



Hollywood Insider 2017

Importance of Neutering Pets

It seems like a pretty normal thing, to have your dog or cat spayed or neutered when they are young. However, many pet owners choose not to, for various reasons such as post-surgery weight gain. However, many people don't know the benefits of spaying and neutering and why it is actually very important to have these procedures done at an early age.

First, the obvious reason most people have their pets spayed and neutered is to prevent unwanted litters. Of course, puppies and kittens are very cute, but then you have to find good homes for all of them, and hope that they get spayed or neutered or else those animals will produce more litters and on and on. There are over 5 million dogs and cats in animal shelters nationwide already looking for homes – so many that over 60% of them are euthanized each year. Let's not add to that number!

Second, it is true that spaying or neutering can alter behaviors. But this has more of a good outcome than bad. For example, neutering a male dog at or around 6 months of age can modify certain male behaviors such as marking territory, mounting, and aggression (although obedience training will help improve aggression outcomes along with neutering).

Third, neutering a male dog will help keep him from

roaming away from home. 9 out of 10 dogs that are hit by cars are intact male dogs, who most likely escaped from home in search of an intact female dog in heat. Neutering will calm those hormones and help keep your dogs at home!

Fourth, spaying a female dog or cat drastically decreases her chances of developing mammary cancer later in life. Each heat cycle she goes through puts her more at risk.

Fifth, spaying will 100% prevent pyometra (infection of the uterus) which they are more prone to in the diestrus phase of the heat cycle, or soon after coming out of heat. Yes, spaying may make a female gain a little weight due to hormonal changes, but coupling this with diet changes and exercise can easily prevent obesity.

Sixth, neutering your male dog or cat will 100% prevent testicular cancer and will drastically decrease his chances of developing prostate problems later in life.

Lastly, spaying your female dog will prevent her from going into heat twice a year! No more diapers or messy clean-ups! Not to mention, you will keep the roaming male dogs away from your yard.

We recommend spaying or neutering between 6 months of age and a year. We do

require pets to be up-to-date on all vaccines prior to the spay or neuter surgery. We also require a heartworm test for dogs prior to surgery if the pet has not been tested recently or been on prevention regularly. A pet with heartworms is at a greater risk under anesthesia, and while we can still perform surgery, we need to know the pet's heartworm status beforehand.

For cats, we also require all vaccines to be up-to-date. We also require an FeLV/FIV test prior to surgery. We need to know whether they could have one of these immune deficiency diseases before having surgery.

If you have any questions about surgery, check our new website <http://ruston.petstar.vet> where you can also find estimates for prices. Or, give us a call at 318-255-7081!

August 2017
Volume 2017, Issue 8

Inside this issue:

Parvo Virus	2
Heartworm Prevention	3
Doctor Q&A	3
Heat Stroke in Dogs	3
Photo Showcase	3
Meet the Abyssinian Cat!	4

The Bark Around Town

We will be closed Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day.

Reminder: As of August 1st, we now require the Canine Influenza Vaccine (H3N2 and H3N8) for boarding. If your dog has not been vaccinated yet, call us AT LEAST two weeks prior to boarding. Dogs must receive two vaccines 2-4 weeks apart to be fully immunized.

Parvo Virus

Canine parvovirus (CPV) is a very serious disease that can spread rapidly in unvaccinated dogs. Puppies and older dogs are more prone to the disease, because of their weakened immune systems.

Clinical Signs

Once a dog is infected, clinical signs start to develop within 7-10 days. This is known as the incubation period. During this time, the dog may already be contagious. Once clinical signs begin, a seemingly healthy puppy can become deathly ill within a matter of days. Clinical signs may include diarrhea with or without blood, vomiting, lethargy, no appetite, and possible fever. Once clinical signs begin, it is imminent that the dog be tested and treated right away.

Testing

We can easily test a dog for parvovirus with a simple in-house snap test. We use a stool sample for the test, and have results in about 10 minutes.

Treatment

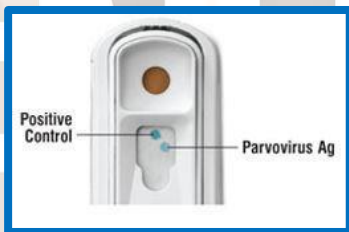
Once the diagnosis is confirmed, your veterinarian will make treatment recommendations based on physical exam and clinical signs. Worse cases, such as a severely dehydrated puppy, will need IV fluids, injectable medications to treat the clinical signs, and hospitalization. Less severe cases may be able to be treated at home. However, it is very hard to tell how a dog will respond to treatment. A less severe case could become severe overnight, and then require hospitalization. There is no actual treatment to kill the parvovirus. We can only treat clinical signs and hope that the dog's immune system is able to fight off the virus. It just has to run its course, and we can try our best to help the dog feel better. The virus itself does not directly cause death, but the clinical signs, especially dehydration, could cause death if the dog is not treated.

Prevention

The parvo vaccine is the #1 thing you can do for your puppies and adult dogs to

prevent parvovirus. We start puppy vaccines at 6 weeks old, and booster it at 9 weeks, 12 weeks, and 16 weeks. It is very important that your puppy receive the booster shots – each vaccine builds the immune system a little bit stronger. One vaccine is not going to prevent parvovirus. We give adult dogs one booster vaccine per year to keep the blood level antibodies at a protective level to prevent the disease. We highly recommend having your dogs vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian, for all puppy vaccines and each yearly adult booster.

If you have any questions or are concerned that your dog may have parvo, please call us and schedule an appointment right away!



Heartworm Prevention

In our May Newsletter, we talked about Heartworm disease, and emphasized why heartworm prevention is so important. We want to go into more depth on this topic. We really cannot stress the importance of heartworm prevention enough.

Heartworm prevention is the #1 thing you can do for your pets, especially here in the Delta region (Mississippi/Louisiana). Heartworms come from mosquitoes, and we all know the mosquito issues that we have. Even dogs who are indoors 100% of the time can be exposed to mosquitoes. And all it takes is one bite from an infected mosquito for your dog to become infected too. If you would like to read the full article about heartworm disease, click [HERE](#)

We have different types of heartworm prevention to fit your lifestyle and your pet's needs.

1. Proheart6

Proheart6 is an injectable moxidectin which lasts 6 months in the dog's system. This means two injections per

year! We recommend this heartworm prevention the most, because of its convenience factor and because it is the most economic. You pay a little more up front, but if you divide the cost over 6 months, it is more affordable than the other heartworm prevention options. Proheart6 does not contain a flea or tick prevention, however, so you will need to purchase a separate product if you need flea/tick prevention.

2. Trifexis

Trifexis is a monthly chewable tablet which contains spinosad and milbemycin oxime. The Milbemycin Oxime is the heartworm prevention part of this. You do need to give Trifexis every 30 days. Trifexis contains a flea prevention also, the Spinosad part of the combo. Some dogs prove difficult to administer tablets to, so you will have to decide if this option is good for you and your pet.

3. Advantage Multi

Advantage Multi is a monthly topical which contains milbemycin oxime and imidacloprid. The milbemycin oxime is the heartworm prevention, and the imidacloprid is the flea prevention. This is

a good option for people who have a hard time administering a tablet. You do have to administer this every 30 days.

It is important that whichever prevention you choose, you administer it on time each time it is due. For example, if you choose a monthly heartworm prevention, you must give it to your pet every 30 days in order for it to be fully effective. The heartworm prevention companies actually offer a guarantee for these preventives, if they are purchased through a veterinary office (online purchases often void these guarantees). Your pet first must meet a certain criteria to be covered by the guarantee. This is one of the reasons we perform a heartworm test before starting /switching prevention, and we recommend testing again 6 months after starting/switching heartworm prevention. So, if your pet has consistently been on heartworm prevention and has met the guarantee criteria, the company will pay for heartworm treatment if your pet ever tests positive for heartworms. Ask us during your next visit if your pet meets the criteria to be covered under the heartworm guarantee.

ProHeart⁶
(moxidectin)
zoetis

Trifexis
(spinosad + milbemycin oxime)
Elanco

advantage multi[®]
for dogs
(imidacloprid + moxidectin)

Ask the Vet!

Q: Does my pet really need to be under anesthesia for its dental cleaning?

A: As veterinarians and pet owners become more aware of the impacts of dental health, we are seeing more and more recommendations for pets to have their teeth cleaned. Sometimes we tend to equate this with what we experience at the dentist. Lie back in this chair, say “ah” while the hygienist and dentist chip away and do their cleaning. Unfortunately, this isn’t the case with our pets. Many pets do not tolerate their mouth being handled much, especially if they have a painful mouth from dental disease. In order to do a cleaning with no anesthesia, your pet would have to be restrained while someone takes sharp instruments to try to scale away the plaque. This is already not fun for us at the dentist and we have nowhere near the amount of plaque that our pets do, and we are also able to reason and understand why this is happening to us.

Anesthesia is a vital part of a thorough dental cleaning for our pets. It allows us to inspect the teeth above the gum line and to get x-rays of the roots of the teeth. While we see the plaque on the crowns of the teeth, there can be extensive disease that is not visible to the bare eye. It is this disease that will lead to the roots dying, as well as the surrounding bone and support structures of teeth. Early intervention allows us to get these teeth clean and keep the entire mouth healthy. In some instances, if the disease has progressed too much, we may need to pull the tooth. Without a proper oral exam, we may never catch these changes until the mouth is in very bad shape and your pet is in pain from its teeth. If your pet has pre-existing health problems, these are always taken into consideration prior to anesthesia and the drugs used will be tailored to be sure they are safe for your pet. While anesthesia does carry risks, typically the benefit of a clean and healthy mouth outweighs this risk. If your pet is in need of a dental cleaning, feel free to come in for a consult and we would be happy to soothe any fears or concerns you may have about this procedure!

~ *Bethany Busby, DVM*

Heat Stroke in Dogs

The term “heat stroke” is used to describe hyperthermia, or an elevated body temperature. If a dog’s body temperature reaches over 103°F, this is considered hyperthermic. Temperatures over 106°F are very dangerous, and anything over 109°F will most likely result in multiple organ failure and death.

In a dog with no signs of previous illness, the cause for elevated temperatures such as these is most likely environmental. A common cause for heat stroke in dogs is when a dog is left in a hot vehicle with inadequate ventilation. The internal temperature of a locked car can rise much more quickly than you would think. For example, on a 78°F day, the temperature in a vehicle can rise to 120°F in minutes. On a 90°F day, the temperature in a vehicle can rise to 160°F in minutes (source: www.petpremium.com).

Another reason for heat stroke in dogs is when a dog is left in a yard for an extended

period of time with no access to shade or water. Also, exposing your dog to vigorous exercise during hot temperatures is a bad idea. You may be out for a jog, a couple of miles from home, when your dog becomes overheated and collapses.

Dogs with a restricted airway, such as brachycephalic breeds (pugs, bulldogs) are at a greater risk for heat stroke. They can become overheated when temperatures are not as severe.

If your dog experiences heat stroke, you have to act quickly. This is an **EMERGENCY**. Controlled lowering of the internal body temperature is our goal. You don’t want to lower the body temperature too quickly, as this can cause other problems. You can place cool wet cloths over the stomach, underarms and feet. You may also apply rubbing alcohol to the footpads to help with perspiration. You should take your dog’s rectal temperature at the onset of symptoms and then monitor it every few minutes until you are able to get to the nearest veterinary hospital. The information that you provide us will help us

prepare the best plan for continuing treatment.

Prognosis for heat stroke depends on several factors, including how long the dog’s body temperature was elevated, what the body temperature was, and whether there are any underlying conditions. If the body temperature was not extremely high, and was not elevated for too long, most dogs recover well.

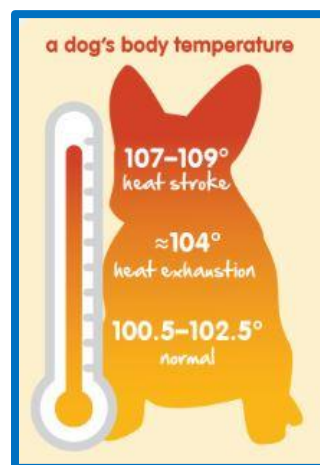
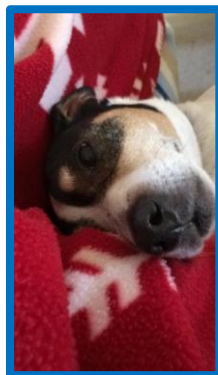


Photo Showcase!



Cooper & Pepper Givens



Toby Crawford



Ruston & Louie Mandrell

Like us on Facebook and submit your favorite pet pictures for your chance to be in our newsletter!

*PetStar of Ruston
2005 Farmerville Hwy.
Ruston, LA 71270
318-255-7081*

http://ruston.petstar.vet

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*Give Your Pet the STAR
Treatment*



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At PetStar, our primary focus is to provide you with the most advanced and compassionate veterinary care. Our dedicated veterinary team members cater to your pet's needs in a new, state-of-the-art facility. We have three staff veterinarians supported by a team of well-trained and caring assistants and administrative staff. PetStar offers a unique combination of general veterinary care and boarding, as well as advanced procedures in small animal medicine, surgery and dentistry.

The PetStar Newsletter is dedicated to each of our friends that we have lost along the way. It has been a pleasant journey, and you will always be a part of the PetStar family. You will remain forever in our hearts.

Coming Next Month...

- Salute to Service Dogs
- Disaster Preparedness
- Dental Prevention
- Meet the Norwegian Elkhound!



Meet the Abyssinian Cat!

Abyssinian cats are thought to be one of the oldest cat breeds. They resemble cats depicted in Egyptian tombs. This breed is believed to come from somewhere around Southeast Asia/Indian Coast.

Abyssinians are beautiful cats, with a distinct look characterized by a "ticked" hair coat which appears very dense and furry. They also have very large, erect ears.

The Abyssinian is a social breed, and do well in

multi-cat households. They don't like to sit still, and are not very good lap cats. Instead, they would prefer to stay busy either playing, chasing things, or climbing and exploring. They do have a tendency to escape and roam, and do not do very well in small confined spaces such as an apartment.

Another unique thing about Abyssinians is that they have a softer, more quiet "meow" than other cat breeds.



Photo courtesy of ePet Health

Breed Characteristics:

Life expectancy: 9-15 yrs
Weight: 10 lbs
Height: 2 ft
Colors: Blue, Cinnamon, Fawn, Ruddy (rich dark brown)