



*paw prints*

SUMMER/FALL 2008

DOYLESTOWN ANIMAL MEDICAL CLINIC NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of the DAMC Newsletter!



*Drew F. Sporer, VMD / Dale D. Mantell, DVM (shown with Little Don Vito)*

Thank you for the terrific response to our first newsletter. We hope you find this Summer edition of PawPrints just as informational and fun.

This issue covers topics relevant to pet health during the warmer months, including tips on keeping pets cool in the heat, summer pet travel help, heartworm disease, and helping your dog achieve Canine Good Citizen status.

We also have many exciting clinics and community events planned so please make sure to check out the back page and mark your calendars to join us! We look forward to seeing you.

As always, enjoy your pets. And have a safe and healthy summer.

### Your DAMC Veterinarians:

- Dale D. Mantell, DVM, founding partner
- Drew F. Sporer, VMD, partner
- Eileen V. Lindmeier, VMD
- M. Lynn Myers, VMD
- Mary Landis, VMD
- Jules Benson, BVSc MRCVS
- Lynn Castiglia, VMD
- Shana Kallen, DVM
- Rachel L. Coyer, VMD
- Diana Risel, VMD



### Moon Turns 21!

Trisha's cat Moon recently celebrated his 21st birthday! A handsome fellow who won Trisha's heart at the tender age of three weeks, Moon and Trisha share an unbreakable bond.

## DAMC Newsbytes

### Best Wishes

Veterinary technicians Vince and Kelly and kennel assistant, Lindsey all graduated from Delaware Valley College this May.

### Welcome

We are delighted to welcome Rachel L. Coyer, VMD and Diana Risel, VMD as associate veterinarians to DAMC. Rachel and Diana are graduates of the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School and have been working in other practices in Maine, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey over the past several years.

### Good Work

A big "paws up" for Nicole, our veterinary technician, who participates in Manor College's outreach programs, where she assists the animals belonging to Native Americans (in the American Southwest) as well as the regional communities of Philadelphia.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Sandy, our surgery technician, and her rottweiler, Fidget. Together, they completed their Canine Good Citizen® Award. (Turn the page to see how you can participate, too!)

### Summer Intern

DAMC is pleased to host April, a veterinary student from Virginia Tech, this summer.

## Upcoming Events

### DAMC Sponsors Elliot Er Witt "Dog Dogs" at the James A. Michener Art Museum

Stop by the James A. Michener Art Museum from April 26 - August 31, 2008 to see this photographic exhibition that highlights our relationship with our canine friends. Visit our website ([www.damcvets.com](http://www.damcvets.com)) and select the "Community" tab for more information.

### First Friday - June 6

Please try to join us on Friday June 6 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for First Friday at the Michener Museum. This fun-filled family event focuses on rescue pet adoption with local organization, Animal Lifeline. Events planned include live music, games, story time, and many pets looking for loving, new homes!

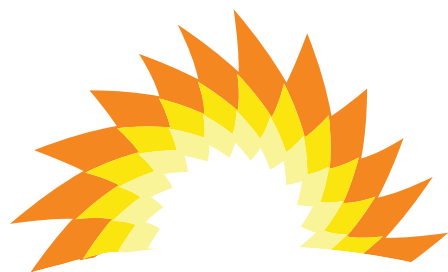
### Weight Management Clinic - Saturday June 14

Call us today to schedule an evaluation of your pet and learn about new ways to ensure your pet maintains a healthy weight. Product giveaways and food samples will be provided. Space is limited so call soon!

### Microchip Clinic - Saturday September 13

Keep visiting our website for more details on this valuable topic!

*We hope you'll join us for these exciting events!  
Please call 215-345-7782 for reservations, as space is limited.*



### VISIT US ONLINE!

Don't forget to visit us at [www.damcvets.com](http://www.damcvets.com) and keep up to date with the goings on at the clinic, to download copies of our newsletters, and to access our online pharmacy.

### Gift Certificates Available!

They make a great present for any pet owner and are always available in any dollar amount!



## Open Your Heart and Your Home to A Rescue Cat

Patty Bolich, Rescue Coordinator



Looking for a great companion? Consider adopting a homeless pet from DAMC! Check out the DAMC web site at <http://www.damcvets.com> today to learn how you can take home a loving and needy animal.

## Did You Know?



Your cat meows to you but not other cats. A sound reserved for conversation with people is unique in animals. Cats really are special!

## What's a Canine Good Citizen® and How Can My Dog Become One?

Kathrine Walkup, Hospital Administrator

For owners of purebred and mixed-breed dogs alike, teaming up to work towards Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) certification provides a wonderful way to bond. The certification program was designed by the American Kennel Club to reward dogs who have good manners at home and in the community.

The first step of the program encourages responsible pet ownership by requiring owners to sign the "AKC CGC™ Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge®." The pledge outlines responsibilities of the owner to care for their pet's health, safety, quality of life, and the impact of their dog's role in the community.

The next step of the program is where the fun really starts! The owner and the pet now prepare for the 10-step CGC test! During the test, dogs are assessed on their ability to accept a friendly stranger, to sit

## Before You're Heartbroken Get the Facts about Canine Heartworm Disease

by Drew F. Sporer, VMD

Canine Heartworm Disease (CHD) affects dogs in many areas of the country including here in the Delaware Valley. Despite the incidence of CHD significantly diminishing in the past two decades due to increased awareness, routine testing and effective prevention, the recent influx of heartworm-infected Hurricane Katrina rescue dogs has raised concerns for a rebound of the disease locally.

### Transmission

Heartworm disease is transmitted among dogs and cats by the mosquito. After feeding on an infected dog or cat, the mosquito transmits the microscopic larvae to subsequent hosts. Over a period of several months, the larvae will migrate to the heart and lungs of the dog or cat and develop into adult heartworms—up to 4" to 12" in length.

### Symptoms

Clinical signs of CHD occur when the adult heartworms have already infected the heart and lungs. The symptoms, as CHD progresses in the pet, include the development of a progressive cough, exercise intolerance, and possibly liver and kidney trouble. Unfortunately, by the time the dog shows clinical signs of CHD, the damage to the heart may be too advanced for treatment. (Treatment itself is expensive and, some-

times, very risky since dying heartworms can form emboli that may lodge in the lungs, brain, or other organs in the dog.)



### Prevention

The best way to protect your dog is to prevent CHD from occurring and have your pet screened for the disease every year. Screening can reveal the presence of CHD in the dog even if no clinical signs are present and treatment can be initiated. To prevent CHD altogether, several safe and effective products have been developed including chewable tablets and topical products. These products are administered once monthly (at home) year round. In addition to preventing CHD, many of these products also treat other kinds of common intestinal parasites.

If your pet is not on heartworm prevention, please call DAMC and make an appointment for screening and to purchase heartworm prevention medication.

distraction testing, and finally, supervised separation from his owner.

To prepare for the test, owners can train their pet at home or become involved in a club or training program. Some training facilities offer classes specifically for CGC preparation. After preparing for the event and signing the "AKC CGC™ Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge®," owner and pet are ready to compete! The test may be offered at an AKC-sanctioned event or at a training facility.

If you're ready to enhance the relationship with your beloved companion, visit the American Kennel Club's website at [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) for more information about the Canine Good Citizen program along with other ways to be more involved with your dog!



politely for petting from a friendly stranger, along with their appearance and grooming. Next, the dog needs to demonstrate control while walking on a loose lead, walking through a crowd, then following the "sit," "down," "stay," and "come" commands. The test becomes more challenging as the dog is judged on his reaction to meeting another dog,

## Heartworm Disease in Cats? Yes, It's True.

by Drew F. Sporer, VMD

Researchers and veterinarians at Auburn University recently discovered that symptoms such as intermittent coughing, gagging, and increased respiratory effort in cats may be caused by the presence of heartworms. This study also found a greater incidence of heartworm disease in cats than previously documented.

Other information uncovered in this study:

- Strikingly, the study revealed the incidence of mosquito-borne heartworm disease in indoor cats is much higher than previously suspected.
- Heartworm is a misnomer since the worms are more frequently found in the lungs, not the heart.
- The larvae (immature heartworms) at all stages of their development can cause serious health problems, especially in cats.
- Diagnosis is difficult. Even with the most advanced tests available, negative blood results are not always conclusive.

### How Do Cats Get Heartworm?

Cats get heartworm disease the same way dogs do—from mosquitoes that carry the parasite. The infected mosquito transmits the parasite while feeding on the cat. And from there, the larvae migrate to the cat's lungs.

## Don't Sweat It...Easy Tips to Keep Your Pets Cool This Summer

Trisha Kolterman-Hill, CVT

The dog days of summer are almost upon us. As you plan on making this time of year comfortable for yourself and your family, don't forget to take the steps you need to help your pets stay cool and calm, too!

### Here are some simple tips to follow:

- Add ice to your pet's water dish to keep water cooler longer.
- Use a hose to wet down your dog or use a cool, very wet towel to wipe your cat for evaporative cooling.
- Your pet's paw pads seem tough, but they're still sensitive and could burn on a hot pavement. Try to walk on the grass or dirt and check your pet's pads to make sure there is no redness or pain.
- Sunscreen works for humans - and dogs, too. To prevent sunburn, apply sunscreen directly to the nose or ears. Recently groomed dogs can easily get sunburned so make sure you keep them in the shade.
- Reserve playtime for early morning or evening when it's typically cooler. Never have playtime



### What can you do?

Simple: Prevention. In light of this recent study, we recommend that cat owners consider the effects of feline heartworm disease and use monthly prevention to stop the disease from occurring. DAMC offers heartworm prevention products for cats in easy-to-use topical gels and tasty prescription treats.

Call us today if your cat has any of the following symptoms:

- Coughing
- Vomiting
- Difficulty breathing
- Lethargy
- Anorexia
- Recent weight loss

Any of these signs could indicate the presence of heartworms or other illnesses that veterinary intervention could help.

- after a meal or during extremely humid weather.
- Don't take your pet to the beach unless you know they'll have a shaded spot and access to plenty of fresh water. If they have both, and you allow you dog to swim in the ocean, rinse him off after the dip.
- Be especially sensitive to older and overweight animal in the hot weather.
- Snub-nosed dogs such as pugs, bulldogs, Boston terriers, and shih tzus, as well as any dog with heart or lung diseases, need to be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.
- Thunderstorms wreak havoc on some pets. Arrange for someone to check on your pet during extreme weather. Things out of the ordinary can happen due to fear or stress like overheating, knocking over the water dish, or getting trapped trying to escape thunder. Sometimes, sensitive pets require medication to help them stay calm through storms.

**Talk to your DAMC veterinarian about prescription drug recommendations.**

## ROAD TRIP? TRY SOME SAFE, SMART TRAVEL TIPS

Trisha Kolterman-Hill, CVT

Traveling with a pet can be one of life's greatest joys, but you have to be prepared. Keep these tips in mind for a safe and enjoyable journey.

- Keep your pets safe and secure in a well-ventilated crate or carrier. Make sure it's large enough so that your pet can stand, sit, lie down or turn around.
- Dogs who enjoy car travel don't have to be confined to a carrier if your vehicle has a restraining harness. Most pet supply shops carry a wide range of doggie travel harnesses that buckle into most standard seat belts.
- Because most cats are not as comfortable traveling in cars, for their own safety as well as yours, put them in a carrier.
- Your pet's travel-feeding schedule should start with a light meal three to four hours prior to departure. Don't feed your furry friend in a moving vehicle - even if it is a long drive.
- Don't allow your pet to ride with its head outside the window. This can subject them to ear/eye damage, lung infections, and flying debris could injure them.
- Never leave your pet unattended in a parked car. On a hot day, even with the windows open, a parked automobile can become a furnace. Additionally, your pet can become a target for theft.
- Stop frequently to allow your pet to exercise and eliminate. Never permit your pet to leave the car without a collar, ID tag, and leash.
- Don't forget your pet's travel kit. It should include food and water dishes, bedding, litter and litter box, leash, collar and tags, grooming supplies, any necessary medications and a first-aid kit. Always have a container of drinking water with you.
- Before going on any trip, schedule an examination with your veterinarian. This ensures that all required vaccinations will be up-to-date and you can receive a health certificate.
- Remember that in unfamiliar surroundings, your pet's appetite, energy, and disposition may change. Visit a local veterinarian if you are concerned about any physical or behavioral changes.