



Wags and Purrs Comfort Corner

National Heartworm Awareness Month



April is Heartworm Awareness Month, and with the warmer weather right around the corner, now is the perfect time to discuss keeping pets safe from heartworm.

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease passed onto our pets through the bite of an infected mosquito. Not all mosquitoes carry heartworm, but since there is no way to know which ones do and don't, it's best to err on the side of caution and try to avoid all mosquitos. Pets can't pass heartworms on to humans or other animals. All dogs should be tested annually for heartworm infection, and this can usually be done during a routine visit for preventive care.

In the early stages of the disease, many dogs show few symptoms or no symptoms at all. The longer the infection persists, the more likely symptoms will develop. Signs of heartworm disease may include coughing, reluctance to exercise, fatigue after activity, decreased appetite, and weight loss.

Health Tip for the Season

Due to the mild temperatures we had in the area over the winter, fleas, ticks and mosquitos will be out in higher numbers than usual this spring and summer.

Heartworm is spread by mosquitoes passing the parasite to our pets through a bite. Mosquitoes breed in standing water, so it's very important to be vigilant to any sources of standing water around your property, like empty flower pots, toys, bird baths, pools, and drains.

Check your dog or cat, even indoor cats, daily for fleas and ticks and use a preventive to protect them.

Training Tip for the Season

Our pets do many cute and wonderful things, but one thing that isn't so cute - eating poop. Many pets will try to eat the fecal matter of deer, rabbits or

Once mature, heartworms can live in the heart and lungs, causing heart failure and severe damage to other organs in the body. As heartworm disease progresses, pets may develop heart failure and the appearance of a swollen belly due to excess fluid in the abdomen.

For this reason, prevention is by far the best option, and treatment should be administered as early as possible. Depending on a pet's weight, a year's supply of heartworm preventative can cost between \$25 to \$80, However, treatment costs can run about \$500 - \$1,000, so it's always best for your pet, and most cost effective for pet parents, to use heartworm preventative.

To help protect your pet from heartworm, keep your home and property free of mosquitoes and mosquito breeding grounds.

Mosquitoes can breed in small amounts of stagnant water, which can be found in pools, buckets, bird baths, flower pots, toys, rain gutters, and low-lying areas in the yard.

If after you have removed all possible breeding grounds, you still have a problem with mosquitoes, consider pet-friendly and non-toxic bug control such products made with Citronella, Peppermint or Eucalyptus.

Heartworm disease can be found anywhere, but it is more prevalent in the southern states and around bodies of water. Use caution when vacationing to these areas or bringing animals home from these areas. Always make sure your pet is treated before you leave with them for a vacation.

Heartworm is a very scary and potentially life threatening disease, but thankfully, it's also as extremely preventable.

other pets. While this habit is far from pleasant, it can also be potentially dangerous for your pet as many diseases and worms can be passed onto your pet in fecal matter. For this reason, it's important to work on the redirect or 'leave it' command with your pets.

If you can't seem to get your pet to stop attempting to eat fecal matter, they may have a nutritional deficiency and a trip to your veterinarian is recommended.

Pet Sitter Tip for the Season

If your pet has been diagnosed with heartworm and is on treatment, make sure your pet sitter is aware so exercise routines can be modified for the safety of your pet.

If you have pulled a tick off your pet in the last 30 days, your pet sitter needs to know! Lyme Disease can take 30 days to show! If you have fleas in your house, please let us know so we aren't bringing fleas into other clients homes.

Featured Organization of the Month



Friends of Jupiter Pet Walk

The Friends of Jupiter Pet Walk was created to thank *Northcentral Maltese Rescue* for saving Jupiter, a Maltese, from a horrible life in a puppy mill. Due to the support of many local businesses, participants and generous donations both locally and nationwide, the walk has currently raised over \$23,000 since 2015. 100% of all donations received went and will continue to go toward the care and veterinary expenses of the rescues at Northcentral Maltese Rescue as well as local area Rescues and Shelters that will be guests at the this years walk.

Northcentral Maltese Rescue, Inc. is a non-profit organization that is made up entirely of volunteers dedicated to helping special little dogs and relies 100% on donations. We are the only Maltese Rescue that "accepts dogs and adopts dogs across the United States and Canada" and recently saved 9 dogs from Korea. We take on small breed rescue dogs of all sorts including owner surrenders, dogs with medical issues, dogs others may have given up on, and puppy mill survivors.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Friends of Jupiter will not be having their annual *Friends of Jupiter Pet Walk* this year. However, they will be having a virtual pet walk!

Here is how it works:

- ❑ \$10 donation per Walker - Walk without a pet or with as many pets as you have!
- ❑ YOU choose WHEN and WHERE you complete your 1 mile fun walk from now until April 30!
- ❑ Use #friendsofjupiterpetwalkpgh when you complete your Walk to show your support for helping animals in need! Tag us on Facebook (Friends of Jupiter Pet Walk) too!
- ❑ Every Walker will be entered to win a donated gift card or certificate from local businesses! Winners announced first week in May!
- ❑ Funds raised will be donated to Northcentral Maltese Rescue (Jupiter's Rescue), Orphans of the Storm, Monroeville Animal Shelter, Tiny Cause, Hospaws, Doberman Underground and White Oak Animal Safe Haven
- ❑ We are also accepting monetary donations

All registration and donations can be made through [their website.](#)



April Birthdays



These pets will be celebrating a birthday in the month of April!

Sparke Sroka
Pumpkin Petrie
Rose Stefanos
Bunny Stefanos
Roscoe Landry
Molly Landry
3 Spot Petrie
Logan Bradley
Charlie Adam
Boo Mack
Clyde Davis
Jax Michelle
Buffett Karelitz
Harvey Falk
Georgie Comstock
Petty Coleman
Molly Soxman
Echo Kowalski

Happy Birthday, all! Paw-ty hard!

Healthy Homemade Treats for the Season

Carrot-Apple Dog Treats

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 C. of white whole wheat flour
- 1 C. of grated carrots
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1/4 C. applesauce
- 1/4 C. olive oil

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven 350 degrees.

Mix flour, carrots, baking powder, egg, apple sauce, and olive oil together. Dough should have consistency of play doh.

Scoop about 1 tbsp of dough and flatten on cookie sheet, use easter cookie cutters or molds, depending on your preference

Bake for 20-22 minutes.



Carrot and Catnip Cat Cookies

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons oil of your choice
- 1 1/4 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon dried catnip optional
- 3/4 cup finely shredded carrot
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten



Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In medium bowl add oil and mix in 1 cup of the flour .

Stir in catnip and carrots.

Mix in egg. Add a little water if the mixture looks too dry and isn't holding together. Add a little flour if the mixture looks too wet and sticky.

Sprinkle flat surface with a little additional flour and roll or pat out dough to 1/4 inch thickness.

Use pizza cutter to cut dough into 1/2 inch squares or cookie cutters

Arrange squares on prepared baking sheet.

Bake for about 12 minutes or until starting to brown.

Cool on baking sheet.

Enjoy our homemade recipes? We have a color cookbook full of fun recipes for both dogs and cats!

Do you want to give your pet healthy treats without all the preservatives?

Do you want to know all the ingredients

Comfort at Homemade Pet Treats



in your pets treats and be able to pronounce them?

Are you looking for something to do with your new downtime?

OUR COOKBOOK IS FOR YOU!

Our homemade pet recipes are a hit with pets of all ages! For only \$15 you can get your very own copy of our Comfort at Homemade Pet Treats cookbook! The cookbook will be sent to you via email in pdf format, so please make sure to note which email address you would prefer us to send your cookbook.

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Please email suggestions to Jen@comforthomepetservices.com

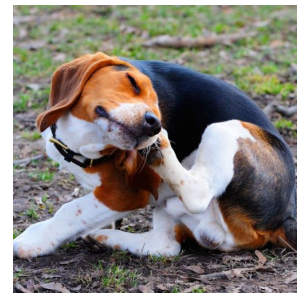
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