



The Rockhill Pet Gazette

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IMPORTANT Update on Heartworms

Our Rockhill Team recently attended an educational presentation on new findings regarding heartworm preventative medication. This was a very serious meeting for 2 reasons: 1) heartworm disease (which is spread by mosquitoes) is fatal to dogs and cats, and 2) the Mississippi Delta region of the U.S. has recently reported an inordinate number of dogs infected with heartworms while on preventative medication. Of the near epidemic prevalence of heartworm disease in the delta area, the presenting veterinarian stated, "It's almost not a question of *if* dogs in this region will contract heartworms, but *when*."

The presenter emphasized that one major contributing factor to the increase in heartworm positive dogs in the delta area has been inconsistent administration of preventative. Recent research has shown that the heartworm preventatives that are dispensed by veterinary clinics are highly effective, but only if the medication is given every 30 days. Even a 2 week delay in giving heartworm preventative significantly increases the risk of your pet contracting heartworm disease. Pets that have missed the 30 day interval for preventative need to immediately restart taking preventative and need 3 consecutive "negative" heartworm tests, 6 months apart before they can truly be declared negative.

Key Recommendations to help you keep your pet free from heartworm disease:

- ▶ Give heartworm preventative to your pet on the same day every month, year round.
- ▶ Only use heartworm preventative from veterinary clinics, and only in the correct dosage for your pet.
- ▶ Test your pet every year for heartworms.
- ▶ Minimize your pet's exposure to mosquitoes during peak activity (spring through fall seasons, dusk to dawn).

Online editions of this newsletter are available at www.rockhillpetclinic.com and on our Facebook page.

Warm & Fuzzy

"If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two of them."

- Phil Pastoret

Where does the queen keep her kindle? If you don't know, buff up on some interesting cat terminology:

- A breeding female cat is called a *queen*.
- A group of cats is called a *clowder*.
- A group of kittens is called a *kindle*.
- The place where cats are bred or boarded is a *cattery*.

Upcoming Special Events

■ March 12th: Brookside St. Patrick's Day Warm-up Parade, starts at 2pm. Go green and join the Rockhill Team for this fun walk. Bring your whole family, including the pups! ■ RSVP to 816-333-0973



■ **Stay tuned for more exciting event announcements next month!**



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