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Paws...

and Consider



ROCKFORD ROAD
Animal Hospital

Phone: 763-559-7554

www.rrahospital.com

Spring 2015

Protect your dog

Leptospirosis is threat to our pets

Does your dog drink from standing water? Is your dog exposed to areas where wildlife has been? Do you take your dog to a dog park or day care?

If you've answered yes to any of these, your dog may be at risk for Leptospirosis (Lepto for short). Lepto is a potentially deadly bacterial disease that threatens the health of our canine friends. The good news is that there is a vaccine that will protect your pet. Lepto has been diagnosed in dogs living in all areas—from urban, suburban, and rural areas.

The most common Lepto carriers include raccoons, skunks, opossums, squirrels and rats. Livestock can also carry the disease.

Protection

The Lepto vaccine is safe and effective and is now available as a combination vaccine that will protect your pet from Lepto and Lyme disease (see page 2 for information on ways to protect your pet from Lyme disease). Lepto does require a booster. The RRAH team will discuss if this is an appropriate choice for your dog.

“Our job is to make people aware of the risk of their dog getting Lepto and that there is a vaccine available to protect their pet,” said Dr. Dave Brewer.

For more information about the vaccine, or about Lepto, contact us. We can help.

What are the symptoms?

It is important to note that some dogs don't show any signs of illness. Some dogs will show flu like symptoms that can be easily missed by owners. Once a dog begins to vomit and becomes ill, it is important that pet owners get immediate help for their pet.

Symptoms

- ◆ Lack of interest in eating
- ◆ Vomiting
- ◆ Abdominal pain
- ◆ Fever
- ◆ Yellow color in mouth or gums
- ◆ Changes in urination frequency

How are dogs exposed?

Lepto is generally spread through the urine of an infected animal. Most dogs that spend any time outdoors are at risk for Lepto. Dogs typically become infected when they come into contact with wet grass, soil, puddles, streams or ponds contaminated with the urine of the infected animals. The Lepto bacteria can enter your pet's system through a cut in the skin, or the eyes, nose, or mouth. Humans can also become infected with Lepto.

For example, an infected rat urinates in a puddle of water on the sidewalk or an infected raccoon urinates in the dew covered grass along the sidewalk. You walk your dog in these areas. Your dog steps in the contaminated area. Once home, your dog licks his feet. Your dog is exposed. That simple. That fast.



New flea and tick protection available in oral chews

Pet owners now have two new products to help protect your canine from fleas and ticks. The products are oral chews—Bravecto and NexGard. They are both in the same chemical family and work by causing uncontrolled activity in the nervous system of fleas and ticks, leading to death.

Before the oral chews were available, a popular way to prevent fleas and ticks were topicals applied monthly. These are still available for your pets.

How long is the protection?

Bravecto: Offers protection for 12 weeks.

NexGard: Offers protection for four weeks.

Who can take the drug?

Bravecto: dogs at least 6 months of age and weighing at least 4.4 pounds.

NexGard: dogs at least 8 weeks of age and weighing at least 4 pounds.

How do you give the drug?

Bravecto: chewable tablet given once every 12 weeks (or every 3 months) with food. There are some ticks found in the South that are moving to our area. To control these ticks (Lone Star), it must be given every 8 weeks. Dosage depends on your dog's weight; 5 strengths available.

NexGard: beef-flavored chewable tablet given once each month with or without food. Dosage depends on your dog's weight; 5 strengths available.

What does it protect?

Bravecto: Fleas, Black-legged tick, American Dog tick, Brown Dog tick, and Lone Star tick.

NexGard: Fleas, Black-legged tick, American Dog tick, and Lone Star tick.

How they work

Both oral chews are what we call systemic, meaning that fleas and ticks must bite your dog to be exposed to the drug. The good news is that once taken, Bravecto and NexGard begin killing fleas and ticks.



Call ahead, please

If you need a refill for Heartgard, flea and tick products, please call ahead.

If you have questions, our team will be happy to discuss the best option to protect your pet from fleas and ticks. Call us today.

New flea & tick protection now available Oral chews pets love...On your schedule

Pet owners now have a choice of two new products for flea and tick protection. Bravecto gives your dog up to 12 weeks of protection against fleas and ticks. NexGard offers your dog up to 4 weeks of protection against fleas and ticks.



We can help you with a plan to offer your pet protection against fleas and ticks.



Ask us for more information.

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RRAH has a mobile App Download it today

- ◆ Receive clinic promotions and news
- ◆ Share your pet's photos
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Your Pet's Health Reminders

You will receive your pet's health reminders (for vaccinations and other wellness checkups) by email. We will send reminders by mail only if your pet is past due on services.

If we do not have your email, we will mail all of your health reminders.



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Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: 7:30 a.m. - noon

Sunday: Closed

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