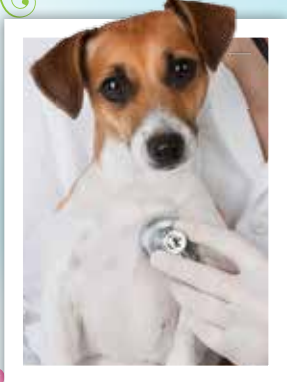


Tanglewilde Tails

Canine Heartworm

Don't Let This Deadly Disease Steal Your Dog's Health



Hearthworm is a disease that occurs when your dog is bitten by a mosquito infected with the larval form of *Dirofilaria immitis* — a thread-like roundworm. These parasites can infest the heart, lungs and blood vessels of dogs and other mammals, causing severe lung disease, heart failure, and damage to other organs. Although it is more common in areas with heavy mosquito populations, the disease has been found in all 50 U.S. states. Texas pets are at highest risk for infection.

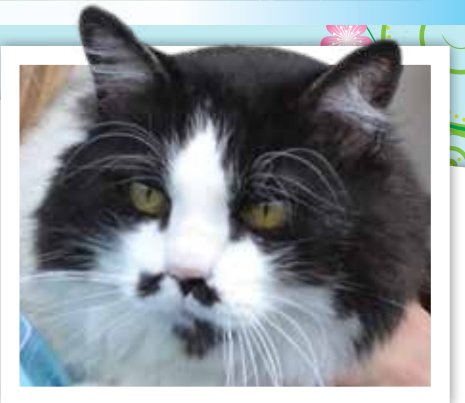
Symptoms and Diagnosis The first signs of a heartworm infestation may simply be poor appetite and lethargy. As the disease progresses, your dog may develop a persistent cough. If left untreated, the worms can cause congestive heart failure or sudden blockage of blood flow

within the heart, which can be fatal if the blockage is not immediately repaired through surgery.

There's a simple blood test to check for the presence of microfilariae; however, it can be prone to a false negative result. A more accurate test is the heartworm antigen test that looks for a protein the parasite releases, indicating a heartworm infection.

Prevention Your veterinarian will test for heartworm disease prior to putting your dog on a heartworm preventive. The preventives work by killing larval heartworm before it can reach adulthood. Oral medications should be given monthly year-round, with annual testing.

The most common reason for heartworm infection is a missed dose of the preventive. The treatment should be given the same day each month, or ask us about six-month heartworm injections. Regular testing, combined with these medications, will help keep your dog safe from this deadly disease.



Niles Knows

I know you have not seen as much of me and my handsome moustache lately, so I wanted to let you know I am still a fantastic feline in charge of all things, relaxing at Tanglewilde.

The truth is, I have discovered the most comfortable place to rest is in the confetti box just a few feet away from the Tanglewilde Feliway pheromone diffuser, in the kitty condo area. I love it so much. My bed is quiet, soft, changed daily, and I am out of the way of the traffic in the busy reception zone.

My kitty scratching post is nearby, where I love to hide, climb, stretch my gorgeous fluffy legs, and sometimes observe some of the Tanglewilde patients during their various recoveries. I guess in that sense, I am also serving some nursing or perhaps counseling duties. You all know how much I love meditating on the backs of my furry eyelids.

Regardless, my move to the Spa and Resort section of the facility should come with no alarm. Cats love to feel safe, especially at my age. Did you know I will be 17 years old this summer? And I am getting plenty of attention, affection and quality medical care, just like your pets also enjoy.

I am sending lots of love and adoration to all you cherished fans. My human servants and I are sincerely grateful to have you in our lives.

Now and always, I am very truly yours,

 Niles

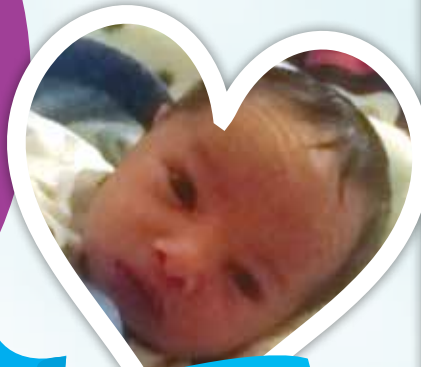
Technician Spotlight



Have you met Laura, one of our Super Techs? She graduated from Texas A&M in 2010 with an Animal Science degree. Since graduation she has loved working in veterinary clinics, and she is earning her Registered Veterinary Technician credentials. She has an inborn love for animals, and all of her life she has had pets. When she isn't helping your pets be well, she enjoys spending time with her own critters, her mom, and two other triplet siblings, and riding her horse. Laura would love to show you how much she cares for your family next time you visit Tanglewilde!

It's a Boy!

Tanglewilde welcomes a new family member, Pierre, born to Juliette before the New Year. Congratulations on this new precious bundle!



Pierre

Fleas and Disease

Spring is in the air and it's a great time for outdoor fun with your pet. Unfortunately, springtime also brings with it those nagging little critters: fleas. Fleas can do more than irritate your pet, however. They are known carriers of pathogens that can harm both pets and humans.

The most common flea dangers for pets include:

Blood Loss

The flea not only bites but also ingests your pet's blood. With small kittens and puppies especially at risk, serious infestation can cause anemia, severe discomfort, and eventually, death from blood loss.

Allergic Reactions

Animals can develop allergic reactions to fleas. Look for red skin, excessive scratching or fur loss.

Tapeworms

Tapeworms are commonly passed into the host by an infected flea—a widespread occurrence that can affect both humans and their pets. Cats and dogs commonly ingest the flea and tapeworm larvae while grooming themselves.

The dangers of flea infestation can best be avoided through a combination of tactics. Vacuuming daily is suggested as flea eggs tend to fall into the deepest parts of carpeting and can survive up to a year. If you discover fleas, be sure to also wash all bedding and areas your pets frequent. Contact a pest control professional if infestation is serious.

Most importantly, your pet should be on a flea preventative medication recommended by your vet. With proper flea prevention, you and your pets will be truly prepared to enjoy the beautiful days of spring!

Doctor's Notes

Do you know when your pet is in pain?

You might expect that when your dog or cat hurts, they'll let you know. But did you know that animals often hide pain? They do this instinctually because showing pain in the wild could make them vulnerable to predators or to more aggressive dogs or cats.

Whining, meowing and physical cues such as limping can alert us that something is wrong, but look for more subtle signs: eating or drinking less; excessive grooming in one area; excessive panting; change in litter habits or lapse in housebreaking; a hunched posture; reluctance to move; or a change in personality are just a few examples. Call us if your pet has any sudden change in behavior that may indicate pain.



Periodontal Disease and Your Pet

According to the Veterinary Oral Health Council, periodontal disease (gum disease) is the most common disease occurring in pet dogs and cats. Left untreated, it can lead to chronic pain, eroded gums, tooth loss, and bone loss. Unfortunately, pet owners rarely notice signs of gum disease in their dogs or cats until the disease is advanced.

Signs of advanced gum disease include:

- ✿ Bad breath
- ✿ Difficulty chewing food or chewing on one side of the mouth
- ✿ Blood in drinking water or on chew toys
- ✿ Bleeding or red gums
- ✿ Loose teeth
- ✿ Bloody saliva
- ✿ Sensitivity to touch in the facial area

What causes gum disease? In both people and in pets, bacteria is the culprit as it joins with saliva and other elements to form plaque. Gum disease is an infection caused by the build-up of dental plaque around the gums. The bacteria irritate the gum tissue when plaque

accumulates and can lead to infection of the underlying bone tissue.

Dental tartar, formed when calcium salts from saliva are deposited on top of the plaque, creates a rough surface that causes more plaque to accumulate, creating a harmful cycle. Pets with periodontal disease can be at higher risk for heart, kidney, and liver disease if bacteria surrounding the roots enters the bloodstream.

The key to managing gum disease is prevention. Brushing, water, dietary additives, and some dental chew treats are good for daily maintenance. Younger dogs and cats should see us annually for a thorough dental cleaning, and semi-annual cleanings may be recommended for pets from middle-age on.



Unlike some diseases that can strike your pets, the chronic pain and complications caused by gum disease are entirely preventable. Be sure to schedule your pet's dental cleaning soon!

Make budgeting for routine care easier with our Wellness Plan from Veterinary Pet Insurance!

Have you wanted to do more for your pet but found it difficult to budget for some of his or her routine care? We understand, and that's why we have partnered with VPI's P&WS (Preventative & Wellness Services) to offer monthly payment options for Well Pet Care.

When you join one of our Wellness Plans, you may also qualify for discounted accident and illness insurance from VPI—one of the most trusted and experienced pet insurers.

From puppies and kittens to our longest-serving companions, there is now a plan to make sure that high-quality, comprehensive routine wellness services are available to you at "easy to chew" prices. Please go to www.tanglewildevet.com or call us for more information!



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\$10 Savings on \$30 or more of services involving a doctor		Spay & Neuter 20% Off	Savings not valid with any other offer.	Spay & Neuter 20% Off	Savings expire 5/31/2015

Call (713) 783-4044 today to make your appointment!



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