



Heartworm and Flea/Tick Preventatives

We are now recommending heartworm and flea and tick preventives year-round due to the increase in both Lyme disease and mosquito born diseases in Vermont.

Heartworm Disease & Prevention

Heartworm disease is a deadly disease that spreads to both dogs and cats through the bite of an infected mosquito. Although some animals that have the disease do not show any signs of illness, the disease can cause respiratory problems and even death. Due to the recent changes in our climate the mosquito population has flourished in Vermont. Heartworm preventatives are very safe and have the added benefit of protecting against some common internal parasites that can also cause illness in both people and pets. For heartworm prevention we currently offer Simparica Trio chewable tablets, Sentinel chewable tablets, and ProHeart 12 injectable. These are all prescription medications and can only be purchased through a veterinarian. A recent study showed that 12+ years of preventives purchased were less expensive than one course of treatment for heartworm disease. Not to mention the added benefit of having a healthy pet!

Flea Infestation & Prevention

Fleas are not only a nuisance to people and pets, but they can also carry various diseases. Pets can have an allergic reaction to flea bites which can lead to significant skin disease and discomfort. Pets with fleas can often develop tapeworms, flea anemia, infectious anemia, cat scratch fever, etc. Once fleas are discovered it will take *months* to rid your pets and home of these parasites. Although we like to think we are safe in the colder months we actually may have an increased challenge from fleas as they are trying to find a warm place to spend the winter!

Tick Diseases & Prevention

Ticks carry multiple diseases but the most concerning in Vermont is Lyme Disease. Originally it was thought that only the deer tick could spread the disease, but it appears that other ticks may be culprits as well. Ticks are very hearty and are able to withstand even very cold temperatures. This makes year-round protection essential in Vermont.

Flea & Tick Prevention

There are many flea and tick preventatives available for purchase. We currently carry Simparica Trio chewable or Bravecto chewable. Although these are prescriptions and can only be purchased through a veterinarian, there are alternative options. Please

discuss with us what would work best with your pet's lifestyle and comfort.