

Iowa Veterinary Acupuncture Clinic



Summer 2011

Volume 2, Issue 2

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- ◆ Looking for testimonials
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- ◆ Staff Corner

A letter from the doctor



Happy summer, everyone!

It's time for some sage advice from your friendly neighborhood veterinarian, so sit back and have a listen!

We seem to go through this every year. One would think that eventually we all would get the point, but every year someone seems to have a "brain block." I'm talking heat. It's hot outside. It's summer. Cars can hit 125 degrees in only 10 minutes. Not such a good environment for your dog. Dogs in cars in the summer time heat is just NOT a good idea. Think twice

before bringing your pet along for the ride. Use common sense when going for walks and runs in the park. Don't let poor Fido pant so hard that he can't get cool. Provide plenty of water and shade when out and about. Common sense. It's worth repeating.

And speaking of common sense, one of my pet peeves (no pun intended!) is people driving with dogs or cats in their lap. If you have had the unfortunate experience of driving into the parking lot here at IVAC and I have seen you with a dog in your lap, you know how strongly I feel about this subject.

It is a dangerous plan and is illegal in some states. What if Fido sees something and he becomes frantic in excitement? It's not just your safety that you have to consider. Consider others as well.

Common sense again; it seems like we just can't get enough.

Dr. Van

Lyme Disease: The risk is out there.

Lyme Disease is carried and transmitted by certain tick species.

Lyme Disease affects animals differently than it does humans.

Clinical disease in dogs can include lameness, lymph node enlargement, fever, and loss of appetite. There are very

serious complications from Lyme disease such as a type of kidney failure called Lyme nephritis.

Lyme Disease has been diagnosed in dogs in all 50 states, with some areas being more endemic than others. Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois average 500+

dogs that are positive. Iowa has reported between 250-500 new cases.

There are very real ways that you can protect yourself and your pet from Lyme Disease. Please read on to learn more about how to do just that.



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*If dogs could talk,
it would take a lot
of the fun out of
owning one.*

-Andy Rooney

*Happy
Summer*

More on Lyme Disease excerpts reprinted from Merial's Lyme Disease brochure

Certain tick species carry and transmit the bacteria that cause Lyme disease. The culprits in North America are the black-legged tick and the western black-legged tick. Both are smaller than the other ticks found on pets in the United States (Merial).

A tick becomes an infective disease carrier. It can transmit the infection to its hosts, such as you or your dog.

After infection, a dog may not show signs for two to five months. Antibiotic therapy can help a dog with Lyme disease, but once infected there is no cure.

According to the CDC, there are approximately 20,000 new cases of Lyme disease reported in humans each year.

There are several risk factors that dog owners must consider when it comes to Lyme disease. If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, your dog is at increased risk.

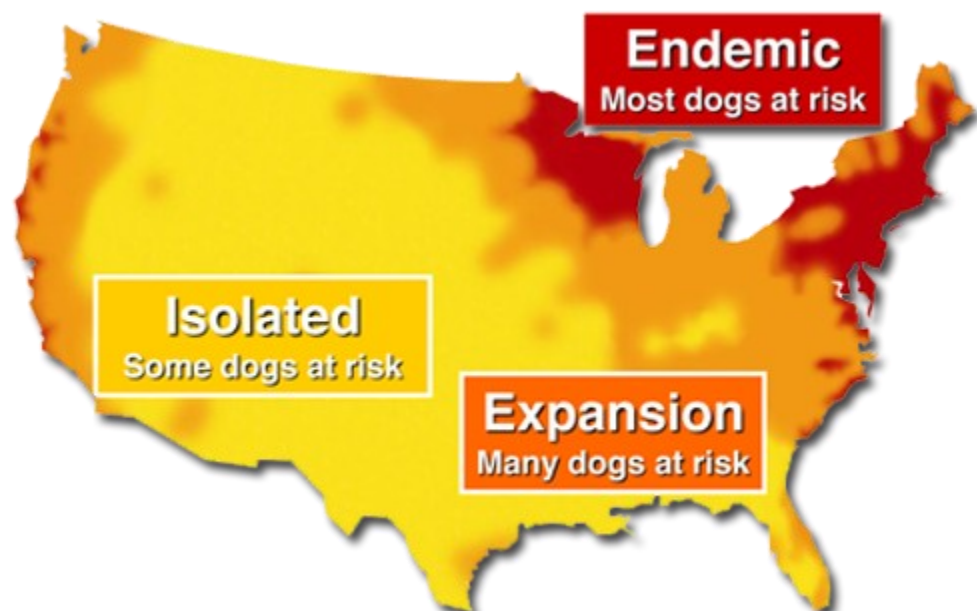
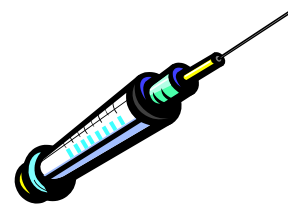
- Does your dog spend time in wooded or grassy areas?
- Is your dog outdoors during peak tick season?

- Does your dog live in or visit Lyme-endemic areas of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic or upper Midwest? (Merial)

Merial's Recombitek Lyme vaccine works by helping to block the transmission—from tick to dog—of the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

We do not recommend the Lyme vaccine for all dogs, but aside from regular brushing/grooming and ever vigilant tick checks, the vaccine can help to prevent infection in dogs that we consider high-risk.

If you are interested in learning more, please call our office at 515-274-3811.



Take the “bite” out of dental disease

We now carry and recommend a new oral product called Clenz-a-dent for oral hygiene care in cats and dogs.

Clenz-a-dent is a tasty powder that is sprinkled on your pet’s food daily. It helps to clean and control plaque and tartar accumulation on the teeth. It also helps to freshen breath (although we have not done thorough smell tests to confirm this claim!).

We have been carrying Clenz-a-dent powder for over a year and have been

very impressed with the results thus far. It is particularly useful in puppies and kittens, and in pets that have just had dental cleanings. After all, prevention really is the best medicine!

Stop in to check it out; you’ll be amazed at its efficacy and the price!



Jessica’s dog, Hogan

Photo by Classique Photography

Office Hours

Monday Closed

Tuesday 8-5

Wednesday 8-5

Thursday 8-noon

Friday 8-5

Saturday 8-noon

Sunday Closed

Looking for testimonials...

As many of you are already aware, we’ve given our website a “face lift.” In addition to re-designing the site, we would like to add newer, more current testimonials to our testimonial page.

If you are pleased with your pet’s response to treatment at our practice, we’d love to hear from you.

We’d also love to have photos of your pets emailed to us at ivacvan@gmail.com.

We’d love to post some of our “extended” family on our website!



Megan’s puppy, Jonesy (on left)

Photo by Angel Duffy

Dog Heatstroke Survival Guide—Know how to treat this dangerous condition

by Robert Newman

What is heatstroke?

In simple terms, heatstroke occurs when a dog loses its natural ability to regulate its body temperature. Dogs don't sweat all over their bodies the way humans do. Canine body temperature is primarily regulated through respiration (i.e., panting). If a dog's respiratory tract cannot evacuate heat quickly enough, heatstroke can occur.

To know whether or not your dog is suffering from heatstroke (as opposed to merely heat exposure), it's important to know the signs of heatstroke.

A dog's normal resting temperature is about 100.5 to 102.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Once a dog's temperature rises above 105 degrees, physiological changes start to take place, and the dog begins to experience the effects of heatstroke. At 106 to 108 degrees, the dog begins to suffer irreversible damage to the kidneys, liver, gastrointestinal tract, heart and brain.

If a dog is experiencing heatstroke, you may observe excessive panting; hyperventilation; increased salivation; dry gums that become pale, grayish and tacky; rapid or erratic pulse; weakness; confusion; inattention; vomiting; diarrhea; and possible rectal bleeding. If the dog continues to overheat, breathing efforts become slowed or absent, and finally, seizures or coma can occur.

The amount of damage a dog sustains when stricken with heatstroke depends on the magnitude and duration of the exposure. The longer and more severe the exposure, the worse the damage will be.

What to do:

1. Pay attention to your dog. Recognizing the symptoms of heatstroke and responding quickly is essential for the best possible outcome.
2. Get into the shade. If you think your dog is suffering from heatstroke, move it into a shaded area and out of direct sunlight. Apply cool water to the inner thighs and stomach of the dog, where there's a higher concentration of relatively superficial, large blood vessels. Apply cool water to the foot pads, as well.
3. Use running water. A faucet or hose is the best way to wet down your dog's body. Never submerge your dog in water, such as in a pool or tub—this could cool the dog too rapidly, leading to further complications, including cardiac arrest and bloating.
4. Use cool - not cold - water. Many people make the mistake of using cold water or ice to cool the dog. When faced with a dog suffering from heatstroke, remember that the goal is to cool the dog. Using ice or extremely cold water is actually counterproductive to this process because ice and cold water cause the blood vessels to constrict, which slows blood flow, thus slowing the cooling process.
5. Don't cover the dog. One of the keys to successfully cooling your dog is ensuring the water being placed on the dog can evaporate. Never cover an overheated dog with a wet towel or blanket. This inhibits evaporation and creates a sauna effect around your dog's body. Likewise, don't wet the dog down and put it into an enclosed area, such as a kennel. Any air flow during the cooling process is helpful in reducing the dog's body temperature. Sitting with the wet dog in a running car with the air conditioner blowing is an ideal cooling situation.

Heat Stroke in Dogs continued...

6. Keep the dog moving. It's important to try to encourage your dog to stand or walk slowly as it cools down. This is because the circulating blood tends to pool in certain areas if the dog is lying down, thus preventing the cooled blood from circulating back to the core.

7. Allow the dog to drink small amounts of water. Cooling the dog is the first priority. Hydration is the next. Don't allow the dog to gulp water. Instead, offer small amounts of water that's cool, but not cold. If the dog drinks too much water too rapidly, it could lead to vomiting or bloat.

8. Avoid giving human performance drinks. Performance beverages designed for humans are not recommended because they are not formulated with the canine's physiology in mind. If you can't get an overheated dog to drink water, try offering chicken- or beef-based broths.

See a veterinarian

Once your dog's temperature begins to drop, cease the cooling efforts and bring the dog to a veterinarian as soon as possible. Your dog's temperature should be allowed to slowly return to normal once cooling has begun. A dog that's cooled too quickly may become hypothermic.

Even if your dog appears to be fully recovered, the veterinarian needs to check to determine if the heatstroke caused any damage to your dog's kidneys and liver. The effects of heatstroke can continue for 48 to 72 hours longer, even if your dog appears normal.

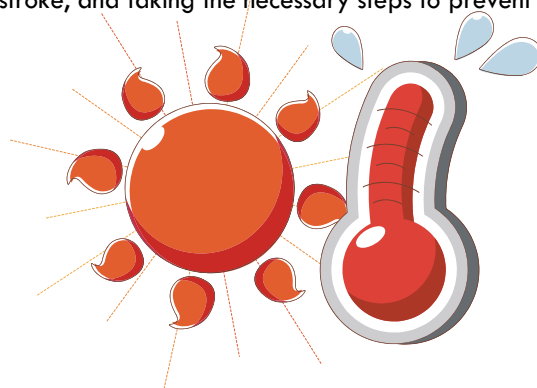
William Grant, DVM, a veterinarian for 20 years and former president of the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association, has treated hundreds of cases of heatstroke, ranging from mild to fatal.

According to Grant, the most common cause of death following heatstroke is disseminated intravascular coagulopathy (blood coagulating throughout the body), or DIC, which can occur hours or days after the heatstroke episode.

DIC can also be caused by pyometra or septicemia, but Grant says heatstroke is the most common cause. "Once a dog develops DIC, it may bleed in the thorax, abdomen, nose and intestine," Grant says. "Once the blood-clotting factors are consumed, there is an inability of the blood vessels to prevent leaking; the condition is almost always fatal." For this reason, follow-up veterinary care is essential following a heatstroke episode, even if your dog seems to be completely fine.

Prevention is the best medicine

The best treatment for heatstroke is prevention. Especially during the summer months, it's essential to be aware of the potential for heatstroke. Knowing the signs of heatstroke, and taking the necessary steps to prevent it, will ensure your dog can have a safe and active life year-round.



Probiotics

Probiotics have long been known to be beneficial in humans and in animals suffering from various gastrointestinal maladies. However, did you know that probiotics also play a role in a healthy immune system?

Probiotics can be used to maintain a healthy intestinal tract and prevent stress-related diarrhea associated with travel, boarding, surgery, etc.

Generally, as with most things in life, expense is equated with quality. It is important to use a

product that guarantees that it will meet its label claims.

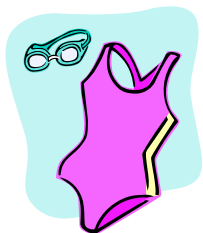
We carry a probiotic at IVAC called Rx Biotic. Purchase of this product is OTC, so feel free to grab some when you think that you might need it. It's just as important to use probiotics as it is to use prescription anti-diarrheal medicines.



Gus Abbas

Read Gus' story on our website.

Staff Updates



Will write soon...too busy now!