



# PET GAZETTE



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2007 EDITION

## It's Heartworm and Flea Control Reminder Time

As another glorious spring emerges, unfortunately so do the parasites. **Heartworm and flea season** is fast approaching and we are reminding you to have your dog heartworm tested for any previous mosquito exposure. In our climate, **monthly prevention** should start June 1, 2007 and continue until November 1, 2007.

This program will give your pet the best chance of preventing any heartworm disease spreading from the pesky mosquitos. Depending on your dog's exposure, there are a myriad of preventatives that will **protect your dog** from heartworm disease, fleas, intestinal parasites, mange, ear mites, ticks, or all of the above.



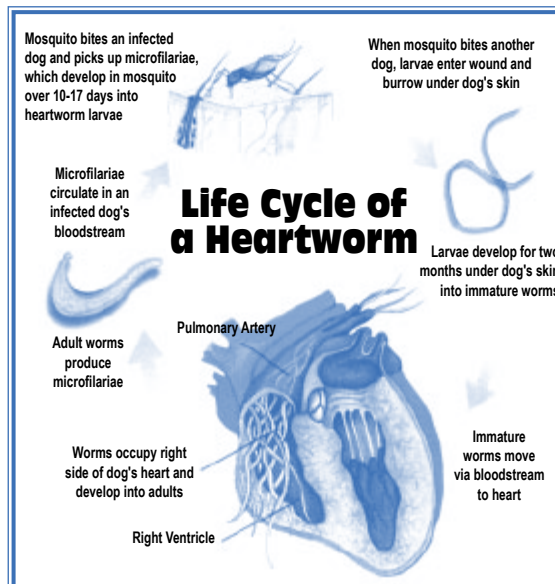
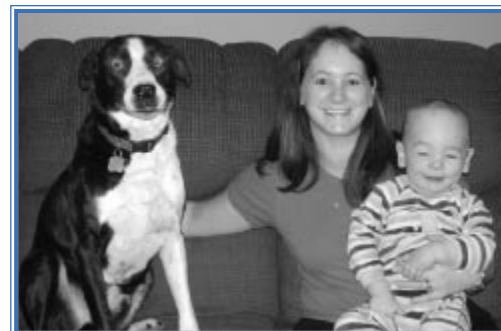
A heartworm test is still not recommended for your **cat** at this time due to a very low prevalence of infection in cats, but **prevention from the other parasites** is easy with a once a month preventative tailored for your situation.

Feel free to drop in or give our office a call to find a preventative product that best suits your pet's individual needs.

## A Warm Welcome to Dr. Danielle Anderson

**Dr. Danielle Anderson** joined our staff in early February 2007. Dr. Anderson graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 2002. She and her husband Nikolai have an energetic, adorable son named Alexander who constantly keeps them busy along with their dog Monty and blue budgie Bimer.

Dr. Anderson has fit in perfectly with our practice and adds a great deal of knowledge and new ideas. She has enjoyed meeting our fantastic clientele and is looking forward to meeting you and your special pet.



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# New Flea and Tick Control Called K9 Advantix

Highly efficacious flea control has been in Canada for years (i.e. Advantage, Revolution), but products that controlled ticks and actually prevented ticks were generally ineffective. **K9 Advantix** was approved this year in Canada and will control fleas and ticks (NOT heartworm disease) within one day of treatment and will continue to protect your dog from further flea and tick infestation for at least four weeks.

K9 Advantix comes in a four month supply and is ideal for dogs that spend a lot of time in heavily infested tick areas especially in late spring and early summer when tick numbers are highest.

K9 Advantix is toxic to cats and should NOT be used on cats. It should also be used with in extreme caution if any cats share the household with the dogs in case the cat actively grooms the treated dog.



## Exciting News for Allergic Dogs

There are many types of allergies in dogs and cats (environmental, flea, food, contact, etc). Environmental allergies (Atopy) are one of the most common reasons for a dog or cat to scratch and chew their skin. Clients with allergic animals are well aware of the intense itching and suffering of their pets. It causes numerous secondary skin lesions, not to mention the lack of sleep of our clients due to the constant scratching.

Antihistamines, fatty acid therapy, shampoos and numerous other modalities will give some relief to the pet. However, corticosteroids (i.e. Cortisone, Prednisone, etc) have always been the most effective way to give immediate and predictable relief to the itchy pet. The main draw-back to corticosteroids however are the side effects. Cats have relatively few side effects to steroids, but most allergic dog owners are well aware of the increase in drinking and urination as well as a increase in appetite that can quickly cause obesity.

**“Atopica”** is a new medication recently approved in Canada. It is designed to control the clinical signs of atopic dermatitis without the side effects of long term steroids. The medication has been used extensively in the USA for a couple of years with dramatic results noticed in the vast majority of dogs. Unfortunately “Atopica” is not approved for use in cats as of yet.



The increased cost of **“Atopica”** as compared to Prednisone should be considered, especially for large breed dogs. However, the majority of dogs can be weaned onto an every other day dose (or even longer) after the initial month of daily dosing. This can dramatically reduce the costs for long term therapy while still keeping the allergies under control. Feel free to give us a call if you have any questions about this exciting new alternative to treating canine atopy.