

Hot Spots

Hot spots are a common and painful skin condition, most commonly in dogs, but can also happen in cats. These red, moist, and crusty lesions typically appear on the pet's head, neck, and chest, but can occur anywhere on the body. Hot spots are often caused by excessive grooming, allergic reactions, or flea bites, which lead to bacterial infection and inflammation. Factors such as humidity, poor air circulation, and skin allergies can also contribute to the development of hot spots.

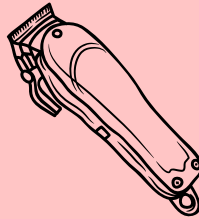
The primary symptoms of hot spots include:

- * Red, inflamed skin
- * Moist, crusty lesions
- * Intense itching and scratching
- * Hair loss around the affected area
- * Pus-filled discharge



Treatment addresses both the underlying cause and the symptoms:

- * Antibiotics to treat bacterial infections
- * Anti-inflammatory medication to reduce itching and swelling
- * Topical treatments to promote healing and prevent further infection
- * Pain relief medication to manage discomfort
- * Removing any underlying allergens or irritants



Prevention involves maintaining good hygiene, keeping your dog's coat clean and well-groomed, and addressing any underlying allergies or skin conditions.

Giardia

Giardia is an intestinal parasite that can affect dogs and cats, causing a range of symptoms including diarrhea, weight loss, and abdominal pain. Transmission of the parasite occurs through contaminated feces, water, or food, and can occur in any environment where animals live. Fortunately, Giardia is treatable with anti-parasitic medication, and good hygiene practices such as frequent handwashing and surface cleaning can help prevent transmission. Early detection and treatment are essential to preventing complications and ensuring a swift recovery for affected pets.

Don't get Stung!

Bee or wasp stings can be a painful and potentially serious issue for pets, especially if they are allergic to the venom. When a pet is stung, it may experience swelling, redness, and itching at the site of the sting, as well as more severe reactions such as difficulty breathing, rapid heartbeat, and even anaphylaxis. It is crucial to monitor your pet's behavior and watch for signs of an allergic reaction after a sting.

If your pet has been stung, clean the area with soap and water, apply a cold compress to reduce swelling, and seek immediate veterinary attention. We will give medications to treat the reaction, reduce inflammation and minimize itching.



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Summer 2024



Send us your
email to receive
reminders and
newsletters
digitally.

Hot Asphalt

Summer is here and this is a reminder of the dangers of hot asphalt and its impact on our furry friends' paws.

When pavement temperatures reach 130°F (54°C) or higher, it can cause burns, blisters, and even permanent damage to a dog's paw pads. To test if asphalt is too hot for your dog, you can try placing the back of your hand on it and holding it there for five seconds. If you can't keep your hand there, it's too hot for your dog to walk on.

Asphalt can reach 135°F when the air temperature is "only" 86°F. Asphalt heats up quickly, even in mild temperatures, especially when exposed to direct sunlight. For example, on a 75°F day, asphalt can reach 125°F in the sun, and on a 95°F day, it can reach 140-150°F.

Precautions:

- Avoid walking your dog on hot asphalt during peak sun hours (usually between 11am and 3pm).
- Choose shaded areas or walk on grass, dirt, or sidewalks instead.
- Use pet booties or paw balms to provide extra protection and cushioning.

If your dog does come into contact with hot asphalt, monitor their paws for signs of discomfort, such as limping, licking, or avoiding weight-bearing. If you notice any of these symptoms, seek veterinary attention immediately. Treatment may include topical treatments, pain relief medication, and in severe cases, surgical intervention.

Canine Heat Stroke

It is crucial to be aware of the dangers of canine heat stroke. This life-threatening condition occurs when a dog's body temperature rises to 104°F (40°C) or higher, causing damage to their brain and internal organs. Seek care immediately, if your pet shows symptoms.

Risk Factors:

- Age: Senior dogs and puppies
- Breed: Brachycephalic breeds (smooshed noses) and breeds with thick coats
- Health conditions: Heart disease, respiratory problems, and obesity
- Environmental factors: Extreme temperatures, humidity, and lack of air circulation

Common symptoms include:

- Panting and rapid breathing
- Restlessness, anxiety, confusion, and disorientation
- Drooling and foaming at the mouth
- Bright red gums and tongue
- Lethargy, collapse, seizures, and coma

Prevention is key. Take these steps to keep your furry friend cool:

- Provide plenty of fresh water and shade
- Avoid exercising during peak heat hours (11am-3pm)
- Use cooling pads or wet towels to help regulate body temperature
- Monitor your dog's behavior and watch for signs of heat stress



Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is a tick-borne bacterial illness that recently has had a significant increase in reported cases across the United States. According to the CDC, Lyme disease is now the most common vector-borne illness in the country. This rise in occurrences is attributed to a combination of warmer winters, expanded habitats of infected ticks, and increased human activity in areas where ticks are present.

Owners are advised to be vigilant about year round tick prevention and detection. Early detection and treatment of Lyme disease in pets can significantly improve outcomes and prevent long-term complications.

Lyme disease can cause a range of symptoms, including fever, joint pain, and swelling. If left untreated, Lyme can lead to serious complications, such as arthritis, kidney disease, neurological problems, and even heart issues.

Current tick prevention products that we carry in clinic: Nexgard Plus/Combo, Credelio, Seresto Collar, and Frontline Shield. If you have another product in mind, we can have it shipped to your house via our online pharmacy.

Feline Heartworms

Heartworms are a significant threat to feline health, and prevention is crucial to protect your cat. While heartworms primarily affect dogs, cats can also become infected, especially if they're exposed to mosquitoes that have fed on an infected dog. Common symptoms of feline heartworms include coughing, difficulty breathing, vomiting, and lethargy, which can lead to serious complications (even death) if left untreated.

Current feline heartworm prevention that we carry in clinic: Nexgard Combo and Heartgard. If you have another product in mind, we can have it shipped to your house via our online pharmacy.

Microchip Importance in the Summer Months

As the summer season arrives, pet owners are reminded of the importance of microchipping their furry friends. With the threat of thunderstorms and fireworks, the risk of your pet getting lost or injured increases. Microchipping is a simple and effective way to ensure your pet's safe return in case they escape.

Why Microchipping Matters

1. **Summer Storms:** Thunderstorms and heavy rain can cause panic and disorientation in pets, leading to them wandering off or getting lost.
2. **Fireworks:** The loud noises and bright lights from fireworks can cause stress and anxiety, increasing the likelihood of pets making a break for it.
3. **Increased Outdoor Activity and Traveling:** As the weather warms up, pets are more likely to venture outdoors or go on trips with their owners, making it easier for them to get lost or injured.

If you are unsure of your pet's microchip status, give us a call today!

Noise Fears

As the summer season brings thunderstorms, fireworks, and other loud noises, many pets may experience noise phobia, a condition characterized by extreme anxiety and fear.

While there are many ways to calm your dogs and cats during these stressful events, medication can be a valuable tool in managing their anxiety.

We carry several options for your furry friends to help ease their anxiety.

Give us a call before it gets too late in the season!