



Arbor Animal News

A Quarterly publication from Arbor Animal Clinic

July 15, 2012

Doctor's Corner:

Leptospirosis

The last time I wrote about Leptospirosis was in April of 2010. We had recently had a few cases of this deadly disease in our patients. At that time we were strongly recommending that dogs be vaccinated against it. We continue to recommend this but have changed this important vaccine to our "core" vaccinations program, meaning we recommend it for **all** dogs.

Some important facts about "Lepto":

- 1) All dogs are at risk for this bacterial disease because it is spread by wild-life and rodents, including mice and rats.
- 2) Humans can get Lepto as well—from the environment or their pet!
- 3) Cats are not susceptible
- 4) It is definitely in Texas and Central Texas
- 5) It can be treated if caught early but can lead to kidney or liver failure or death in some cases.
- 6) A recent report from a major Veterinary Teaching Hospital reported that of all the cases they had seen during the study—no cases were reported in vaccinated dogs.

All of the doctors at our practice feel strongly that every dog should be vaccinated against this deadly and preventable disease. Dogs receive two initial vaccinations and yearly boosters. The vaccine protects against a bacteria unlike most of our vaccines that protect your pet from viruses. That is why this vaccine (like the one for kennel cough in dogs) must be given annually instead of every three years as we do for Distemper, Parvo, and Rabies (in dogs). Ask your our vets about this important vaccine and protect them from this deadly disease!!!

Fleas and Ticks— A Bumper Crop Year

Usually once or twice a decade, we experience a large increase in the number of fleas that we normally see in Austin. It is usually a year following relative drought in the previous years with a lot of early spring showers. This year is one of those years...and how! For the same reasons that we saw such a wonderful crop of bluebonnets and increased numbers of kittens born, we are experiencing one of the worst years for fleas that we have seen in a very long time. Many of our clients who have had no flea problems with their pets previously are having trouble this year and for the rest of us, it is a big increase from previous years.

Our doctors are asked from time to time if the flea prevention they are using is working well enough. Occasionally we find a flea on a pet who is on a monthly preventive. This may be because the environment has so many fleas that we are more likely to actually see a live one before the product we are using has had time to kill it. The more fleas in the environment—the more likely this is.

We are now carrying a new product for flea control (and ticks in dogs as well). It is called **Vectra** and it is applied directly to the skin monthly. It has some big advantages over the other topical products we have used previously - in repelling fleas, ticks, lice, and mites as well as in controlling the flea egg population. It is a very safe product also which is of greatest importance to our doctors and staff. It was tested at 5 times the normal dose with no ill effects!

Look for the savings special that we are offering on the **Vectra 3D** (dogs) and **Vectra** (cats) on the other side of this newsletter. Wage more effective control against these pests and save a bunch at the same time.....sounds good to me!

We still carry the oral monthly flea control tablets (Comfortis) and the Heartworm / Flea combination pill (Trifexis) as well. Ask one of our doctors which might be best for your dog or cats.

Did You Know?

Veterinary Economics Journal recently reported that the **10 most common ailments**, for the year 2011 that pet owners sought veterinary care for were:

For Dogs:

- 1) Ear Infections
- 2) Skin Allergies
- 3) Skin Infection
- 4) Non-cancerous Skin Growths
- 5) Upset Stomach
- 6) Intestinal Upset/Diarrhea
- 7) Arthritis
- 8) Bladder Infection
- 9) Bruise or Contusion
- 10) Underactive Thyroid

For Cats:

- 1) Bladder Infection
- 2) Chronic Kidney Disease
- 3) Overactive Thyroid
- 4) Upset Stomach
- 5) Periodontitis/Dental Disease
- 6) Diabetes
- 7) Intestinal Upset/Diarrhea
- 8) Ear Infection
- 9) Skin Allergies
- 10) Lymphosarcoma (Cancer)

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