

HMVS - NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011

HENDERSON MOBILE VETERINARY SERVICES

ISSUE ONE



"The support and encouragement for my new practice has been amazing! So many people believe in my vision"
- Dr. Henderson

We would like to introduce you to our new Henderson Mobile Veterinary Services Newsletter!

Heartworm

Spring is upon us (hopefully!). With the warm weather approaching, the discussion of heartworm disease and its prevention is important.

When a mosquito takes a blood feeding from a heartworm-infected animal, it becomes a carrier of the heartworm parasite. The next time the mosquito feeds on a susceptible host, it infects it with juvenile heartworms. After a period of time, these worms make their way to the new host's heart, begin reproducing and the clinical picture of heartworm disease begins to take shape. A pet with



heartworm disease will eventually demonstrate signs of heart and lung compromise, will be exercise intolerant, have pale or blue gums, and may cough. Untreated, this disease can lead to death. Although there is a drug used to treat heartworm infection, it is very costly, and somewhat dangerous to use. It is for this reason that most pet owners choose to use a heartworm prevention agent every year during mosquito season. These drugs are available in either oral or topical forms, are known to be safe for most pets, and provide peace of mind for owners.

Heartworm Testing

If you have used a preventive product during the previous heartworm season, you may wonder

why we suggest testing this year? If you feel you used the product properly, and do not have any doses left over, it is less likely that your pet could have been infected with heartworms last year. Medications are not perfect however, and we do suggest that you ensure your pet is heartworm free, prior to each new heartworm season (each spring). This is especially true for those of you who choose not to use heartworm preventive medication for any given reason. I respect your decision, and simply recommend that we test each spring to ensure your pet is safe. Testing your pet involves a quick home visit and a blood test. The cost of the heartworm test is \$37.50. Please call us for more information.

Prevention begins June 1st!



If you have a topic request for an upcoming newsletter, please email your request to:
hendersonmobilevet@gmail.com



If you no longer wish to receive newsletters from HMVs, please email your request to:
hendersonmobilevet@gmail.com



Products of Interest:

Sasha's Blend



Sasha's Blend is a glucosamine supplement that contains marine cartilage (ethically sourced) which helps protect and rebuild joint tissue. We carry this product and also have samples that we can provide for your pet to try. It is a very fishy powder that is applied to your animals food. Most pets love it!

Tricky Treat Ball

This ball provides your pet with hours of fun. You place treats or your pets food in this ball and watch them go nuts for it! Great for both cats and dogs as it provides exercise. Your pet will need to be food motivated.



Wellness Dog and Cat Foods



Wellness dog and cat food is made with 100% natural ingredients, each with a purpose. They contain no corn, wheat, fillers, or byproducts. Please visit our website for a list of the available foods that we offer.



Nature's Variety Dog Food

New to us is the addition of RAW food. This food is shipped to us frozen and delivered to you. Please visit our website to see more.

Vaccines

We are trying to achieve for your pet the most reduced vaccine schedule possible. Soon we will be carrying a 4-year Distemper combination vaccine. Rabies is currently available as a 3-year product.



Pet Memorials

We offer a section on our website for all your beloved pets that have passed, and invite you to add a few words in memory of a pet you have lost.



Fleas



Fleas live in the dirt in damp, dark areas. Under brush and decking are common outdoor hiding places. When pets visit these areas, fleas jump aboard and soon become residents of your home. Yes, fleas are a nuisance, but can also cause potential allergic reactions to some pets leaving them with severely itchy and raw skin. One flea can turn into 600 in just 3 days! and they can also carry tapeworms that can infect your pets.

Flea Prevention

Flea prevention products are available on their own, or combined with heartworm-prevention medication. They are also available as either oral or topical preparations:

Advantage: (great for outdoor cats!)

Topical Flea Product

Use monthly

Revolution: (Our #1 Recommendation!)

Topical flea and heartworm product

Use monthly

Sentinel: (For those of you who don't like topicals)

Oral tablet for fleas and heartworm

Use monthly

Homeopathy



Dr. Henderson is currently enrolled in a three-year professional program at the Canadian College of Homeopathic Medicine. Once completed, she will be able to fully incorporate homeopathic medicine into her veterinary practice.

Massage Therapy

Technician, Becky Wood, is looking forward to beginning her professional studies in canine massage therapy. At completion of this program, she will be able to provide yet another aspect of rehabilitation and pain control for our four-legged friends.



The new year brings a new addition to the team!



Dr. Henderson is pleased to announce the addition of a full-time veterinary technician to HMVS.

Let's all welcome Becky Wood! Becky has enjoyed working with companion animals for the past nine years. She originally attended school for human health, but animals seemed to be calling out to her, and the rest is history!

Becky lives in the area with her husband Ken, and her two pet-children Maddy, the Chocolate Labrador and Hunter, the Golden Retriever. Both of her dogs are "broken", so she has become very interested in the art of healing with alternative therapies. Both are on their daily dose of medicine, but benefit just as much from gentle massage and regular exercise.

Becky enjoys hiking and being outdoors. She also has a real passion for cooking and spending money on 'cool' food. She will not hesitate to cuddle up on the couch with either kid and watch a movie, especially on Thursday nights!

Becky will be taking a hospice course in New York with Dr. Henderson towards the end of June 2011. She also will be studying massage therapy to help all of our geriatric pooches. Becky looks forward to meeting any and all of your furry family members!



..."Caring for the dying is an art..."

-Ella Bittel, Holistic Vet

Hospice and Palliative Care

After a visit to the American Veterinary Medical Association Convention in Atlanta this past summer, I began to investigate the idea of hospice care for animals. I attended a lecture series by holistic veterinarian, Dr. Ella Bittel, and was immediately pulled to learn more about this loving way of saying good-bye to my patients. Both an important option to consider for the veterinary profession, but equally as important to offer to clients. People need to say good-bye in whatever way they choose. I spent too long dictating how and when an owner should say good-bye to their companion. I am now devoted to assisting the entire family unit through these transitions in any way they deem correct.

Both Becky and I will be completing Dr. Bittel's online course surrounding end-of-life care and will be attending the live course in New York this June. Hospice care truly opens up a whole new world of acceptance, and allows one to just 'be' with a situation rather than control it.

For information on Dr. Bittel's work and hospice care, visit: www.spiritsintransition.org

EMERGENCY & AFTER-HOURS CONTACT INFORMATION FOR HMVS CLIENTS:

Vaughan-Richmond Hill Veterinary Emergency Clinic	10303 Yonge St. Vaughan, ON.	905-884-1832
Veterinary Emergency Clinic of York Region	1210 Journey's End Circle. Newmarket, ON.	905-953-5351
Huron Veterinary Emergency Clinic	115 Bell Farm Rd. Barrie, ON.	705-722-0377