

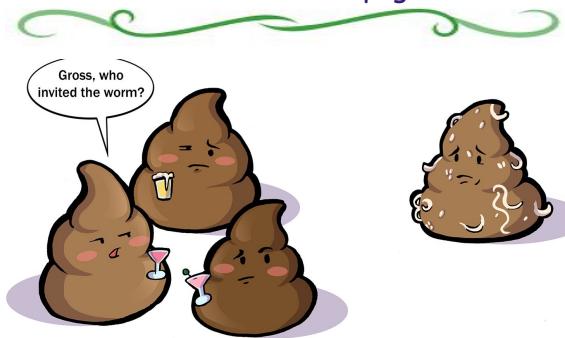


March Newsletter

March 23 is National Puppy Day!



Share your puppy (young and old) with us
on our [Facebook page!](#)



Do you know the importance of having yearly fecal exams for your pet? If not, you are not alone. Fecals are actually an important part of your pet's annual exam. It allows us to check for intestinal parasites such as roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms, coccidia and giardia. Because these worm eggs and larvae are difficult to see with the naked eye, a fecal exam is done using a microscope - all we need is a small sample!

We offer fecal exams that are either run in house in our lab or via FecalChek by Idexx. FecalChek is a new service that allows you to send the sample in a prepaid postage box to Idexx labs directly! If you would like to know more, check out Pet Health Network's information page on [fecals](#). Feel free to call, email or Facebook us for more information!



During the week of March 20-26, we'd like to shed light on the most common dangers pets may encounter and offer assistance in poison-proofing your home.

- 1) Keep human prescription medications in a hard-to-reach cabinet. In 2009, the ASPCA received more than 45,000 calls involving prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
- 2) Use caution when using insecticides. One of the most common incidents is the misuse of flea and tick products - according to toxicologists.
- 3) Avoid sharing certain types of people food with your pets including: grapes, raisins, avocado, chocolate and certain citrus fruits. These can cause serious harm to our furry friends.
- 4) Keep houseplants out of reach. Common houseplants such as azalea, lilies, and rhododendrons are harmful when ingested as well. Lilies are especially of high toxicity to cats.
- 5) Read directions on medications from your veterinarian carefully. Over 7,500 cases were noted by the ASPCA that were misapplied or improperly dispensed by well-meaning pet parents.

For more information, check out [this link](#).



Our Vaccination Clinic
will be on March 25th
from 8:00AM-12:00PM.
Prices to be
announced at a later
date.



Ask Dr. Sarah

While we may not enjoy looking at, smelling, or talking about poop, it can tell us a lot about our pet's health. Since the weather is warmer and our pets are spending more time outside, they are more likely to pick up intestinal parasites such as tapeworms, roundworms, and hookworms.



Almost all intestinal parasites can be transmitted from one pet to another by close contact with the poop, or by your pet eating other animals such as mice, rabbits, etc. Tapeworms can also be transmitted by fleas infested with tapeworm eggs. When a dog or cat grooms themselves, they ingest the fleas and the tapeworm eggs hatch in the animal's intestines.

Intestinal parasites can cause many problems in our pets. They can cause diarrhea, vomiting, changes in appetite, coughing, weight loss, anemia (low red blood cell count), and more.

Some intestinal parasites, such as roundworms and hookworms, can even be transmitted to humans! Transmission often occurs when handling poop from an infected animal.

In order to detect parasites, most often a fecal sample has to be performed to look for parasite eggs.

We recommend testing your dog or cat's poop yearly to determine whether or not your pet has worms, as many infections go unnoticed.

Prevention and treatment of infections is often quite simple! Medications such as Revolution, Drontal, Frontline, and Heartgard all prevent and treat infections. However, a fecal exam is still important as not all deworming medications treat all types of worms.

Since people can pick up some of these intestinal parasites from dogs and cats, it is important to protect yourself from potential infection. Use the following tips to help protect yourself:

- Use gloves or a bag when picking up after your dog or cleaning the litter box.
- Clean the litter box daily.
- Wash your hands immediately following cleaning a litter box or picking up poop, even if you use gloves or a bag.
- Use a deworming medication year round to prevent infections from occurring.
- Bring in a poop sample for your pet's yearly exam to check for parasites.
- Fully cook any meat and wash all fruits and vegetables before eating them! Undercooked and unwashed foods are a common source of transmission of parasites.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like more information on parasites, please give our clinic a call!