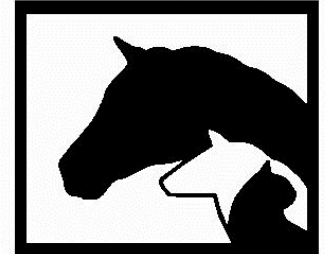




# Kern Road Veterinary Clinic Newsletter

February 2016



## What is bloat?

Written by: Dr. Bernadette Hermann, DVM

Bloat is a condition that causes the stomach to fill with air, food and/or liquid. The stomach can then sometimes twist on itself, causing a GDV (gastric dilatation and volvulus). Both of these conditions are life threatening and cause changes to blood flow and cause severe abdominal pain. They are typically seen in large breed, deep chested dogs. That being said, any dog can bloat! A dog may be at risk for bloat if they are fed only one large meal a day, have a related dog that has a history of

bloat, eats quickly, have a fearful or anxious personality, or exercise right before or after meals.

The most common sign of bloat is a sudden onset of abdominal distention. However some dogs' stomach are hidden under the rib cage, making it hard to see. Other signs include restlessness, anxiety and pain (panting, guarding the belly, grunting), excessive drooling and multiple episodes of vomiting without producing anything.

If bloat occurs, it is im-

portant to rapidly recognize and treat it for the dog to survive. Treatment includes IV fluids, surgery to untwist the stomach and to suture the stomach to the body wall to prevent re-twisting. Most dogs are hospitalized for several days after surgery to monitor for complications.



## Did you know bloat is preventable?

There are several ways to help reduce your dog's risk of bloating. Some lifestyle changes including feeding multiple meals a day, not exercising your dog within 1 hour before or after a meal, and treating your dog's anxiety can reduce your dog's risk. Another preventive measure is performing

a surgery called a prophylactic gastropexy. This surgery involves suturing the stomach in its natural position to the right side of the body wall. This attachment will become permanent in a few weeks and will prevent the stomach from twisting. It can not prevent gas dilation of the stomach but it prevents the life threatening twist. This surgery can be performed when your dog is being neutered or spayed.

Their incision will be bigger but a gastropexy typically adds only about 20 minutes to the length of surgery. Our doctors do perform this surgery so please ask us whether your dog might benefit from a prophylactic gastropexy.

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### Special points of interest:

- Tapeworms
- Importance of annual fecal
- Breeds pre-disposed to bloat
- New things at Kern Road
- Hungry Hungry Horses
- Thrush
- Farewell to Dr. Beach

## Breeds most at-risk for bloat.

*“Did you know Great Danes have a 42% risk of bloat?”*

Research shows that approximately 42% of all Great Danes will experience bloat in their lifetime and that if your dog weighs more than 99 pounds their risk is approximately 20%. If your dog is a high risk breed: monitor your dog closely for signs of bloat, prevent risk factors and consider whether a prophylactic gastropexy may be beneficial for your pet. The doctors and

staff at Kern Road are happy to answer any further questions you may have. High risk breeds include: Great Danes, German Shepherds, Standard Poodles, Gordon and Irish Setters, St Bernard's, Newfoundlands, Rottweilers, Weimaraners, Dobermans, Golden Retrievers, and Labrador Retrievers.

## The Importance of an Annual Fecal

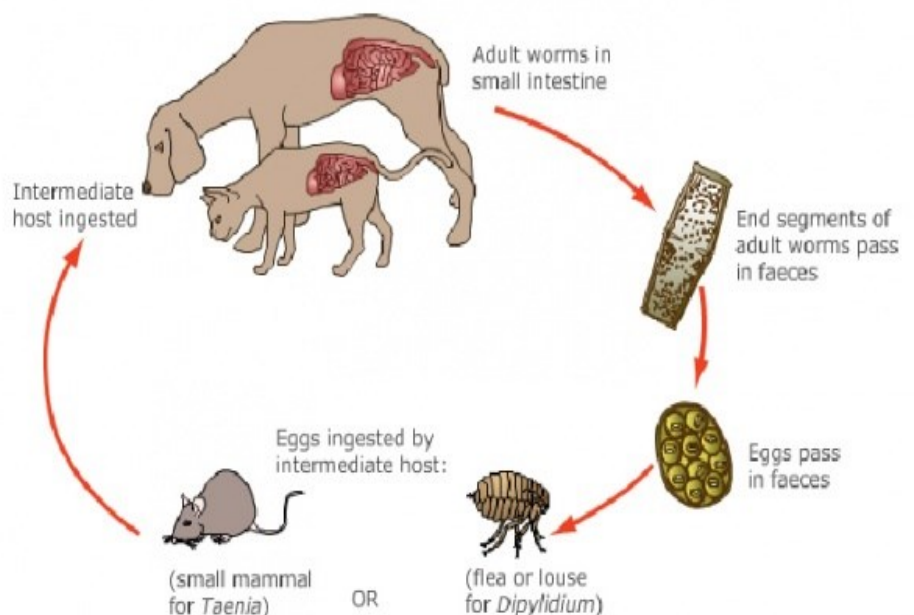
Parasites are everywhere and most parasitic infections cause no symptoms in your pet. Routine fecal checks allow us to monitor the contamination level of your pet's environment, to prevent disease in your pet and your family and it allows us to monitor how well our deworming protocol is working. Cats and dogs that hunt, outdoor

cats and pets that eat stool are at even higher risk of parasite infection. There are multiple types of deworming medications. Bring a fecal and ask a doctor to help you make a personalized parasite control plan for your pet.



## Tapeworms?

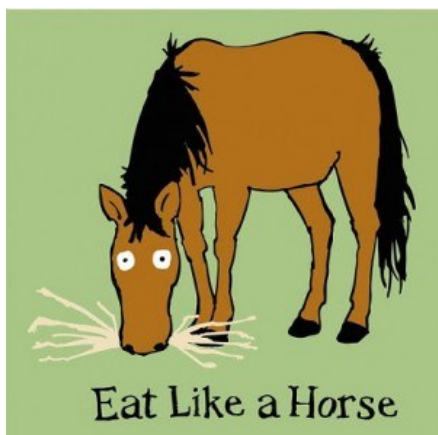
Tapeworms are an intestinal parasite of dogs and cats. They cause irritation to the digestive tract and can cause itching or diarrhea. This may lead to licking or scooting of the hind end due to itching. Pets can acquire tapeworm in a few different ways. Pets who hunt may acquire tapeworms from birds, rodents or rabbits by eating their feces. Fleas also carry tapeworms so any pet with tapeworms should receive flea treatment as well as de-wormer. A stool sample may or may not help diagnose tapeworms. More often, the segments are seen in the stool, fur or around the anus of the pet and appear to be grains of rice or cucumber seeds. If you see tapeworms on your pet, please give us a call!





## Horse's appetite is significant!

Written by: Dr. Christina Cadena, DVM



In my experience the horse who would rather be doing something other than eating is the exception to the rule. Physiologically horses are designed to consume forages in small amounts continuously throughout the day. Their digestive system is structured to allow them the ability to work with microbes inside their hind gut to digest and transform plant materials into energy. Horses certainly have their individual personalities and some are "Picky eaters", but if you are observing a change in your horse's appetite consider it significant. Horses may have a shift in wa-

ter consumption associated with weather change, but appetite should remain the same. Often times a reduced feed consumption can be the first signs of illness. There are times when horses choose to be selective about eating; they may eat hay and not grain; or grain and not hay. Sometimes they will have a complete loss of appetite and even refuse treats! Knowing your horse's normal eating behavior can be a very helpful indicator of early illness, and a helpful signal of when recovery is imminent.

## New things here at Kern Road Veterinary Clinic

### WELLNESS PLANS

We are starting to implement **Wellness Plans!** Whether you have a horse, dog or cat, we have packages that will fit any pet's health care needs. **Wellness Plans** are a preventive 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 or dental done but not able to afford it? **Wellness plans** include annual bloodwork at an affordable monthly payment.



### New Kern Road Babies!

Michelle Killackey and her husband Mike are expecting their second child in April! Their 3 year old daughter is happily expecting her baby brother April 3rd.

Jenni Herbert and her husband Jason welcomed their newest addition "Gemma" in September 2015. Their 3 year old daughter Ella loves being a big sister.

We are beyond excited about these new members to our Kern Road Family!

### **Thrush...!CK!**

Do your horses' feet smell? Is there a gray or black discharge coming from your horses hoof? He may have thrush! When things become muggy or moist, and living quarters become a bit wet, thrush can develop. Thrush is a fungus that affects the frog of the horses hoof, causing a foul odor and discharge. While it doesn't always lead to lameness, thrush can deteriorate the quality of the hoof. However, you're in luck—thrush is treatable! There are combative treatments available to help kill that pesky infection. Pick out your horse's hooves and use cotton to apply the treatment solution to the cleft of the frog and crevices around the frog. Treatment can be applied once daily until resolved. Some horses are more prone to this condition than others and may require monitoring year-round! Thrush develops when horses are standing in mud, soaked shavings or bedding, or constant moisture. This spring, try to keep those stalls dry and make sure to pick out hooves daily!



## Kern Road Veterinary Clinic

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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](mailto: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 current diagnostic techniques. Sophisticated equipment and instruments are used, evaluated and updated regularly.

*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.*



## Farewell to Dr. Beach!

It is with much sadness that we must bid Dr. Megan Beach farewell. Dr. Beach has decided to pursue an exciting new opportunity out of our area and will be leaving Kern Road Vet Clinic this March. She had a great and positive impact on the clinic and we will miss her greatly. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

## Message from Dr. Beach:

I wanted to thank all the wonderful clients at Kern Road Veterinary Clinic for allowing me to help them care for their furry family members. I have been truly blessed to have you and your families in my life.

Thank you, Megan Beach.

