



# Oakview Update



## Heartworm Disease

### Heartworms -

#### It only takes one.

Pets become infested with heartworm when bitten by a mosquito carrying immature parasites picked up from another animal. Once in the bloodstream, the parasites migrate to the heart and mature into worms that can cause heart failure. Dogs are most susceptible, but cats and ferrets can also be infested.

A pet with heartworms can be treated, but the cure is difficult, expensive and sometimes fatal. This is one case where prevention is much, much better than the cure, which is why heartworm

prevention is so important. The American Heartworm Society estimates that 27 million dogs are not on preventive medicine -- leaving them at risk for this deadly disease, which is present in all states except Alaska.

Heartworm preventive medications are used to periodically kill larval heartworms that have managed to gain access to the dog's body. At this point, the products offered by Oakview Veterinary Medical Center are intended for monthly use. This means that they kill all the heartworm larvae that have accumulated in the past month each time they are given. Some products offer the ability

to kill older larvae which helps keep the pet protected in case someone is late giving the heartworm preventive medication at some point.

We currently use and recommend **IVERHART MAX<sup>®</sup>**, which prevents heartworm disease and controls roundworms, hookworms and tapeworms in a safe, effective monthly medication.



## Fleas & Ticks—It's that time again

### Fleas

The adult fleas you may see on your pet are only the tip of the infestation iceberg. Immature stages (eggs, larva and pupae) can lurk in and around your home. Fleas can reproduce outdoors from spring to fall *but* they can reproduce inside year-round.

### Ticks

Ticks are more than a nuisance, in some cases they may transmit serious diseases to your pet or even to your family. Ticks typically are a problem from early spring to late fall.

### Prevention

We recommend effective, topical flea and tick control such as **Frontline<sup>®</sup> Plus**. In a typical year, the first dosage should be applied in early March with the final dose applied in November. Ticks can be active, even if there is snow on the ground!

### Discount pet drugs

—"no prescription required" may appeal to pet owners surfing the Web, but FDA experts say it can be risky to buy drugs online from sites that tout this message and others like it.

FDA has found companies that sell unapproved pet drugs and counterfeit pet products, make fraudulent claims, dispense prescription drugs without requiring a prescription, and sell expired drugs. Pet owners who purchase drugs from these companies may think they are saving money, but in reality, they may be short-changing their pet's health and putting its life at risk.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Oakview Veterinary Medical Center offers a full selection of effective Heartworm Prevention and Flea & Tick products at competitive prices. We compare our prices to major "on-line" pharmacies, and with manufacturer promotions, we are often lower in price.

If you do find a lower price, we can often match the price of on-line companies. Just bring in the information, including shipping and handling.

## Introducing Dr. Nikki Johnson

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Dr. Nikki is celebrating her one year anniversary providing Chiropractic care to animals at Oakview Veterinary Medical Center. She has been an Animal Chiropractor since 1996, spending 10 years in the Madison, Wisconsin area and moving to Central Wisconsin in December of 2007.

Dr. Nikki grew up on a small farm in the Green Bay area with dogs, cats, chickens, turkeys, pigs and horses.

Her family now includes her husband, Wes, 2 kids, 2 cats and 2 dogs. Her

children, 8 year-old Mesa and 6 year-old Wyatt are both animal lovers. Cats, Squeaker and Boo Cat, have played dress-up and ridden in doll strollers for years. Dogs include Wes' hunting partner, Gunnar, a German Shorthaired Pointer, and Dr. Nikki's traveling partner, Dally, a Pembroke Welsh Corgi. The whole family enjoys horseback riding, camping and hiking, including the dogs!

Dr. Nikki's gentle touch has helped many of our patients feel better and return to a more active life.

