

# PROTECT YOUR PET

## Flea and Tick Control

Protect your pet, family, and home from flea and tick infestations with your veterinarian's guidance before the season starts.

Your veterinarian has the most up-to-date and effective products.



### Why worry about fleas?<sup>1</sup>

- Fleas are the most commonly found parasite on pets
- Fleas bite and take a blood meal
- Flea bites can cause intense itching and an allergic reaction
- A heavy infestation of fleas can cause severe anemia and even death
- Animals living indoors can have fleas year-round
- Fleas can jump on humans to feed
- Fleas can act as the intermediate host of tapeworms



### Why worry about ticks?<sup>1</sup>

- Ticks attach to animals and humans and take a blood meal
- The tick feeds by inserting its mouthparts into its host
- Tick-borne diseases are spread when tick saliva transmits disease organisms into the body and bloodstream
- Tick-borne diseases in animals and humans include:
  - Rocky Mountain spotted fever
  - Lyme disease
  - Anaplasmosis
  - Ehrlichiosis

## Heartworm Prevention

### Why worry about heartworms?<sup>1</sup>

Heartworms are spread by mosquitoes

- When left untreated, heartworms will infect the heart, liver, and lungs
- Damage from heartworms includes:
  - Obstructing blood flow, causing vessels to clot
  - Interfering with heart mechanics
  - Liver failure with jaundice
  - Spontaneous bleeding
  - Anemia
  - Death

Treatment can be difficult and dangerous—prevention is much easier and more effective.

Your veterinarian has the most up-to-date and effective heartworm preventatives.



Eggs and larvae must be destroyed to prevent reinfestation.

Common hosts of internal parasites:

- Rodents
- Fleas
- Lice
- Roaches

See your veterinarian for yearly testing to control parasites that pose a risk for family and pets.



## Internal Parasites

### Why worry about internal parasites?<sup>2</sup>

- Most animals have internal parasites
- Young animals can receive them through their mother's milk
- Heavy infestations can be deadly
- When one animal is infested, all animals in the same household will need treatment

## Vaccinations



Newborns receive antibody protection from their mother, but are not immune to disease.

Mothers that were never exposed or vaccinated against a disease will not pass on maternal antibody protection.

### Why should pets be vaccinated?<sup>2</sup>

- Protect against diseases carried by unvaccinated animals, for example:
  - Canine parvovirus
  - Feline distemper
- Protect against diseases transmitted by wildlife, such as:
  - Rabies
  - Lyme disease
  - Leptospirosis



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#### RESOURCES

1. Eldredge, D., Carlson, L., Carlson, D., Giffin, J. (2007). Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook. 4th Edition. Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley Publishing, Inc.
2. Eldredge, D., Carlson, D., Carlson, L., Giffin, J. (2008). Cat Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook. 3rd Edition. Hoboken, www.henryscheinvet.com New Jersey: Wiley Publishing, Inc.