

**Spring is Here and Summer is Near  
Are you Ready?**



*Have you arranged for your dog's annual heartworm test?*

*Do you have the flea and heartworm medication you need for your pet for the coming season?*

**T**his is a good time to make sure that you are up to date with other preventive care needs of your pet such as wellness testing, parasite screening, vaccinations, grooming and nail trimming.



**SPRING CAUTIONS**

**S**pring is here and in the rush to get outdoors and into the nice weather, remember to keep your pet safe.

**Snow Becomes Water**

While most of the snow is gone, that snow is now water that has filled rivers and streams. Many dogs are keen to swim even when the water is extremely cold. Cold temperatures and fast flowing water are dangers. Remember to block pets from access to swimming pools. Pets can get caught in winter covers and drown.

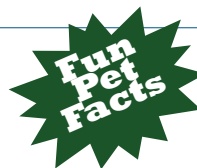
**Insects Awake**

Cold temperatures often make insects slow and drowsy. Your pet may not be able to avoid the temptation of tasting that sleepy bee or wasp. Monitor you pet's enviroment for bees and other insects.

**Why Spay and Neuter?**

**S**pay and neuter procedures are usually performed in young animals. This helps to protect their health by reducing or eliminating the risk for mammary, uterine and testicular cancers, infections and prostate disease. Spaying and neutering can also help keep your pet safe by reducing wandering behaviours.

Spaying and neutering also helps to reduce the number of stray animals; animals without homes, food, veterinary care or people to love them. In six years, one female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 dogs. In seven years, one cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats.



Adult cats have 30 teeth, kittens have 26  
Adult dogs have 42 teeth, puppies have 28  
People have 32 adult teeth and 20 baby teeth

**Who's Walking Who?**

**T**he return of warm weather signals time to get out the leashes and sneakers that may have been abandoned over the winter. But walking isn't always the pleasure it is supposed to be. Many people avoid walking when their pet pulls and yanks on the leash, jumps on people or has trouble with other pets. If your pet's walking manners need improvement, consider using a walking aid. Head halters, specially designed collars, shoulder harnesses and other products exist to help make walking more pleasant for all.

**Head Halters**

There are now several brands of head halters or head collars available. While designs may differ, the goal is to control the dog without needing to pull on the neck. These collars fit the head more like a halter on a horse. Pressure is used to gently correct the dog when they pull.

**Walking Harnesses**

These are specifically designed harnesses, different from flat harnesses, that can be effective in reducing pulling. These harnesses tighten against the shoulders or chest as the dog pulls. As many dogs are strong through the chest and shoulders, this may not be effective for hard pullers.

**Front Clip Harnesses**

These are like other harnesses but the leash clips at the front of the harness, in front of the chest. When the dog pulls, the harness turns them toward you.

If using these tools seems overwhelming or you are not having success in improving your pet's walking behaviour, training classes can be a great way to help teach your dog some new skills while allowing them to socialize and exercise.



*Spring brings the return of heartworm season in Canada. Don't forget to speak to us regarding your pet's flea, tick and heartworm needs.*

**BE INFORMED**

**A**ccurate information empowers you to make the right decisions for our pets. Your vet will assist you with making decisions regarding the care for your sick pet and will recommend care for your seemingly healthy pet. This is called preventive healthcare.