

BAYWOOD  
ANIMAL  
HOSPITAL

8 FINLAY MILL ROAD  
MIDHURST, ON

Phone: 705-728-5792  
Fax: 705-728-5793  
E-mail:

info@baywoodanimalhospital.ca



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# paw PRINTS

Summer 2009

## SUMMERTIME FUN

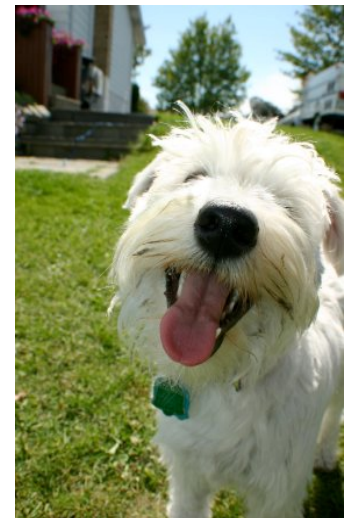
Summer is here and more families and their pets will spend extended hours outside enjoying the sun. Pet owners should be cautious about overdoing summer activities with their pets. For instance, high temperatures can lead to sunburn and heatstroke. Access to swimming pools can lead to ear infections or— worse case scenario— a pet accidentally falling into a pool and drowning.

Insects and spiders of all shapes and sizes come out of their hiding places during the summer. Mosquitoes congregate near water. Rid your yard of even the shallowest of pools of water so mosquitoes don't breed. Keep your pet away from bees, wasps and woodpiles that may harbor spiders.

Hot sidewalks can be very painful for pets and may burn the

pads of their paws. In addition, sunburn is common on body areas not protected by fur or dark skin such as the nose, tips of the ears and underbelly, and may lead to skin cancer. Consult your veterinarian regarding sunscreen; a light application on exposed skin may help prevent both sunburn and skin cancer, especially in pets with light fur and pale pigmentation.

Ear infections are frequently caused by trapped water in a dog's ear after swimming or bathing. If your pet likes water activities, speak to your veterinarian regarding specific ear cleaning products that will help dry the ear canal to prevent recurring ear infections.



## The BIG BAD FLEA...

Fleas are one of the most common and irritating parasites affecting cats and dogs. They love warm humid conditions and survive by biting your pet. Fleas have a simple life cycle. Adults live up to 100 days, biting to feed on blood and produce eggs. Eggs drop off your pet to the ground or carpet, hatch into adults and the cycle continues.

Imagine a mosquito bite that keeps on itching. That's what flea bites feel like for your pet. And if you don't kill the fleas, the biting just continues. A single female flea can take up to 15 times her body weight in blood over the several weeks of her adult life. In addition, fleas can carry several diseases, and also act as vectors to spread tape-

worm. Untreated flea bites can also lead to secondary skin irritations, anemia, and Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD).

FAD is an allergic reaction that results when fleas inject irritating substances into the skin, in exchange for the blood they suck out. FAD causes pets to chew, lick and scratch to the point of causing open sores and potentially serious skin infections.

Humans can also become infected with tapeworm after ingestion of infected fleas. Fleas can also bite people and live in your home. Remember that the fleas you see are only a very small percentage of all the fleas and eggs in your home.

Veterinarians now have many excellent forms of effective and safe

flea prevention and control. Flea control can be prescribed year round or seasonally depending on where you live or travel with your pet, and can be given topically (applied on the skin) or orally (by mouth).



## HORRORS OF HEATSTROKE

### SIGNS:

Elevated body temperature >41-43C (105-109F)

Panting and salivating excessively  
Difficulty breathing or not breathing  
Bloody vomit or diarrhea  
Seizures, depression, coma or collapse

### Death

### PREVENTION:

**NEVER** leave your pet in the car in warm weather! Not even for a short time with the windows open, as animals will quickly overheat, in as little as a few minutes.

If you see an animal in this situation, **ACT QUICKLY** to get the pet out of the car or other overheating situation.

Keep pets cool, provide good air circulation and access to water;

limit excessive exercise during hot periods of the day.

Do not leave your pet in direct sunlight especially on concrete or asphalt.

### OWNER CARE:

Act quickly to cool the animal down. Remove the animal from the situation immediately!

Spray the animal with cool water (NOT icy water or ice) or cover with cool wet towels and fan on route to the nearest veterinary clinic.

If the animal is conscious and alert, offer water or ice chips.

### VETERINARY CARE:

**THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!**

The animal can die or suffer lasting problems from this condition

so get the animal to the nearest veterinary clinic immediately.

### IMPORTANT POINTS:

A car can heat up quickly and become much warmer than it is outside. Asphalt and concrete get extremely hot during warm weather so try to avoid these areas when walking your dog; they could burn you animal's pads of their paws.

Although all breeds are susceptible to heatstroke, short nosed breeds are at a higher risk as well as any animal with a medical problem may be at greater risk.

Most problems occur on mild days so don't be fooled thinking that it is not too hot outside.



“The purity of a person’s heart can be quickly measured by how they regard animals”

## TIPS FOR SAFE TRAVELLING

### TIPS FOR

### SAFE TRAVELLING:

Always have your pet under control in the car. Use seat belts designed for dogs or a pet carrier for small dogs and cats.

Ensure that your dog is not able to poke his/her head out of the window. Dust, debris, pollutants and insects can cause irritation or abrasions of the eyes and nose.

Ensure that your pet is not able to jump out of the car window.

Never keep your pet in the back of a pick-up truck or allow him/her to ride in camper hitched to the car.

Never leave your pet alone in the car in warm weather. The temperature inside a car will rise quickly and become hotter than the temperature outside. An animal can die very quickly in a hot car. The temperature can rise from 29 degrees Celsius to over 50 degrees in just a few minutes. Carry your pet's first aid kit in your car.

Remember never to leave a leash on your pet while inside the crate. He/she could get tangled and injured or strangled. Ensure that you maintain freshness of your pet's food by keeping it at an appropriate temperature. This is especially important with canned food and once open, it is best to discard leftovers. Take a supply of water for your pet if you are travelling to an area where the water supply is questionable.



## WATER SAFETY

Not all dogs can swim. Not all dogs can get themselves to safety if they fall in the water.

Never leave your pet unattended around bodies of water or pools.

Check the area to be aware of any places where your dog may slip and fall off rocks into bodies of water.

Beware around pool areas (even if your pet has been around pools in the past). Watch that your pet does not get trapped under a pool cover as he/she could drown.

Discuss with your veterinarian any underlying health problems that your dog may have which

will affect his/her safety while swimming (e.g. heart disease).

A senior pet may be more prone to slipping/falling into bodies of water. As your pet ages, medical conditions may affect his/her ability to swim, even if your pet was a competent swimmer years ago.

It can become extremely hot around the pool so keep your pet in cool surroundings during the hotter times of the day.

Make sure your pet never drinks from the pool and rinse off the chlorine after swimming.

Skin and ear infections may occur after swimming in lake water. Clean and dry ears thor-

oughly after swimming. Ensure that your dog is comfortable in a boat before taking him/her out for a boat ride. An anxious animal can tip the boat. Bring a lifejacket for your dog. Get him/her accustomed to the jacket prior to use on the water.

If you take your dog fishing with you, remember that fishing lines and fishing hooks pose a risk for strangulation and swallowing. Also, some fishing hooks have one-way barbs. If your pet becomes imbedded, be careful as you can cause pain and damage to the animal if you attempt to move it. You will likely need veterinary services.



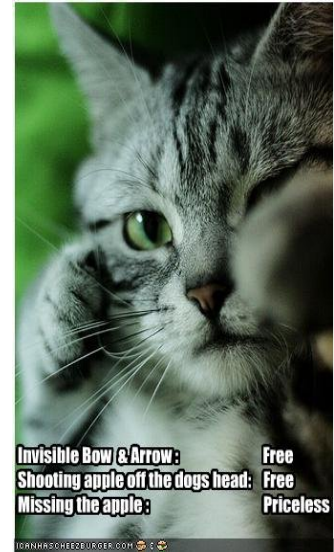
## PROTECT YOUR PET AGAINST PARASITES

Internal parasites are small organisms that may live in the stomach, intestines and other internal organs of your pet. Even though they may not be easily seen, they may pose a threat to the health of your pet and your family.

Your pet may carry parasites, and even though he/she may not appear ill, your veterinarian may recommend a "fecal test" to ensure you and your pet are protected. This specialized test includes microscopic examination of your pet's stool in a qualified lab. Examination will allow for identification of the parasite because different worms produce different types of eggs.

The most common parasites of pets in Canada are roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms, Giardia and coccidia. These parasites live inside the stomach, intestines, or other organs of your pet. Signs of infection include pot bellied appearance, diarrhea, dragging its behind on the ground, passing worms in feces or vomit, appetite changes, weight loss, or dull hair-coat.

Appropriate treatment will be recommended by your veterinarian for the specific parasite that your pet is infected with. Most infections can be diagnosed and eliminated with appropriate medication.



Invisible Bow & Arrow: Free  
Shooting apple off the dogs head: Free  
Missing the apple: Priceless

## HOW DO PARASITES AFFECT HUMANS?

**What are parasitic zoonoses?**  
They are diseases primarily of animals which are caused by parasites that can be transmitted to people,

**How do they harm people and animals?** In animals, intestinal parasites can cause gastrointestinal upset, vomiting, diarrhea, blood loss, intestinal obstruction, weight loss, pot-bellied appearance and general failure to thrive. In people, zoonotic parasites cause a variety of conditions depending on the parasite, the route of infection, the person's age and immune status, and the size of the infectious dose. The signs in humans range from sub-clinical (no noticeable problems) to blindness or even death.

**Who is hurt by these diseases?**  
The most likely candidates for parasitic zoonoses are young children, because they are less careful about hygiene, are likely to put their hands in their mouths, commonly play in dirt or sand, and may eat grass or soil contaminated with parasite eggs. Immunocompromised adults are at increased risk for zoonotic disease. Still others are at increased risk because of high exposure due to their occupations, eg. Veterinarians, veterinary technicians, farm and ranch workers, and dog and cat breeders. Campers and travelers may be at more risk because of



exposure to parasites from wild or domestic animals via contaminated water and vegetation, or the lack of hygienic facilities.

**Where do the parasites come from?** Intestinal parasites (eggs and larvae) are virtually everywhere in the outdoor environment, and animals are generally infected with parasites at birth or a very young age. Puppies and kittens are almost always born with worms and continue to pick up more parasites via nursing, fecal contamination and the environment. Some parasite eggs are particularly resistant and remain viable in the soil for many years. Thus it is practically impossible to rid the environment of already

existing contamination.

**How do humans get parasites from animals?** Humans can contract zoonotic parasites in several different ways. They may accidentally ingest parasite eggs or larvae which are contaminating the environment, or they may swallow a flea that contains the intermediate stage of a parasite. People can also become infected by skin penetration of parasite larvae if their bare feet or bare skin come in contact with contaminated soil.

**When are zoonotic parasites the greatest threat to people?** When animals are very young they pass large numbers of eggs. Puppies and kittens also crawl through feces and groom each other. The mother dog and cat may shed large numbers of eggs after parturition, and in addition, when grooming their offspring, they are being re-infected constantly. So, the risk of zoonotic infection in people increases around a litter of puppies or kittens. The presence of a single puppy in a household has been positively correlated with human zoonotic disease. Also, people who take their pets to public parks or other common areas, where other pets routinely defecate, are at greater risk because pets can become more heavily infected from these exposures.

"A dog is the only thing on earth that will love you more than you love yourself"



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## BAYWOOD NEWS

In the spirit of summer, Baywood Animal Hospital is proud to welcome two new members to our Team. Janice joins the reception crew with many years experience. She has previously worked in the veterinary field, but took a hiatus to focus on her family. Bethany is a Registered Veterinary Technician who came to Baywood Animal Hospital in April. She brings both experience and dedication and is a welcome addition to our team!

Baywood Animal Hospital has also recently acquired an Auriflush System. This system is a revolutionary self-contained device used to flush, clean and medicate ears. It delivers a small stream of warmed water and cleaning solution deep into inflamed ear canals, thereby providing almost instant relief from sore and dirty ears. Your veterinarian may recommend this procedure to you and your pet if it suffers from chronic or acute ear infections. Be sure to ask if an Auriflush would benefit your pet!

### Things you can learn from your cat...

- Make the world your playground.
- Whenever you miss the litterbox, cover it up. Dragging a sock over it helps.
- If you can't get your way, lay across the keyboard until you do.
- Always find a good patch of sun to nap in.
- When in trouble, just purr and look cute.
- Curiosity never killed anything except maybe a few hours.
- When in doubt, cop an attitude.
- Always give generously; a bird or rodent left on the bed tells them "I care".
- When you have something important to say, try to say it in the dead of night when you're SURE everyone's sleeping. There's no better way to get the attention you deserve.



### Things you can learn from your dog...

- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
  - Run, romp and play daily.
  - Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you've had enough.
  - Be loyal.
  - If you stare at someone long enough, eventually you'll get what you want.
  - Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
  - When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
  - Always give people a friendly greeting. A cold nose in the crotch is most effective.
  - When you do something wrong, always take responsibility (as soon as you're dragged shamefully out from under the bed).
  - When someone's having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
  - Take naps and stretch before rising.