

September Promo

HEARTWORM PREVENTION

TOWNSVILLE VETERINARY CLINIC
AND
NORTH QUEENSLAND SPECIALIST EQUINE SERVICE

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Townsville Vet clinic is offering FREE heartworm testing for your pet!

Heartworm Disease in your pet
Heartworms are parasites that are able to live inside the arteries of the lung and chambers of a pet's heart and feed on surrounding blood. In severe cases heartworms can grow up to 30cm long and can number over 200 worms. The offspring of a heartworm are more commonly referred to as Microfilariae, which can be found in the blood of an infected pet.

How is Heartworm disease spread?
The disease can only be spread between pets by mosquitoes. When a mosquito bites and feeds on the blood of an infected pet it ingests microfilariae. The mosquito becomes a host while the microfilariae mature. When the same mosquito bites another pet it infects the healthy pet with heartworm larvae. The larvae migrate through the pet's tissues and circulatory system, eventually reaching the heart and lungs where adult worms grow and reproduce.

Why is heartworm disease dangerous?
Although the heart, liver, kidneys and general circulation may all be affected, heartworm is primarily a disease of the lungs. A pet's body reacts to the presence of the worms in the blood vessels, resulting in clot formation, bleeding through vessel walls, and inflammation of surrounding lung tissues. The severity of the disease depends upon the amount of lung damage and how the pet's immune system responds. Although

related to worm numbers, it is more a function of the individual dog's reaction to the parasite. Each case of heartworm is, potentially, different.

What are the signs of heartworm disease?
Heartworm disease symptoms include:-
Dry and persistent cough
Lack of stamina when exercising
Weight loss
Dry coat
Listlessness or weakness

In more advanced cases there may be heart failure, distressed breathing, a distended abdomen, severe damage to internal organs, and sometimes collapse from sudden destruction of a pet's red blood cells. By the time an infected pet starts to show symptoms, at least half of the pet's lungs are involved: hence the importance of early diagnosis and prevention. Dogs given the preventative medication who have a heartworm infestation, may experience severe reactions. According to the American Heartworm Society, millions of "baby" heartworms circulate in the bloodstream of affected dogs. A dog that is infested with these microfilaria, if given preventative medication, can suffer a shock-like reaction as the microfilaria die off. This reaction can have severe consequences for your pet. A blood test is the best way to tell if your pet has heartworm disease. Townsville Vet Clinic is offering free heartworm testing in your pet. Give us a call and we can discuss the details with you!

How can you prevent Heartworm disease in you pet?
There are many products available for heartworm prevention. The best option is one that suits your lifestyle and is the most convenient and thereby safest for your pet.
A 'Once a year heartworm injection' known as Proheart is a very convenient method of protection. Proheart is administered by your vet and will remove the risk of you forgetting daily or monthly dosing. Monthly heartworm preventatives and treatments include spot on treatments and chewables which also incorporate other forms of parasite protection for fleas and worms.

When to start heartworm prevention in your pet.
Puppies should begin heartworm prevention by at least 3 months of age. After this age your veterinarian will need to perform a blood test to see if your pet is heartworm free before you start prevention.



Be sure to visit our website townsvillevetclinic.com.au for more information on caring for your pets, large and small, and the services provided by the Townsville Veterinary Clinic




Instagram
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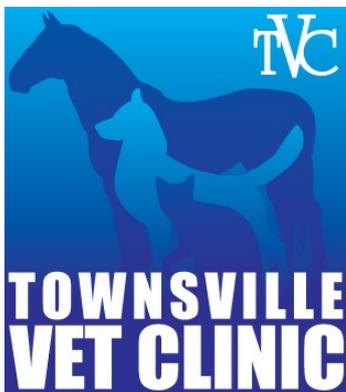
40% OF DOGS THAT RECENTLY TESTED HEARTWORM POSITIVE WERE ON OWNER-GIVEN MONTHLY TREATMENTS.
HAVE YOU EVER MISSED A DOSE?

When you lead a busy life, some things fall through the gaps. Failing to give dogs heartworm prevention on time can leave them at risk from this deadly disease. That's why we recommend testing and year-round heartworm prevention.

 RECEIVE A **FREE** WITNESS HEARTWORM TEST WHEN YOU RECOMMENCE ON PROHEART SR-12.

HEARTWORM SURVEILLANCE PROJECT  | WITNESSSM





Don't Forget the Horses

The New Way to Worm

As every horse owner knows, intestinal worms cause a wide variety of problems such as weight loss, colic and diarrhea which in turn leads to significant amounts of money being spent every year.

Previous worming protocols targeted large and small strongyles or cyathostomes and recommended worming every 6-8 weeks with regular rotation of the product used.

This worming protocol has come into question as regular exposure of parasites to different worming medication may encourage resistance rather than prevent it. Recent studies have found that only one or two individuals in a group of horses will be shedding most of the worm eggs and infecting the other horses. It is these horses which require worming.

In order to determine accurately which horses actually require treatment, it is now recommended to perform a faecal egg count on all the horses on property and then only worm the horses that are shedding the highest number of worm eggs – more than 400 eggs per gram. The same worming product is

used for twelve months, then changed. This effectively reduces the expense associated with worming and reduces the risk of developing drug resistance within our horse population.

With the introduction of the ivermectin drugs large and small strongyles are generally well controlled in wormed horses Unfortunately these medications do not control tapeworms, so worming once yearly with a wormer containing praziquantel is recommended to prevent build up of a tapeworm burden. Tapeworm can occur in large burdens resulting in intestinal obstruction and colic requiring surgery.

Some management strategies (apart from worming) to assist in preventing worm burdens include;

- Regular removal of manure from paddocks.
- Feed horses in bins or buckets to keep their feed off the ground
- Keep stocking rates as low as possible
- Keep horses in age groups with the youngest horses on the least contaminated pasture
- Ask your vet to perform faecal egg

counts to see which horses are shedding the most worm eggs.

So how do we perform a faecal egg count?

Collect a sample of freshly passed manure and deliver it to the clinic in a cool container. A small foam esky and ice brick is ideal. The manure is weighed and prepared in a solution that allows worm eggs to float to the top and be examined under the microscope. The number of eggs per gram of manure is then counted on a Mc Master slide.

Once the type and number of parasite eggs is determined we will recommend which horses require worming and a product and protocol to suit your circumstances.

Get a FREE Faecal Egg Count with every equine vaccination!

Staff Blast: Jay



Jay is a mother of two who loves horror movies and is a Dachshund addict!

Jay has been passionate about animals and their care for as long as she can remember, so what better career to have than be a Veterinary Nurse!? Jay was born and raised in beautiful country Victoria on a farm, which enabled her to work closely with a range of small and large animals including dairy cows.

Bringing home strays and injured wildlife on a daily basis was something she never thought twice about. This often included trying to fix broken snail shells with toothpaste and toilet paper.

Jay is currently studying her Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing and finds great pride in providing her patients with the best quality nursing care. Jay has a special interest in pathology and infectious disease and hopes to further study this throughout her career.