



Veterinary Hospital

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July 2010
Newsletter

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Dear friends and clients,

It has been way too long since our most recent newsletter, but we've been busy at BEBT! To get us back on track for a regular newsletter schedule, Brad Bender, our Hospital Manager, is now in charge.

We are continually trying to stay up-to-date on all of small animal veterinary medicine. As one might imagine, this can be a daunting task. To help us with this and also to make sure we get information out, over the last two months we have added another veterinarian (Dr. Alinda Buckingham) and also a technician-manager (Jessica Jett, CVT). See introductions below.

As always, if you have any questions or if you think we can help you in any way, please call us!

Gratefully yours,
Jenn Berger and everyone at Bright Eyes & Bushy Tails!

Staff news

Dr. Alinda Buckingham has just joined our team full time. Dr. Buckingham graduated from the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2008. She earned her BA in Biology from Coe College in 2004. Her interests in veterinary medicine include dermatology (particularly allergy cases), senior wellness, soft-tissue surgery, and exotic animal medicine.



We have also added a new role to our clinic, that of Customer Service Manager. Jessica Jett, CVT has filled this position for us and now oversees most of our internal compliance (think auditing and procedures!) and staff training as well as our client education and customer service areas. We are excited to have Jess on board!

Rescue Fun Day 2010!

Our third annual Rescue Fun Day was held Sunday June 27th at the hospital. This is a fun fund-raising event that featured numerous local shelters and animal rescue groups. We also had dozens of adoptable animals on-hand. Kevin "B.F." Burt came out to entertain us with his great vocals and guitar!

This year's turnout was the best ever and we are excited to continue to grow the event in the years to come. Thank you to everyone who attended and generously donated to the rescue groups.

Lyme Disease (by LeAnn Anderson, DVM)

Summer is in full swing and that means our dogs are often outside more. It also means that our dogs have greater exposure to ticks. Lyme disease, caused by the organism, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, is becoming more prominent in our area.

Lyme disease in dogs is different than the disease in people. Most dogs that are infected do not show clinical signs. Those that get sick usually start with limping, fever, and lethargy. They can have joint pain and swelling of the lymph nodes. In a small number of cases, kidney disease develops which can result in kidney failure; renal failure is the most severe type of disease.

Ticks that spread Lyme disease are the deer tick and the western black-legged tick. Ticks become infected as larva when they attach to a small infected host animal, such as a mouse. The larva then are dormant over the winter and in the spring, they molt and become nymphs, or young ticks. They can then attach to another mouse or a larger mammal. If the tick attaches to another infected mammal, they may become infected. When they molt into adults, the infected ticks can attach to other mammals, such as dogs and people, and feed on their blood. The females will drop off of the mammal and lay eggs, starting the cycle again.

When the tick bites and feeds off of the host, it mostly sucks blood however it also injects some back in. This is how people and animals become infected with Lyme disease. This process can take under 24 hours. If a tick is removed before that time, it means that it will be less likely that Lyme disease will be transferred.

A dog can be tested for Lyme disease using the same test that we use to check for heartworm disease (4Dx® Snap test). If a dog has been exposed to Lyme disease, it can take 3-5 weeks for the test to be positive. This test can stay positive for a year. So if the test is positive this year, it will likely be positive next year as well.

Prevention of Lyme disease can be accomplished with both tick prevention and vaccination. Using a tick preventative, such as Frontline®, helps keep the ticks off of your dog. Vaccinating will prevent your dog from becoming infected with the bacteria. Even dogs that have tested positive for Lyme disease in the past should be vaccinated for Lyme disease – a different recommendation from other diseases. This is because bacteria are great at hiding in the body and your dog could become re-infected.

If your dog is positive for Lyme disease and showing clinical signs, treatment with the antibiotic, doxycycline, is prescribed for one month. Other medications may be prescribed to help with any discomfort related to the disease. If Lyme disease is suspected with kidney disease, this is a serious situation that will require extensive hospitalization and can be fatal. If your dog is positive but not showing clinical signs, talk with us about whether treatment is recommended at this time.

Looking to adopt?

Bright Eyes & Bushy Tails frequently has cats, dogs, kittens or puppies up for adoption at the clinic. These pets come to us for a variety of reasons. While we are not a rescue shelter and do not seek out these pets, there are times when we think it is in the pet's best interest to be legally turned over to us. We do everything we can to successfully re-home them.

For a current look at what critters we have available to adopt email Tina at td2@bebt.com or check out our site on petfinder.com at <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/IA187.html> . Right now we have a 3-legged boxer, "Mister"; a rat terrier with resolving skin disease, "Buck", and several kittens ready to have a new home.

Leptospirosis: You and Your Pet (by Wendy Miller, DVM)

If your dog is often in wooded, secluded areas or anywhere where wildlife is common, please continue reading this article!

Leptospirosis is a disease that occurs worldwide and can affect humans and animals. It can also be passed from animals (domestic and wild) to humans. Many wild animals can carry the disease including raccoons, squirrels, deer, coyotes, skunks, opossums, rats, and mice. All mammals can potentially become infected with leptospire, although cases of leptospirosis are rarer in cats. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention monitors leptospirosis cases in people and more information can be found on their website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/DFBMD/diseaseinfo/leptospirosis> .

The disease is caused by bacteria that are spread through direct or indirect contact with urine, blood, and tissue. The most common route for transmission is direct contact with infected urine. Leptospire bacteria in urine can get into the water or soil and survive there from weeks to months. The bacteria can enter the body through skin or mucous membranes (eyes, nose or mouth), especially if the skin is broken from a cut or scratch. Drinking contaminated water is another common way that leptospirosis is transmitted.

At BEBT, we see a confirmed case of leptospirosis every couple of months. The disease can be severe and life-threatening without proper treatment. If you notice any of the following signs in your pet you should contact your veterinarian immediately: fever, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, anorexia, weakness, and depression. Treatment for leptospirosis is most successful when started early in the disease process as severe organ failure can occur if treatment is delayed. If diagnosed, you should expect your pet to need 24-hour hospitalized care.

For a person to contract leptospirosis from pets, normal daily activities with your pet will not put you at high risk. If you have had possible exposure with an animal known to have leptospirosis, please contact your physician immediately.

Facebook

Check us out on Facebook! Become a “fan” of our page and stay up-to-date on all of the happenings and cool and interesting cases that come through our doors.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bright-Eyes-Bushy-Tails-Veterinary-Hospital/89781879483>

Veterinary Emergencies

As most of you know, in addition to our daytime services, our hospital is staffed 24/7 by our trained technicians and doctors for emergencies and critical care treatment. While we hope that we only see your pets when they are healthy, be assured that we are ready to take care of them when unexpected illness or injuries arise. This side of our business operates as Emergency Veterinary Service of Iowa City.

Some of the more common emergencies that we see include lacerations, hit by car, difficulty urinating, trouble breathing, allergic reactions, toxin or foreign body ingestion, vomiting, and diarrhea. If you have a question or concern about your pet, please do not hesitate to call our emergency phone line at (319) 338-3605.



As always, remember to **use caution** when handling a sick or injured pet as they are more likely to bite or scratch. Sometimes wrapping your pet in a towel or blanket can help protect you while transporting them.