

All Seasons Veterinary Care Monthly Newsletter

April



April Showers Bring May.. Heartworms?

April is Heartworm Awareness Month, making it the perfect time to take a closer look at one of the most serious - **and preventable** - diseases we see in pets. Believe it or not, mosquitos are already active due to the constant shifting in temperature!

Heartworm disease is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito. When an infected mosquito bites a dog or cat, microscopic larvae enter the bloodstream and begin to grow. Over time, these worms mature and live in the heart and lungs, where they can **cause significant and potentially life-threatening damage**. What makes heartworm disease especially concerning is that many pets **show little to no symptoms** in the early stages, allowing the disease to progress before it is detected.

Even in Iowa, where mosquito season can feel unpredictable, **the risk is still very real**. It only takes a **single mosquito bite to transmit heartworm disease**. Once a pet is infected, treatment for dogs is available but far from simple. It involves a series of injections, strict exercise restriction, and careful monitoring over several months. The process can be **stressful for both pets and their owners**, and there are risks involved as the worms die off within the body, not to mention very expensive. In cats, heartworm disease is even more challenging, as there is **no approved treatment** making prevention their only reliable protection.

The good news is that **heartworm disease is highly preventable** with consistent, year-round care. Prevention works by eliminating immature larvae before they can develop into adult worms. Because of this, **timing and consistency are critical**. One of the most common reasons we see heartworm cases is missed doses or gaps in prevention. **Even skipping a single month can leave your pet vulnerable without you realizing it.**

Our Recommendation:

At All Seasons Veterinary Care, we offer several heartworm prevention options to fit your pet's needs and your lifestyle.

For dogs, **Simparica Trio** is a popular **all-in-one monthly chew** that protects against heartworms, fleas, ticks, and intestinal parasites. This is a great option for pet owners who want **broad, convenient coverage in a single product** especially for dogs that spend time outdoors or are at higher risk for tick exposure.



Heartgard is another monthly chew that focuses primarily on heartworm prevention, while also treating certain intestinal parasites like roundworms and hookworms. This option works well for pet owners who may **already be using a separate flea and tick product or prefer to keep those preventatives separate.**

For those who prefer not to worry about remembering a monthly dose, **ProHeart** is an injectable heartworm prevention administered by your veterinarian. **It protects against heartworm disease for consecutive 12 months**, making it a great choice for busy households or pets who are difficult to medicate at home.



For our feline patients, we offer options such as **Revolution**, a **monthly topical medication** applied to the skin. It protects against **heartworms, fleas, ear mites, and certain intestinal parasites**. This is a simple and effective option, especially for cats who are not easily given oral medications.

If your pet is already on heartworm prevention, we recommend checking your supply to ensure you're covered for the months ahead! Protecting your pet from heartworm disease is one of the easiest, and most important, steps you can take for their long-term health.

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Welcome Amanda to our ASVC Family!



Hi, I'm Amanda! I've been working in the animal industry for six years, but my love for animals started long before that. Growing up, I was always asking my parents if we could have more pets! I've just always been drawn to their unique personalities and the way they can instantly make us smile, especially cats.

I attended Iowa Western Community College, where I graduated in 2019 with an Associate of Applied Science after completing the veterinary technician program. One of the things I love most about this field is being able to help both pets and their people feel more at ease. Using Fear Free techniques to create a calmer, more positive experience for our patients is incredibly rewarding, especially when we can turn a nerve-wracking situation into a positive one. I also really enjoy the problem-solving side of veterinary medicine; figuring out what's going on and finding the best solution for each pet. I'm Fear Free and Cat Friendly Certified, which allows me to better support our feline patients and create low-stress visits for all pets.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, playing video games, and hiking. I also love going back home to Villisca whenever I can! I really miss the quiet and peacefulness compared to the city. At home, I have a domestic shorthair cat named Jack. He's very independent and mostly just tolerates me, but he absolutely loves his dad! My favorite quote that shapes how I view the animal industry is: "Being an awesome vet tech is a work of heart."



This is Jack!