

## Mountainview Animal Hospital

# IMPORTANT PARASITE PREVENTION REMINDER

### THEY'RE BACK AND THEY'RE HUNGRY!

With the warmer weather, comes the beginning of parasite season:

#### Ticks, Fleas, Heartworm and Intestinal Worms

This is an important time for our dogs and cats, and by extension for ourselves. Ticks, fleas and intestinal worms are zoonotic, meaning they can spread to humans as well. Because of the seriousness of some of these parasites and the difficulty of treating them, our focus has always been on prevention.

As soon as the temperature rises above 0 degrees Celsius, ticks are active and seeking a blood meal. We can recommend the best product to prevent ticks from making a meal out of your pet.

Spring is also the time of year we do a 4DX blood test on almost all dogs. This blood test ensures your dog did not get infected with heartworm disease the previous summer. Early detection is key to successful treatment. Even if your dog was on prevention last year, a blood test is still required. The 4DX test also looks for Lyme, Ehrlichia and Anaplasma infections. Just call the office and we can schedule a date and time for this important blood test.

Then, from June to November, in addition to tick and flea protection, we add Heartworm prevention.

For the winter months, we continue tick prevention if we have milder, warmer weather.

The next page tells you more about each of these parasites. There are also links for an even deeper dive.

We have also provided a calendar to help sort out the time lines of these parasites.

And finally, the last page helps define which dogs need a blood test this year.

We hope this information helps. Of course, we are here to answer any of your questions, all you need to do is call us. We are here to help with the right plan.

### TIME WITH TUX

Parasite season? Why do parasites get their own season? And, it sounds like it's actually three seasons or even four seasons, not just one. Why don't I get a Tux season? I'm much cuter and so much more pleasant to spend time with.

Oh! I was just reminded, that around here, it is Tux day, every day. I guess I don't need a special season after all. Besides, I don't really want to think about, let alone compete with, all these disgusting parasites.

Bugs on crawling on the skin, biting and sucking blood, worms wiggling around in the heart damaging it and causing strokes, bacteria in the blood causing joint aches and kidney failure, worms stealing nutrients and biting the intestines, sounds like a Steven King novel. Ew, Gross, Barf!

I am soooo glad I'm an indoor cat. And, it's Tux Day again today!



# YOUR PET SHOULD NEVER BE A MEAL FOR PARASITES

## We can help with the right prevention plan

**TICKS** are like little vampires, they bite to feed off the blood of their host. Their bite does not hurt, so the host is unaware that this ugly little creature is using them for dinner. As a result, a tick can remain attached & feeding for several days before it is engorged (full) & falls off into the environment. Look for ticks around the ears, neck, groin & armpits of your pets.

In large enough numbers, the tick can cause anemia. They also transmit a number of very devastating diseases, both to animals & people. In Canada, we are mainly concerned with Lyme Disease, Ehrlichiosis and Anaplasma. We can test for these diseases with the same blood test we use to look for heartworm disease.

The ticks are found in tall grass and the leafy material under trees, just waiting to ambush innocent folks & their pets. Ticks are no longer just a concern in the summer, they are a risk even during those winter warm ups; the tick will be actively seeking hosts as soon as the temperature reaches 0°C.

There are a number of veterinary approved products available to prevent or kill ticks. They can be applied as a topical liquid or given as an oral chew. Warning, some of the medications available to our dogs can be toxic to cats, so it's best to consult your veterinarian.

We would be happy to talk about which product will work best to avoid a tick infestation on your pet.

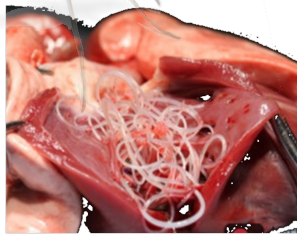
For more info on Ticks:  
<https://ticktalkcanada.com>  
and  
<http://www.mountainviewanimalhospital.ca/newsletter/--list-of-newsletter-articles>  
Read the Volume 42—Spring 2020

The **HEARTWORM** is a slender worm growing to almost a foot in length & lives in the blood vessels of the heart and lungs. It causes disease related to heart, lung & liver damage, & eventually causes death. Heartworm is spread from dog to dog by mosquitoes.

Treating heartworm disease is difficult, many harsh & expensive medications, & a lot of veterinary care is required. Beware, the battle to kill Heartworm can be deadly to the host dog as well.

The best way to manage heartworm disease is prevention. Every year we screen dogs for heartworm disease by a simple blood test. This same blood test is also used to screen for tick diseases. Once we know the dog is negative for heartworm disease, we start them on monthly medication throughout the summer from June 1st to November.

For more information on heartworm disease: [www.heartwormsociety.org](http://www.heartwormsociety.org)



**INTESTINAL PARASITES** like Roundworms, Hookworms, Whipworms, Tapeworms, Coccidia & Giardia can all live in your pet's stomach & intestines. They are picked up in your backyard, on walks & some even directly from your pet's mom before & after birth.

Unfortunately our pets cannot complain about the milder tummy upsets they may experience, so you may not be aware of the problem. More serious symptoms are vomiting, diarrhea, anemia, & malnutrition.

While transmission is most common in the summer months, freezing temperatures does not kill these parasitic eggs.

Testing your pet's poop for the microscopic eggs regularly & giving medications to prevent infection is the best way to keep your pets healthy.

For more information on intestinal parasites: Companion Animal Parasite Council  
<https://capcvet.org/maps/#/2023/all-year/roundworm/dog/canada>

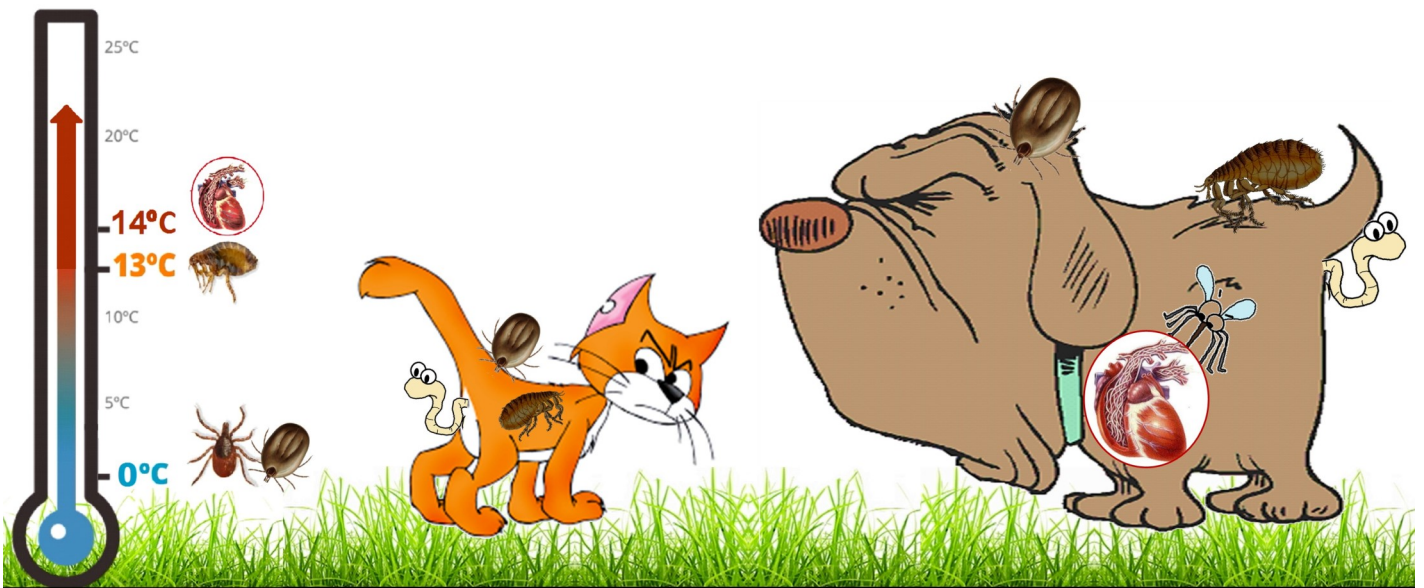
The adult **FLEA** spends its entire life on the pet biting & feeding on their blood. A female flea can lay up to 50 eggs per day. These eggs fall off your pet & hatch; the resultant larva live in your carpet, beds, sofas & chairs.

Biting fleas cause severe itchiness, allergic dermatitis & enough blood loss to make your pet anemic. Fleas can also transmit intestinal tapeworms to your pet. This long worm lives in the stomach and intestines, robbing your pet of important nutrients.




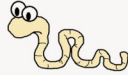


























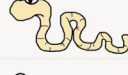






Treating a flea problem involves two stages, eliminating the adult fleas on your pet, as well as the eggs & larva in your home. There are a large variety of products available.

Of course, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. There are a variety of products available that can prevent a flea infestation before it starts, some of which can be combined with the heartworm, tick & intestinal parasite prevention in cats & dogs.

For more information on the Flea:  
<http://www.mountainviewanimalhospital.ca/library>



# THE BUGS ARE BACK & THEY'RE HUNGRY

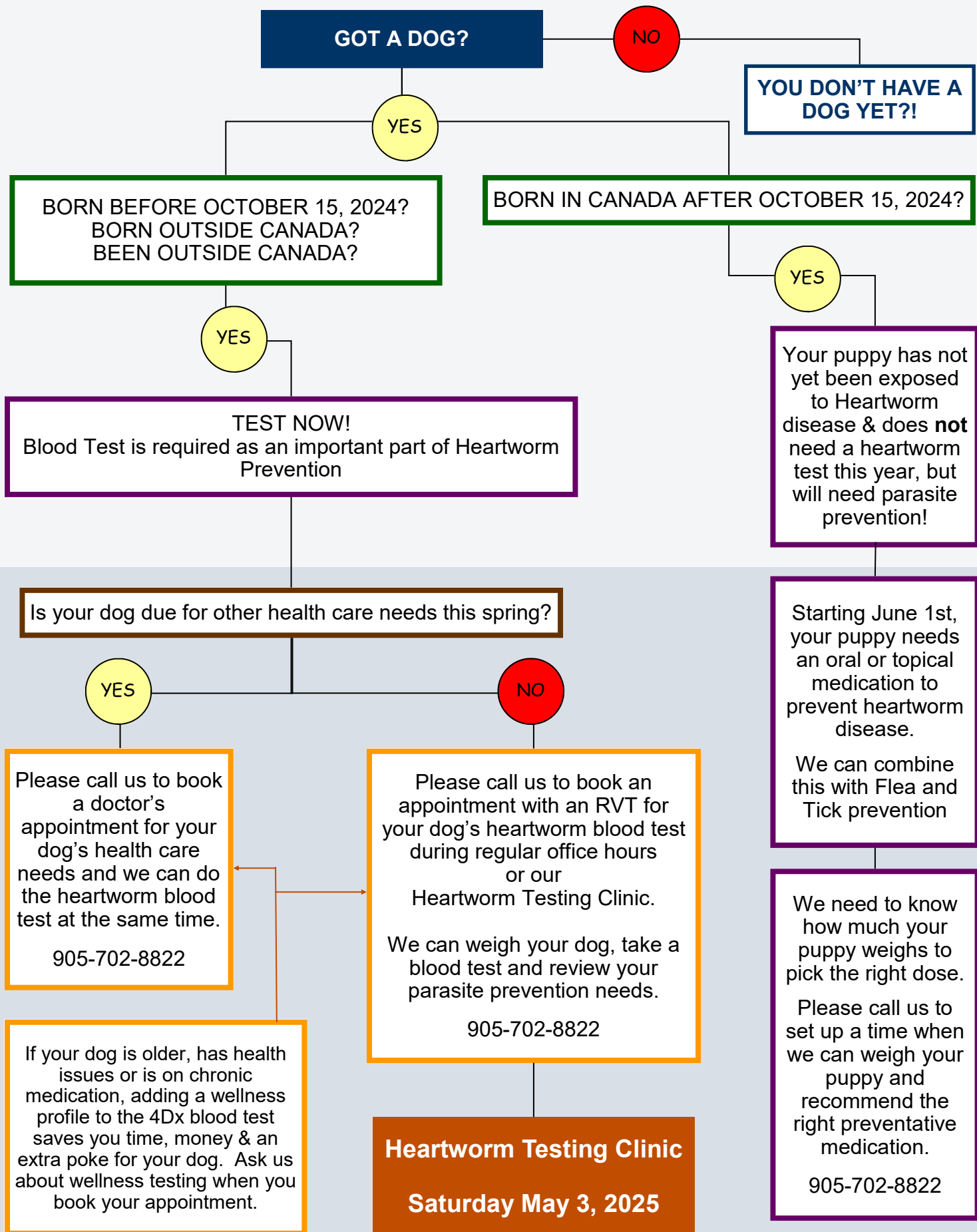
DID YOU KNOW?	TICKS	FLEAS	HEARTWORM	INTESTINAL WORMS
TICKS can be active whenever the temperature is above freezing (0°C)	JANUARY > 0°C = 			
	FEBRUARY > 0°C = 			
<b>HEARTWORM &amp; TICK DISEASE BLOOD TEST NOW</b>	MARCH 			
	APRIL 			
	MAY 			
<b>ADD HEARTWORM PREVENTION NOW</b> →	JUNE 			
Some INTESTINAL WORM'S eggs can survive at any temperature, even below freezing.	JULY 			
	AUGUST 			
	SEPTEMBER 			
	OCTOBER 			
	NOVEMBER 			
DECEMBER > 0°C = 				

**PREVENTION IS EASIER THAN THE CURE**

# DOES MY DOG NEED A HEARTWORM (4Dx) TEST?

WHO NEEDS A BLOOD TEST?

HOW DO I GET STARTED?



WE CAN HELP WITH THE RIGHT PLAN!