

All Seasons Veterinary Care Monthly Newsletter

April



April Showers Bring May Parasites!

April is here and in full force! While we all love to see the flowers bloom and the sun peek through the clouds, we can't ignore the crazy ups and downs of the weather that bring along some uninvited guests—bugs! Yes, those pesky fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes are lurking around, ready to make their presence known. Did you know that these critters can survive year-round? It takes a whopping three continuous days of temperatures below freezing to wipe them out completely! And as soon as it warms up again, they come right back out to play.

That's why keeping your furry friends on flea, tick, and heartworm prevention all year round is crucial. Don't let these little invaders ruin your springtime fun! Here at ASVC, we're excited to help you keep your pets protected. This month only, when you purchase six months of Simparica Trio for dogs or Revolution Plus for cats, we'll throw in one free dose! And guess what? You can combine this fantastic offer with Zoetis' manufacturer rebate for even more savings. Let's keep those parasites at bay so you can enjoy every moment of this beautiful season!

Purchase 6 Months of Simparica Trio

Or Revolution Plus

And Get 1 Month Free!

The image shows several boxes of Simparica Trio (for dogs) and Revolution Plus (for cats). The Simparica Trio boxes are for different dog breeds and weights: a Corgi (11-30.0 lb), a Golden Retriever (10 lb), a Weimaraner (10 lb), a Chihuahua (1.3-25 lb), a Shih Tzu (5.0 lb), and a Dachshund (10 lb). The Revolution Plus boxes are for cats of different weights: 5.6-11 lb, 2.8-5.5 lb, and 11-22 lb. Each box features a picture of the respective animal and the Zoetis logo.

Heartworm Awareness Month



We want to take this opportunity to shed light on the serious threat heartworms pose to our pets. When looking at the heartworm lifecycle, it is important to understand that heartworm preventatives only kill heartworm larvae and microfilaria “baby heartworms” – they do not eliminate adult heartworms. Once your dog has been bitten by an infected mosquito, the infective larvae are deposited into the tissues. This will result in one of the following:

Your Dog is NOT on Monthly Preventatives

If your dog is not on a monthly preventative, larvae will migrate and circulate in the blood stream where they mature into adults and attach to the walls of your dog’s pulmonary artery. This maturing process can take up to six months and these adult heartworms can grow up to an alarming 14 inches long. The mating process between male and female heartworms in your dog’s heart results in microfilaria “baby heartworms” being produced and released into your dog’s bloodstream. These babies mature into adults and take up residence in your dog’s pulmonary artery and heart continuing the lifecycle. The burden of adult heartworms reduces the effectiveness of your dog’s heart in pumping blood and can lead to heart failure. By then you may notice coughing, lethargy, difficulty breathing, exercise intolerance, and/or loss of appetite. These are serious health issues requiring immediate medical attention.

Your Dog is Given a Monthly Prevention Year Round

If your dog is on a monthly preventative, these migrating larvae circulating in the bloodstream will be killed and will never mature into adults thus eliminating the heartworm lifecycle.

Heartworm tests will only detect the presence of adult heartworms in your dog, they do not detect the presence of circulating larvae or microfilaria. Therefore, it is possible for your pet to test negative for heartworm disease but have larvae “baby heartworms” circulating in their bloodstream resulting in a positive test for adult heartworms 6 months later if no preventatives have been given. This is why annual testing is necessary, especially if there has been a lapse in giving preventatives for 3 or more months. Even failure to give the preventative at the proper time can result in a lapse of coverage.

While cats are susceptible hosts for heartworm disease, they are considerably more resistant than dogs to infection. The disease in cats is usually non-progressive and requires no treatment.

While treatment options are available for dogs only, the treatments are often arduous and costly; complications may arise during and post treatment as well.

This is why we advocate for year-round prevention to be given to your dog. By staying vigilant with preventative measures throughout all seasons – not just during the warmer months – you give your furry friends their best chance at a long and healthy life free from the burden of heartworm disease.

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Prevent Lyme Disease in Dogs

April is Prevent Lyme Disease in Dogs month, the perfect time to raise awareness about this serious bacterial infection that is spread through disease-carrying ticks. It's important to note that Lyme disease is not transmitted from dog to dog or from dogs to people; it is exclusively spread via ticks.

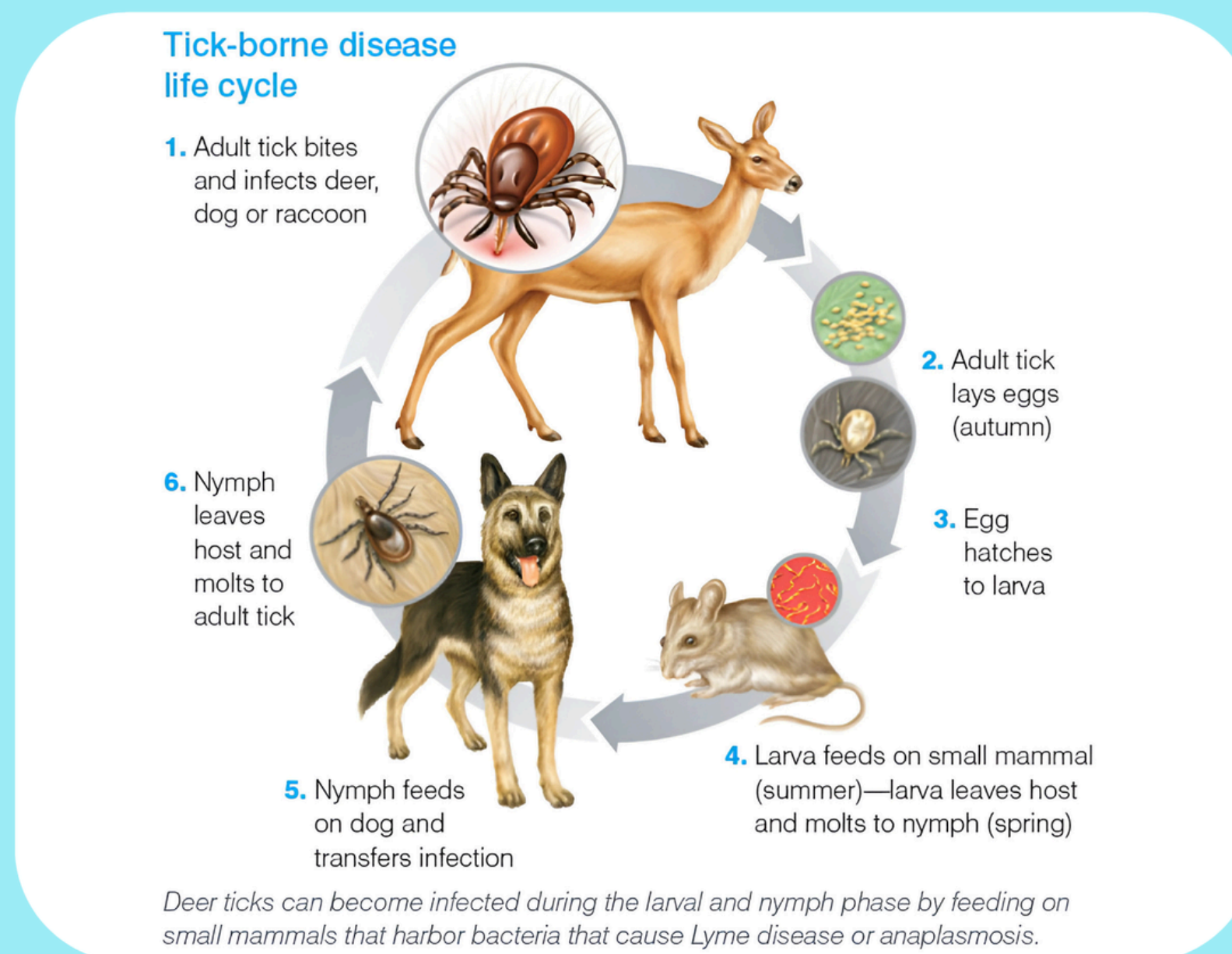
These ticks must feed on their host for 24-48 hours before they can transmit the disease. This is why it is important to use a tick preventative with a quick kill time – if ticks are killed in less than 24 hours – they are less likely to be able to transmit Lyme disease to your pet.

We also prioritize comprehensive protection against Lyme disease at ASVC. In addition to monthly tick preventative, dogs should also receive a Lyme vaccine as an added layer of protection. Dogs over the age of 12 weeks, can receive their initial dose of the vaccine which is then boosted in 3 weeks. After this initial series, your dog will receive their Lyme vaccine once a year. It is also important to note that our product manufacturers stand behind the efficacy of their products and offer a Lyme Disease Guarantee should your pet become infected.

Annual testing for tick-borne diseases can reveal a positive infection before your furry friend even starts showing symptoms. At ASVC, we use the Accuplex 4 test, which screens for exposure to 3 tick-borne diseases (Lyme disease, Anaplasma, Ehrlichia) and also heartworms. By prioritizing early detection, we can treat faster and have better outcomes for your dog.

If your dog does exhibit signs of illness – such as lameness, fever, lethargy, swollen joints, decreased appetite, or increased thirst and urination- we may also perform a urinalysis. Active Lyme disease can lead to kidney issues resulting in elevated protein levels in the urine.

Treatment for Lyme disease typically involves a round of antibiotics along with symptom management tailored for your pet's needs. It's also important to note that even after treatment, dogs may continue to test positive for years without having an active infection. Remember that prevention is the best defense against Lyme disease. By using effective tick control methods and a multi-layer approach, you can protect your beloved companion from these harmful parasites before they have a chance to transmit illness.



Easter Pet Safety Tips

Keep Chocolate and Candy Away

Let's face it: chocolate and candy are everywhere during Easter! While we might be tempted to indulge, these sweet treats can be super dangerous for our pets. Chocolate contains theobromine and caffeine, which are toxic to animals. Just a little nibble can lead to serious issues like seizures or even worse. And don't forget about sugar-free candies—many of them contain xylitol, which can cause a sudden drop in blood sugar and liver failure. So stash those sweets up high where curious paws can't reach!

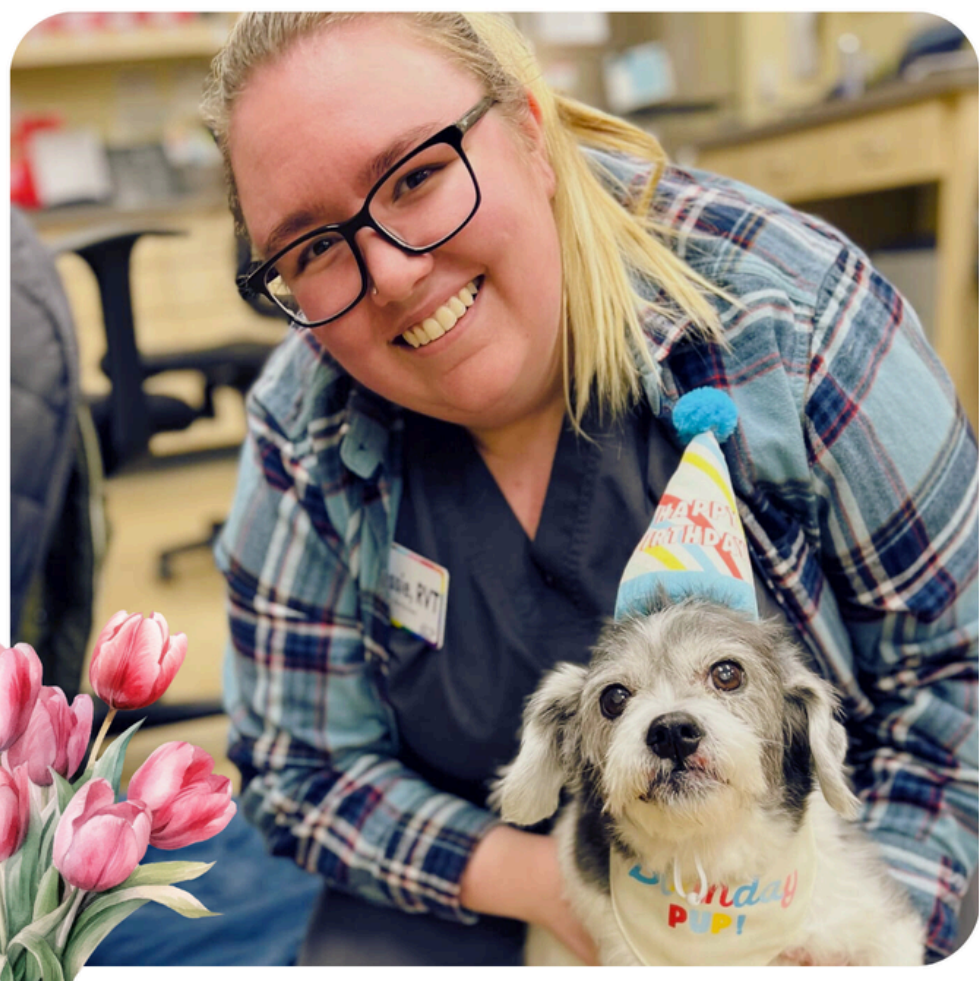
Use Safe Alternatives to Easter Grass

Colorful Easter grass looks festive but can be a hidden danger for your pets! It may seem harmless, but if your dog or cat decides to munch on it, those synthetic strands could get stuck in their digestive tract—yikes! This could lead to some pretty serious health problems that might require emergency surgery. Instead of traditional plastic grass, go for safer options like tissue paper or shredded crinkle paper that still add that festive touch without the risk.

Steer Clear of Dangerous Decor

Easter decorations can brighten up your home but watch out—some plants and items aren't pet-friendly at all! Lilies are poisonous to cats and can cause severe kidney damage if your pet eats them. Other flowers such as tulips and daffodils aren't safe either! These can cause vomiting and diarrhea. Plus, be cautious with small toys in Easter baskets; they could pose choking hazards for curious pups! Make sure everything is secure so it won't topple over when nudged by playful paws, and keep wires or cords out of reach—they're just asking to be chewed on!

Welcome Cassie!



Hello, my name is Cassie! I'm a Registered Veterinary Technician who graduated from DMACC in 2019. I've been involved in the animal industry since 2016, but I knew from a young age that I wanted to help animals. I used to try to 'fix' all my stuffed animals and loved petting any dog I saw. My favorite aspect of working in veterinary medicine is client education; I wholeheartedly believe in empowering pet owners with the confidence they need to care for their furry family members. At home, I share my life with two adorable cats named Pam and Maize, a playful pup named Jack Skellington, and my wife. In my spare time, I enjoy diving into a captivating book, crafting, or hiking. Usually, those hikes are followed by discovering the newest coffee shop in the Des Moines area - you can never have enough coffee!

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