



Victor's Mews TRURO VET'S NEWSLETTER



Parasite Season Is Back

Whether it's fleas, heartworm or intestinal worms, our pets are at risk.

Heartworm is a parasite transmitted to dogs and wildlife by the mosquito. Your pet can also pick up intestinal worms (round, hook and whipworms) and fleas from a casual walk in the park! This places our pets at risk for life threatening diseases. Fortunately, giving your dog a monthly deworming pill can easily prevent heartworm disease, intestinal worms and even fleas.

A simple blood test can detect heartworm early. If the test is negative, we recommend you give a parasite prevention medication such as INTERCEPTOR or SENTINEL. This monthly treatment prevents heartworm and deworms for common intestinal parasites that can be contagious to you and your family.

Did you know that in rural Nova Scotia alone, 19.5% of children less than 15 years of age tested positive for exposure to intestinal roundworm? For more info, see inside.

Bad Hair Day?

Spring is finally here. Along with flowers and the showers comes the mud and muck. Whether it's a tidy and trim or an extreme makeover, we can make your pooch feel great and ready for summertime fun.



Save \$5.00 on Grooming Services
At
Truro Vet Hospital
No cash value. Expires July 31, 2005

Jackie has been grooming for over 30 years and now specializes in smaller breed dogs. 30 years experience aside, she gets lots of work from her own household – 6 Poodles, 2 Afgans, 1 Jack Russell Terrier, 3 cats and a Macaw!

Nadine started at Truro Vet as a receptionist and shortly after took on the role of grooming larger breed dogs. Proud owner of a Dalmation, Mikey, and a German Shepherd, Jazz, as well as 2 cats, Nadine keeps herself busy between studying the Animal Health Technology course at the NSAC, grooming and expecting her first child in August 2005.

Chanda is the newest groomer to Truro Vet. After watching Nadine groom her Cocker Spaniel, Gemini, for a year, Chanda decided to take a grooming course at Brenda's All Breed Dog Grooming School in Moncton. She started at Truro Vet in March 2005 and is looking forward to meeting you and your pet.



Victor oversees training of new staff members Technician Carmen RVT, Vet Assistant Ashley and Receptionist Valerie. Victor ensures that only the highest quality of patting and cuddling are provided.

Parasite Control Recommendations

A recent study at the IWK in Halifax found that in Nova Scotia, 19.5% of children less than 15 years of age tested positive for exposure to roundworm. Roundworm is classed as a zoonotic parasite because it can be passed from pets to their people. Young, elderly and immuno-supressed people are most at risk to contracting roundworm. In cases where our immune systems fail to protect us, the roundworm's visceral larval migrans can cause blindness and skin lesions

Studies such as the one at the IWK prompted the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) to be formed. This independent council consists of expertise in parasitology, internal medicine, public health, veterinary law, and veterinary private practice. They have worked together to create guidelines for the optimal control of internal and external parasites that threaten the health of pets and their people.

The CAPC recommends:

- ◆ Practicing good personal hygiene
- ◆ Cleaning up pet feces regularly
- ◆ Minimizing exposure of children to potentially contaminated environments
- ◆ Year-round treatment with broad-spectrum dewormers that have activity against parasites with zoonotic potential
- ◆ Thorough physical exam and complete history are important for diagnosis, treatment and control of most parasites and should be performed at least annually by a qualified veterinarian.
- ◆ Pets should be fed cooked or prepared food (they should not be fed raw meat) and provided fresh, potable water
- ◆ Periodic (annual is ideal) retesting for canine heartworm

For more information, check out www.capcvet.org.



"Dogs feel very strongly that they should always go with you in the car, in case the need should arise for them to bark violently at nothing right in your ear."

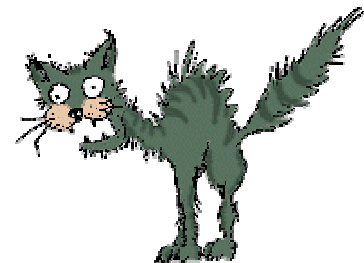
-Dave Barry



Why People Adopt Pets

The 2002 AAHA Pet Owner Survey reports that while 5% of people adopt a pet as a playmate for a child, 4% rescued a pet as a stray, 3% adopted for security and protection, a whopping 84% of people adopt pets for companionship.

However, in 2003 when asked how you would characterize your pet, 3% said 'just a pet', 12% said 'companion', 35% felt their pet was like a 'child' and 49% thought their pet was a 'member of the family'.



"To bathe a cat takes brute force, perseverance, courage of conviction--and a cat. The last ingredient is usually hardest to come by."

-Stephen Baker



Spring 2005

Charity's Chatter TRURO VET'S NEWSLETTER



The Pet Plumpness Problem

Recent studies suggest that 25-40% of our pets are overweight. Home-made meals, scraps, treats and snacks contribute more to weight control problems than nutritionally balanced diets. Hormonal diseases like hypothyroidism or hyperadrenocorticism can cause weight gain. Weight control problems tend to increase with age. Neutering decreases the resting metabolic rate and, in cats, the lack of certain hormones causes a decrease in satisfaction from food, making them eat more.



A successful weight loss program consists of three things - Determination, Exercise and Diet. Determination is the hardest, because your pet does not care whether she can fit into a size 6 bikini or how much he can flex his biceps. So you, the owner, have to provide the determination.

Regular weighing or measuring will help provide you with a sense of accomplishment and increase your success.

Regular exercise will increase the metabolic rate. It is important to exercise regularly and gradually increase how much is done so the muscles, joints, and cardiovascular system can adapt and avoid injury. Make sure your pet does not get over

tired or over heated and provide plenty of water.

For our full-figured feline friends, exercise is a bigger challenge. Doing little things like putting the food and litter box on different floors of the house or providing toys with catnip to encourage play will increase exercise. Since cats are snackers by nature, providing many food dishes with just a FEW pieces of food in each and scattering them throughout the house will cause your cat to explore for food more and not sleep all day.

Different diets work for different pets. Only changing to a "lite" diet may not do the trick since metabolic rates will adjust also, especially in cats. Consult your vet for some nutritional counseling. A check for diseases that may be responsible for weight gain and discussion about exercise and diet is needed. A weight loss program will include how much weight should be lost over a certain period of time and how best to achieve this, given you and your pet's lifestyle.

Weight problems can lead to a lot of other health concerns. While you are reading this and patting your best friend, check out how easy it is to find those ribs. If you can't find ribs, a weight loss program could help your pet live a longer and healthier life.



The greatest pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too."

-Samuel Butler



Endoscopy

Imagine being able to save your pet from the stress of major surgery to collect tissue samples to diagnose disease. Or be able to remove a foreign object from the stomach without having to have surgery. How about directly viewing the inside of the bladder, or nose or even lungs to see problems? Does it sound impossible? It's not. Very soon Truro Veterinary Hospital will be the first in the region to offer both flexible endoscopy and laproscopic surgery. Dr Jennifer has taken an extensive training course offered by one of North America's top endoscope specialists in order to provide this service for your pets.

An endoscope is a flexible instrument that can be passed into the digestive tract to have a view from the inside. Disease, foreign objects, birth defects and other problems can be seen and tissues can be collected with the need for major surgery. The process is safe and has very few risks involved. There is almost no discomfort to the patient and recovery from the exam is quick. Most procedures can be done as day patients requiring no hospital stay. The endoscope can also be used to examine the airways of coughing pets, and allow very good quality samples of lung secretions to be collected.

Laproscopic surgery involves doing surgical procedures with a few small incisions rather than a long open approach to the belly or chest. The small incisions are use to introduce a camera in to the area to see what is going on, and the necessary small instruments to do the surgical procedure such as a biopsy. Again the risks are much less than with a major surgery. The pain is greatly reduced so the pet

recovers much faster. The whole area can be seen directly so things that an X ray or ultrasound can miss will be picked up. The laproscope can also be used to view the inside of a female dog's bladder to diagnose a variety of conditions. It can be used to see the nasal cavity. The health of the teeth of small pets like rabbits and guinea pigs can be easily checked with this equipment.

Ear disease is very common in our pets. With this new equipment we will be able to better treat ear problems and also allow you to see what your pet 's ears look like in both health and disease. It will allow us to better deal with infections of the inner (middle) ear, which can cause recurrent outer ear infections.

Dr Jennifer will be providing these services to our Truro Veterinary clientele, but also on a referral basis from other hospitals in the area. She also plans to attend training sessions on advanced procedures in the near future. This will include offering spays by laproscope instead of conventional surgery.



Congratulations Kerry!

Our receptionist, Kerry, gave birth on March 16, 2005 to Haley May. Both Mom and baby are doing well. Kerry expects to return to Truro Vet in March 2006.

