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MOSQUITOES & FLEAS

Spring is just around the corner (hopefully!), and with the Spring comes the usual parasites that we humans have to deal with. The list of parasites includes such things as “Mosquitoes and Fleas” which also affect our pets.

Some mosquitoes carry a parasite, which causes Heartworm Disease in dogs, and recently in cats, although the instances are still quite rare in cats. Heartworms are long worms that accumulate in the heart and lungs, and as they grow to maturity cause obstruction of the heart chambers. Eventually the dog will suffer heart failure and finally death.

Heartworm disease is very easy to prevent, by monthly administration of a tablet with food or by drops applied to the skin at the back of the neck.

Fleas are parasites that use our pets as a food source. They enter our homes in our pet's fur, and, once in the house leave our pets body, and then busy themselves by laying thousands of tiny flea eggs. Many veterinary hospitals carry posters in the waiting room of magnified pictures of the flea, busy in the tufts of carpets surrounded by flea eggs, quite makes your skin crawl! Eventually, these flea eggs will hatch and result in a major infestation of the home. Ask anyone who has suffered this problem, and they will tell you that the problem is very difficult to remedy.

Contrary to popular belief, our pets do not need to be in contact with other pets to pick up fleas. In fact, the most common source is the ground, whether it is grass on the lawn or sand. Therefore, any dog or cat that sets foot outdoors is susceptible.

There are many products on the market to prevent fleas and heartworm, either singularly or in a combination product. Please talk to your veterinarian soon, to find out the best product suited for your pet.