



# PET GAZETTE



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## Did You Know Flea and Heartworm Season is Almost Here?

Yes, it is unfortunately true. As spring and summer arrive so do the mosquitoes, fleas, ticks, and other parasites. This is your official reminder to bring your dog in for a simple blood test to detect any exposure to any mosquitoes carrying heartworm disease from last year. Every year numerous dogs die from this easily preventable disease. Many of our clients have already had their pet tested this year and are well ahead of the game.



Heartworm and flea prevention starts June 1, 2009 and continues for 6 months until November 1, 2009. There are a number of safe products available to help keep your pet parasite free this summer including Revolution, Sentinel, and Advantage Multi amongst others. The options can be confusing and every dog or cat has a different amount of exposure to these parasites. Some products offer heartworm OR flea control only, while others provide full prevention from heartworm, fleas, ticks, mange, and intestinal parasites (e.g. Revolution). Feel free to give our office a call to find out which product is ideal for your pet. You can also access information about all of our products and companies on our website at [morgananimalhospital.com](http://morgananimalhospital.com) and click on the "Links" tab on our main page.



## SafePet Program

For over a year now we have been actively involved in the **OVMA's SafePet Program**. This voluntary program has allowed us to provide temporary housing and care for the numerous pets of women who have used the services of the various women's shelters across Niagara.

The program was developed by the OVMA (Ontario Veterinary Medical Association) after some alarming statistics were revealed:

-  48% of surveyed Ontario women who had left their abusive partner said their pets delayed their decision to leave the abusive partner. (OSPCA 1998)
-  61% of surveyed Ontario women who had left their abusive partner stated that their partners had brutalized or killed a pet. (OSPCA 1998)

Making that final decision to leave an abusive partner is a difficult but vital one. With the SafePet Program, not only can women make this decision, they can make it more quickly and with ease. All of us at Morgan Animal Hospital are honoured to assist by caring for their beloved pet until they have found permanent housing to bring their pet to join them again.



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# What's New at Morgan Animal Hospital

Keeping up with the advances in technology is not an easy task. Just ask anyone with a teenager at home, and they are well aware of all the "must have" gizmos. Keeping up with medical knowledge and technology is very important to help us provide your pet with the best possible care. Over the past year we purchased 2 new pieces of equipment that do just that.



The first is a new **PanOptic-Ophthalmoscope** that allows us to easily look at the fundus (the visual center at the back of the eye) of dogs and cats. It gives us an instant panoramic view of the back of the eye to look for any evidence of disease without causing any discomfort or stress to your pet.

Dr. Morgan has been performing endoscopy (a special medical camera) for veterinary clinics all across the Niagara Region and Western New York for approximately 12 years now. We recently upgraded one of our flexible endoscopes to a cutting edge **video-endoscope** which allows us to visualize the esophagus, stomach, intestines, and lungs of patients with a clear digital image. Beyond the dramatically clearer image, the scope is also incredibly user friendly and allows us to perform these procedures more efficiently and provides better diagnostic and therapeutic value to our clients.



## Co-Op Program

It is always exciting for us to welcome high school students to our practice each semester and show them the world of veterinary medicine. By the end of their co-op program they will have experienced all the good and bad aspects of our profession and will have made the decision if it is the career path for them. This semester, we welcome two very keen students to our hospital.



Taylor Stevenson is a grade 11 student from Westlane Secondary School. She has ambitions of studying to become a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) after high school.



Matthew MacDonald is a grade 12 student from St. Francis Catholic Secondary School who is already accepted to the University of Guelph this fall and has secured a spot on the varsity track team. Matt is looking forward to the challenges of becoming a veterinarian.



[morgananimalhospital.com](http://morgananimalhospital.com)

Have you had a chance to check out our website? It is full of information about us and your pet. Our site contains hundreds of articles on pet health issues and medical conditions under the "Pet Health" section. There are also a number of new videos about medical conditions and routine care such as vaccines, nutrition, heartworm and flea control, spaying and neutering, and even how to take care of your pet after surgery. We hope you enjoy our website and invite any feedback, comments to make the website as useful to our clients as possible.

