



Kern Road Veterinary Clinic Newsletter

May 2015

Spring is here!

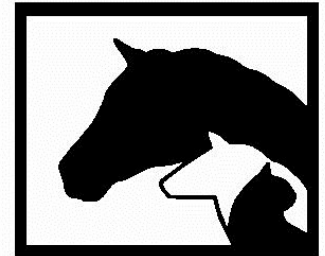
Written by: Dr. Bernadette Hermann, DVM

It's Spring, which means sunny days, spending time outdoors and unfortunately mosquitos. These pesky mosquitos can also be carrying heartworm. In 2014, we diagnosed 11 cases of heartworm disease in the clinic. These dogs ranged in age from 18 months to 13 years and came from all over Livingston County. All dogs should be tested for heartworm yearly and then placed on Heartworm prevention.

You may be thinking "My dog/cat rarely goes outside- why do I need to test them or use prevention?" Mosquitos come indoors and it takes only a single bite from an infected mosquito to transmit the disease. We test every year because we follow the American Heartworm Society guidelines which are considered the most up-to-date information on heartworm disease and its prevention. Accidents happen and pills can be vomited up undetected or you may forget a pill or two. Testing yearly

means your dog will not have heartworm disease that goes undetected for 1-2 years and we can help limit damage to the heart and lungs from an infection.

Preventing heartworm disease is simple- it only takes giving a pill or applying a topical medication monthly. Talk to any of the staff at Kern Road Veterinary Clinic to help you determine the best heartworm prevention for your furry friend.



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Special points of interest:

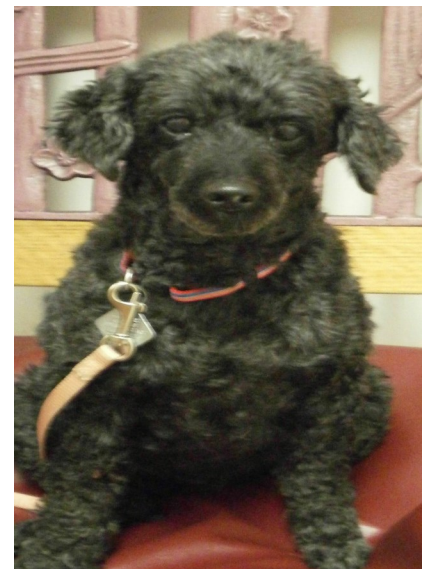
- *How to remove a tick*
- *Keep your backyard tick free*
- *Important tick information*
- *New things at Kern Road*
- *Equine Herpes Virus*
- *PPID*

Heartworm Survivor!

Meet Lexi! She is a 14 year old miniature poodle who has survived heartworm disease not once, but twice! Heartworm disease can affect any dog that is not on prevention at any age! It is vital that your dog be on year-round heart-

worm prevention and get annual heartworm tests. There are a number of products out there from Heartgard to Tri-fexis that protect against heartworm. Find out which one works best for your dog. Just ask Lexi's owner, she

will tell you that heartworm prevention is cheaper than heartworm treatment. Preventing heartworm disease is as easy as giving your pet one pill or topical application a month!



Tick Encounter?:

If you do encounter a tick on your pet, and would like to know if it was infected with agents that could cause your pet illness, we can help. The tick body can be sent for identification and testing to determine the risk to your pet.

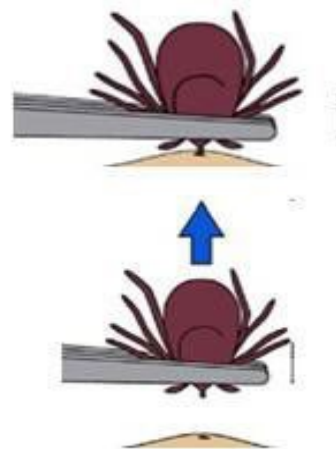
If you do not feel comfortable removing the tick yourself, please do not hesitate to call us and have us remove it for you!

How to Remove a Tick

Step 1: Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. The goal is to remove the entire tick including its head and mouth.

Step 2: Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick!

Step 3: Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water.



Do you know about ticks?

Did you know that one white tailed deer can support more than 450,000 ticks in a year? Ticks are everywhere, even in your backyard and they can transmit multiple diseases that can harm your pet. Tick prevention is the key to a healthy pet. Tick prevention should be tailored to each individual pet. Pets that go up north, hunt, or travel to the west side of Michigan need more tick prevention and control measures than a pet who stays home all the time. We offer

both a topical and oral medication for the control of ticks. Please ask us which product is best for your pet.

Tick prevention involves more than just applying or giving a medication. We strongly recommend that you inspect your pet every time after they are outside. Ticks like to attach to areas with less hair like the armpits, the ears, the lips and the belly.

"Ticks are already in full force. We've removed several ticks from our patients in the last few weeks!"

Also see below for tips on making your yard less tick friendly.

If you find a tick on your pet, please call and talk to us. We can help you remove it, we can send the tick for testing and we can help you adjust your tick prevention measures.

Keep your backyard tick free!

Source: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Despite regular, year-round use of preventives, your pet can still be exposed to ticks—even in your backyard. But did you know you can make your yard less attractive to ticks depending on how you landscape? It's true! Here are some simple tricks and techniques you can employ this year to help reduce tick populations around your home.

- Place a 3-ft wide barrier of wood



- Clear tall grasses and brush around homes and at the edge of lawns.
- Mow the lawn frequently and keep

chips or gravel between lawns and wooded areas and around patios and play equipment. This will restrict tick migration into recreational areas.

leaves raked.

- Stack wood neatly and in a dry area (discourages rodents that ticks feed on).
- Keep playground equipment, decks, and patios away from yard edges and trees and place them in a sunny location, if possible
- Remove any old furniture, mattresses, or trash from the yard that may give ticks a place to hide.



Equine Herpes Virus

Written by: Dr. Christina Cadena, DVM

Equine herpes virus (EHV-1) affects the lining of the respiratory tract and is widespread in horses throughout the world. Common clinical findings include fever, depressed appetite and respiratory signs (usually not with coughing) in young horses, and abortions in late term pregnant mares. The main route of transmission is nose to nose contact. This viral disease has the potential to develop into equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy, a serious and infrequent neurologic disease that can be life threatening.

Equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM) is why talk of EHV can cause panic among horse owners and professionals. Neurologic signs can develop 5-7 days

after infection with EHV-1. These signs can include decreased tail tone (tail is easy to lift and manipulate), anal tone is reduced causing retention of feces and even difficulty urinating, the hind limbs can have paralysis, and the horse may be unable to stand and can be agitated or thrash around. Horses that become recumbent often require humane euthanasia. The degree of spinal cord damage ultimately determines the potential for recovery.

Vaccination against EHV (rhino) is one of the strategies to prevent EHM, although no vaccine has convincing evidence of ability to prevent an EHM outbreak. Biosecurity is of greatest value, taking measures to isolate new horses or resident horses returning

from a competition and monitoring for fever can prevent an outbreak. Keep in mind that EHV does not persist in the environment, it lives in the horse. EHV is killed by simple readily available items such as Rubbing alcohol, detergents, hand soap and ultraviolet light. Prevention strategies focus on regular vaccination at 4 – 6 month intervals based on the risk from exposure to other horses at shows or showing horses returning to the facility. Horses with unknown vaccination history and recent travel should be stabled away from other horses and not have the option for nose to nose contact for 10-14 days.

New things here at Kern Road Veterinary Clinic

NEW X-RAY MACHINE

Spring is here and with it new and exciting things at Kern Road Veterinary Clinic. We have recently made the addition of a Digital Radiograph unit for our on the road patients. This means that we have the ability to develop x-rays at the farm and get results to you quicker! Thinking of scheduling a pre-purchase? Ask for the new machine to get those x-ray results immediately and allow you to make your purchase decision even faster! Want your farrier to see radiographs to assist with shoeing? Call us to set up an appointment.



WELLNESS PLANS

We are also starting to implement **wellness plans**! Whether you have a horse, dog or cat, we have packages that will fit any pets health care needs. **Wellness plans** are a health care package for your pet with a monthly payment. This allows the opportunity to provide the best care for your pet without the lump sum payment at the time of visit. Always wanted to get that bloodwork done but not able to afford it? **Wellness plans** include annual bloodwork at an affordable monthly cost

PPID.....FORMERLY KNOWN AS CUSHINGS DISEASE

As we enter shedding and body clipping season, it's important to keep an eye on how your horse is shedding. Abnormal shedding is just one sign for Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID). Symptoms of PPID include but are not limited to laminitis (founder), weight loss, excessive thirst, abnormal shedding, and changes in body condition, like muscle loss. If your horse seems to be developing



some of these symptoms, a blood test is available for an accurate diagnosis. While there is no cure for PPID, there are effective ways to control it. Pergolide (Prascend) is the most widely used medication and is given by mouth daily. After diagnosis, it's important to regularly monitor your horses health. Regular farrier visits can also help combat laminitis and routine dental care can assist with preventing further weight loss.

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If you received this newsletter in the mail and would like to receive future correspondence electronically please provide us with your email address at info@kernroadvet.com

Kern Road Veterinary Clinic, P.L.L.C. is a 7 veterinarian Equine/Small Animal Veterinary Practice located south of Fowlerville and west of Howell at 105 Fowlerville Road. Established in 1972, Kern Road Veterinary Clinic, P.L.L.C. has continued to grow as we strive to provide state of the art veterinary medicine and the best possible service to our patients and clients.

Kern Road Veterinary Clinic provides quality veterinary medicine through the use of radiology, ultrasound, current methods in surgery, state of the art laboratory diagnosis, cryosurgery, advanced dental procedures, and the most current diagnostic techniques available. The most sophisticated equipment and instruments are used, evaluated and updated regularly.

The doctors and staff at Kern Road Veterinary Clinic attend numerous continuing education courses every year and share knowledge acquired with all members of the Kern Road Veterinary Clinic Staff. Through continuing education, sharing of information and state of the art equipment the doctors and staff of Kern Road Veterinary Clinic try to achieve our goal: Provide The Best Possible Veterinary Medicine And The Best Possible Service To Our Patients And Clients.

Dr. Cadena is BACK!

Some of you who know Dr. Christy Cadena, have heard of her injury that occurred in August 2014. Whenever dealing with animals, there are risks involved and after a freak incident, Dr. Cadena was left with a dislocated shoulder and fractured humerus. After weeks of physical therapy, rehabilitation and complying with doctor's orders to keep quiet, Dr. Cadena finally returned back to work in late March. We are all happy to have her back to work and she is very happy to be back! If she is your normal veterinarian feel free to ask for her when you schedule your appointment! She has special interests in podiatry, lameness, dentistry and ophthalmology.

Thank you for giving Kern Road Veterinary Clinic staff and doctors the opportunity to work with you and your pet. We understand that pets are part of the family and strive to provide the best possible veterinary care. Please feel free to contact us anytime.



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