

# Root River Veterinary Center P.A.

SMALL ANIMAL EDITION

SPRING 2011

"Quality Veterinary Care For Large and Small Animals"

Dear Clients,

Spring is here and so are the fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes. Make sure your pet is protected against the deadly diseases these bugs carry such as heartworm and Lyme disease. Also it is important to ensure your pet and your family are protected from the intestinal parasites that your pet may be harboring.

Call us today for more information on how to keep the bugs away this spring and summer!

Thank you for allowing us to care for your pets!

**Doctors & Staff**  
**Root River Vet Center**

**Root River Veterinary Center P.A.**

**Office Hours**

**Monday – Friday 8am-5pm**

**Saturday 8am-12pm**

Phone: 765-2117 Fax: 765-2118

*Emergency Service Available 24hrs A Day*

[www.rootrivervetcenter.com](http://www.rootrivervetcenter.com)



## Intestinal Parasites- The Hidden Threat

The most common intestinal parasites of cats and dogs are roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and tapeworms.

**Roundworms** are the most common of all intestinal parasites. Animals with roundworms pass the infection to others when the eggs and larvae are passed in their stools. Your pet can pick up roundworms by eating infected soil, licking contaminated fur or paws, or by drinking contaminated water. Infected female dogs and cats can pass the infection to their puppies and kittens through their milk. It's important to understand that roundworms are a zoonotic disease, meaning they are transmittable from animals to people. Young children are at higher risk of infection, so it is important to keep your pets dewormed on a regular basis and wash hands when handling any animal or playing in dirt or sand.

**Hookworms** are the second most common intestinal worm found mostly in dogs. Your pet can become infected when hookworm larvae penetrate the animal's skin or the lining of the mouth. Hookworms are dangerous parasites because they actually bite into the intestinal lining and suck blood which can lead to life-threatening anemia. People can also become infected by accidental ingestion of larvae or by the larvae penetrating the skin.

**Whipworms** get their name from their whip-like shape. Animals pass whipworms in their stool. Whipworms rarely infect humans.

**Tapeworms** are thin and flat and made up of segments that can be seen on the rear end of infected dogs and cats. Your pet is infected with tapeworms by eating infected fleas, lice, or rodents. Tapeworms rarely infect humans.

Otherwise healthy pets may be infected with any of these intestinal parasites and not show any outward signs. That's why it is important to deworm your pet on a regular basis and have an annual intestinal parasite examination of the stool performed to ensure that your pet and your family are safe! Call us at 507-765-2117!

# What's eating your pet? External parasites 101

At some point in their lives, many pets experience discomfort caused by external parasites such as fleas, ticks, or mites on their skin or in their ears. These parasites can be extremely irritating to pets and can cause serious skin problems or even carry disease. Below is a list of the most common external parasites we see on cats and dogs.

- Fleas:** Fleas are a year round problem. Your pet can pick up fleas wherever an infestation exists, often in areas frequented by other cats and dogs. Adult fleas are dark brown, no bigger than a sesame seed, and able to move rapidly over your pet's skin.

Adult fleas spend their whole lives on your pet. The females lay eggs that fall off into the environment and hatch into larvae that burrow into carpet, under furniture, and into soil where they mature into adults ready to infest your pet.

One of the first things you may notice on a pet with fleas is "flea dirt"- the black flea droppings left on your pet's coat. Other signs of flea infestation range from mild skin redness to severe scratching that can lead to open sores and skin infection.

Several effective flea control products are available through our clinic. Call today for details.
- Ticks:** Ticks are commonly found in wooded areas, brush, shrubs, and wild undergrowth. Any animal or human that enters these areas is at risk of becoming a tick's host. We see ticks in Fillmore County almost every month of the year, whenever the temperature is above freezing.

Ticks can transmit many serious diseases including Lyme disease and Anaplasmosis. Prompt tick removal is very important because it lessens the chance of disease transmission. Remove ticks by carefully using tweezers to firmly grip the tick as close to the pet's skin as possible. Gently pull the tick free without twisting or crushing it during removal, as this may result in leaving the tick's head in your pet's skin.

Tick prevention includes monthly application of a tick preventative, like Frontline Plus. We also highly recommend vaccinating your dog for Lyme disease as no preventative is 100% effective.
- Ear Mites:** Ear mites are common in cats, but rarely found in dogs. Ear mites are spread by close contact with an infected cat or contaminated bedding.

Signs of ear mite infestation include excessive head shaking and scratching at the ears as well as a dark brown or black discharge from the ears. Your cat may scratch to the point of creating bleeding sores around the ears. A microscopic exam of the ear discharge is needed to confirm an ear mite infection. Treatment involves thoroughly cleaning the ear canals and use of ear mite medication in the ears.
- Demodex mange:** Demodex mange is mainly a problem seen in dogs, especially puppies. In general, these mites are not highly contagious, and are not spread to other animals or humans. Signs of Demodex mange include patches of hair loss and red scaly skin around the eyes and mouth and less commonly the legs and trunk. A microscopic exam of a skin scraping is used to diagnose demodex. Treatment varies depending on the severity of the infestation.

## Kennel Cough

In the last several months there has been a kennel cough outbreak in our area. Kennel cough is a contagious respiratory disease of dogs that has a variety of bacterial as well as viral causes. One of the most common causes of kennel cough is a bacteria called Bordetella. Signs of kennel cough include lethargy, decreased appetite, and a honking cough.

Please make sure that your dog is current on their vaccinations, including Bordetella before boarding your dog at a kennel, going to pet shops or dog parks, or if your dog is going out for training or breeding.

*The next time you stop by our clinic, please take a few minutes to update your address, phone number, and email with us so that we are able to relay to you the latest information concerning your pet's health.*

*Thanks,  
Doctors and Staff of RRVC*

*We would greatly appreciate any donations of old bath or beach towels to use for our hospitalized patients.*



**CALL AHEAD**

And we will have your prescriptions and / or food order ready to go when you get here

## **Proheart 6 Is Back!!**

Proheart 6 is an injectable medication that is used in healthy dogs 6 months of age and older to prevent heartworm disease continuously for six months. The benefit of this type of heartworm treatment is that you would no longer have to remember to give monthly heartworm pills. You would also have the reassurance that your dog got all of the medication, unlike a pill that can be spit out! Use of Proheart 6 does require twice yearly injections to fully protect your dog from infection with heartworm. It is also important to discuss your dog's health history with your veterinarian at every visit to determine if Proheart 6 is right for your dog. As with all medications, side effects are possible and will be discussed before Proheart 6 is used.

## **Lyme Disease**

We, at Root River Veterinary Center, would like to remind you that ticks are now out in full force. We have seen an increase in dogs testing positive for Lyme disease in the last few months. Signs of Lyme disease include lethargy, fever, stiffness, and limping. However, many infected dogs show no signs at all and may later develop chronic arthritis and/or kidney disease that can be life threatening. The best prevention is to have your dog vaccinated for Lyme disease and use year round monthly tick preventative. Because no amount of prevention is 100%, we also recommend annual testing for tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease, to ensure that your dog has not been infected.



Buy 6 Frontline Plus Doses  
And  
Get 1 Dose Free!

FREE Dewormer with Proheart 6 Injectable  
heartworm treatment! The logo for ProHeart 6 (moxidectin), featuring the text "ProHeart" in a serif font with a red heart symbol replacing the letter "o", followed by "6" in a large serif font, and "(moxidectin)" in a smaller serif font below it.

**We want to remind all of our clients that it's important to have your pets identified with a microchip in case they were ever lost. The microchipping procedure is quick and no more uncomfortable than a vaccination, and it can easily be done at your pet's next wellness visit. Just ask!!**

Find us at [www.RootRiverVetCenter.com](http://www.RootRiverVetCenter.com)





**Root River Veterinary Center P.A.  
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**Serving Fillmore County for 30 years**