs and cats. Generally, most chronic ear infections are caused by underlying

allergies. Signs that may indicate that your pet has an ear infection include, shaking his head, scratching at itchy ears and a foul odor. Treatment of these infections usually involves applying a cleaner and

medications to the infected ear or ears as prescribed by the doctor. While some clear up quickly, other can be difficult to eradicate. If your pet is exhibiting signs of an ear infection, please make an appointment with the Vet.

## Signs your Pet needs a Vet

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Unintended weight loss
- Change in appetite
- Limping
- Sudden inability to move back legs
- Crying in pain when touched
- Clumsy or disoriented behavior
- Seizures
- Loss of consciousness
- Coughing-especially at nights
- Panting in a cat
- Sudden collapse
- Excessive drooling
- Crying while urinating
- Bloated abdomen
- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Hair loss
- Squinting of eyes
- Runny eyes or nose
- Change in normal activity-lethargy, hyperactivity
- Difficult or labored breathing
- Change in urination-color, smell, and amount
- Nose-bleed or bruising on body
- Any unusual odor

## Vegetative Villains

With summer fast approaching our pets will likely be spending more time outdoors. Of the many outdoor hazards our pets are exposed to, plants are most often overlooked. There are several common species of plants that can be dangerous to our pets. The 10 most common vegetative villains are lilies, marijuana, Sago Palm, tulips/narcissus bulbs, azalea/rhododendron, oleander, castor bean, cyclamen, kalanchoe and yew.

If ingested, these plants can

cause a range of health problems, from gastrointestinal upsets, to heart issues, to kidney failure, liver damage and even death, in more extreme cases. If you suspect that your pet have ingested any of these plants please contact us immediately at 703-528-9001 or The Hope Center at 703-281-5121 and or call the ASPCA Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435.

For a complete list of dangerous and safe plants please visit [www.aspcare.org/pet-care/poison-control/](http://www.aspcare.org/pet-care/poison-control/)



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## Dogs can Donate Blood

"I am sorry, but in order to help save your pet' life, he will need a blood transfusion" and this is the goal of the Eastern Veterinary Blood Bank.

Your dog can help save the life of another around the USA, by simply donating blood to the blood bank. The life they save may be their very own. Please visit their website to know more about donating ([www.evbb.com](http://www.evbb.com))

