



Acton Animal Hospital
Acton, MA
978/263-7477



Pet Care News

Summer 2008

Reminders for Summer Months



- Limit exercise for pets in hot/humid weather to cooler times of the day—early morning or evening.
- Leave pets at home while doing errands. Even with car windows left open, interiors heat up to high temperatures within a few minutes. Hyperthermia can kill.
- Provide a shaded area outside for your pet and be sure to leave a good supply of fresh, cool water that is easily accessible.
- Provide shelter from thunderstorms for your pet.
- Groom your pet frequently to prevent matted hair.
 - Matted hair coat prevents heat from dissipating from your pet's body.
 - Flies can be attracted to lay eggs under soiled hair mats, causing maggots to hatch out and result in severe skin infection and wounds.
- Protect your pet from drowning
Give your pet several ways to escape from a backyard swimming pool. Provide a ramp or steps or stop your pet's access to the pool when you are not there to supervise.
Use a pet life jacket while boating or taking an older pet to swim in a large water body.
- Apply a flea and tick preventive product on your pet's skin all through the summer—fleas can reproduce more easily without cold weather to kill the larvae.
- Have some fun outdoors with your pet while the weather is comfortable—the winter will be here soon enough!

Profender

A new topical wormer medication called Profender has become available at Acton Animal Hospital. Topical application to the back of your cat's neck will eliminate the need to give your pet a pill to treat worms. Profender will treat your cat for infections with roundworms, hookworms, and tapeworms.

Even an indoor cat can become infected by ingesting fleas while grooming itself. Ingestion of fleas containing tapeworm larvae cause tapeworm infections in your cat. Killing mice infected with tapeworms or ingesting worm eggs brought into the home by other pets or by people are other ways indoor cats can become infected with worms. Outdoor cats of course are more likely to become infected with worms.

Profender contains two wormer drugs, Emodepside and Praziquantel, which have proven to be safe in numerous clinical trial. Three different dose sizes are available according to your cat's body weight. Kittens weighing a minimum of 2.2 pounds can be treated with Profender.

Please ask us about this new user-friendly wormer the next time you treat your cat for worm infection or to prevent a new infection.

New Preventive Medicine Protocol



We are adopting the vaccine protocol recommended by the AVMA for core vaccinations for cats and dogs. Core vaccination are vaccines that every dog or cat should be receiving. Elective Vaccinations are those recommended for patients that are considered at higher risk for becoming infected with an infectious disease. Risk changes with age, breed, a pet's activities or special environmental exposures.

At Acton Animal Hospital, pets will be evaluated on an individual basis for length of vaccination intervals for the prevention of feline distemper and the feline respiratory viruses and for canine distemper, hepatitis, parvo, and parainfluenza viral diseases. Rabies vaccinations will continue to be administered at either a one-year or a three-year interval, following the Commonwealth of Massachusetts guidelines.

We are recommending vaccination to prevent Lyme disease as a core vaccine for all dogs at one year intervals after the initial 2 doses in a two to three week time frame.

We are also recommending for all dogs yearly testing, using the Idexx 4DX blood test for heartworm, Lyme, Ehrlichia, and Anaplasmosis diseases, due to the high incidence of tick-borne diseases in Massachusetts. In addition, a yearly fecal test for all outside cats and all dogs is part of a sound preventive medicine protocol. Twice a year testing is recommended if your pet hunts rodents, spends time at kennels or dog day care, or is around other cats or dogs.

Hot Spots (acute moist dermatitis or also pyotraumatic dermatitis)

What are those weepy, foul-smelling lesions on your pet's skin and why do they seem to occur more in hot weather?

“
... these hot
spots occur more
frequently in
the summer.”

These very itchy spots are focal areas of severe acute inflammation caused by rubbing, scratching, or excessive licking by your pet. Any underlying cause for your pet having itchy skin or pain can result in self-trauma causing these focal skin lesions. Ear inflammation or infection, allergy hypersensitivity, fleas, ticks, mites, or lice can result in severe itching. Glands near the rectum can become enlarged or inflamed leading to increased licking in the rectal area. Allergy related itching, along with hot humid weather, makes these hot spots occur more frequently in summer. Bacterial infection also plays a role and can cause a strong, unpleasant odor that is noted along with the moist skin lesion.

Treatment is needed immediately to prevent the lesion from enlarging and to stop the cycle of self-trauma. Treatment usually involves clipping of the hair coat close to the skin, cleaning the skin lesion with an antiseptic soap cleaner such as Betadine scrub, prescribing antibiotics, and breaking the itch cycle. Antihistamines, corticosteroids, medicated shampoo and other topical medications may be needed. Sometimes a hypoallergenic diet needs to be prescribed if these lesions are occurring on a year round basis. A barrier such as an Elizabethan collar or a t-shirt to prevent your pet from licking, scratching, or rubbing may also be used to prevent the cycle of self-trauma.

Reminders!

- . Call ahead for prescription medications
 - . Call ahead for prescription food orders
-