



Clinic Connection

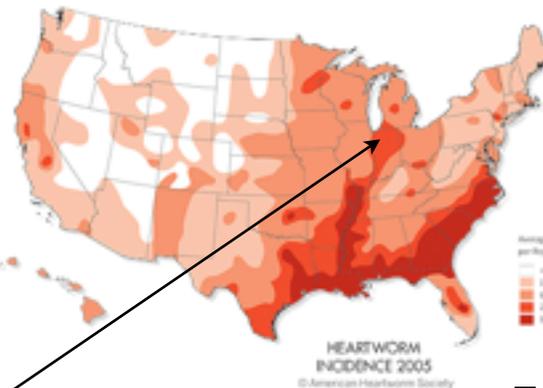
114 N. ELKHART WAKARUSA, IN (574)862-4995

Dr. Jerry Sellon
 Dr. Wanda Schmeltz Dr. Wade Hammond Dr. Brendon Cawood
 Dr. Justin Sellon Dr. Aaron Smiley Dr. Lynne Statler

SMALL ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT

HEARTWORM DISEASE IN MICHIANA

With spring and warm weather arriving it is vital to be aware of a particularly dangerous but surprisingly common parasite, *Dirofilaria immitis*, otherwise known as **heartworm**. This parasite is spread by mosquitos and can infect dogs, cats, and other carnivores. The number of heartworms in



our part of the country is on the rise and parasitologists are currently working to figure out why. Some ideas include global warming, an increased coyote or wild host population, or an increase in the particular mosquito species that spreads heartworm disease.

FACTS ABOUT HEARTWORMS

- Once heartworm larvae infect the bloodstream, it may take 5-7 months for adult worms to develop.
- Adult heartworms are 6-14 inches in length and live primarily in the vessels of the lungs and the right side of the heart.
- Heartworm disease tends to be more evident and detected earlier in active dogs.
- Cats with heartworms may mount a severe "respiratory allergic response" and can die suddenly with no time for diagnosis and treatment.
- Recent research suggests that 30-40% of coyotes in the Midwest carry heartworms and are spreading them to domestic dogs and cats.
- Although canines are the primary host, heartworms have been found in over 30 species including humans.



TIPS FOR PREVENTING HEARTWORM DISEASE

- Keep your dog or cat on a year round monthly heartworm preventative
- These products are safe, effective, and easy to use.
- They come in both topical and oral forms
- Most of these products also treat and prevent intestinal parasites like round worms and hookworms.
- If your pet is not on a preventative, get them heartworm tested and start a preventative.
- The heartworm test is a quick and inexpensive blood test and you will know the results within minutes.
- Use a topical mosquito repellent such as Vectra 3d and avoid unnecessary mosquito exposure.



114 N. ELKHART WAKARUSA, IN (574)862-4995

Large Animal Spotlight

Strategic Deworming

For the past twenty years veterinarians have recommended rotational deworming; deworming every three months with a different product. This plan worked well, but recently veterinarians discovered resistant parasites that are not killed by certain dewormers. Many veterinarians believe rotational deworming is not necessary, and actually causes the population of parasites to become more resistant. In light of this, we recommend Strategic Deworming. A fecal sample six weeks after your last deworming is all that is needed to begin the new program. Once the veterinarian diagnosis your horse has a low, medium, or high parasite burden, a deworming schedule will be prescribed. A lot of horses only need to be dewormed in the spring and fall.

Equine Vaccination

Benjamin Franklin wrote,
 "An ounce of prevention is
 worth a pound of cure."

Call the office at (574) 862-4995 to
 schedule your horse for vaccination.

What vaccinations are the most important?

Not all vaccinations are required for every horse. Younger horses and those who are exposed to a lot of other horses need additional vaccines. Below is a chart of core (necessary) and risk based (optional) vaccinations.

Core

- Tetanus
- Easter/Western Encephalitis
- West Nile Virus
- Rabies
- Potomac Horse Fever

Risk Based

- Strangles (Distemper)
- Influenza
- Rhinopneumonitis

Announcements

Grooming

Dr. Weldy's has hired Karyl Hapner.

She has 19 years of experience grooming dogs and cats.

The service will be located across the street from the clinic in at
 123 N. Elkhart Street.

Call (574) 862-1518 to set up an appointment!

Check out www.DrWeldys.com for a discount on your first grooming.

Hot off the Press

Check out Dr. Smiley's weekly
 veterinary article in the Sunday
 addition of the Goshen News

Website

Visit www.DrWeldys.com