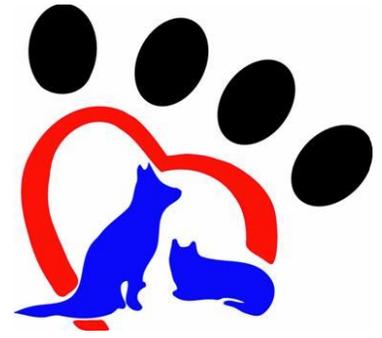




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Issue 1

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BEDFORD HIGHWAY VETERINARY HOSPITAL
focus

Welcome to our e-newsletter! At least four times a year, we plan to bring you timely information regarding pet care, news about the hospital, and events taking place in the area. We hope you find the newsletter useful and informative. If you have any questions, comments or recommendations for future topics, please contact us at bhvh@eastlink.ca or call us at 835-2323. Thank-you! Visit us on-line at www.bedfordvet.com



Summer traveling with your pet

Summer is here, and you may be considering traveling with your pet. There are some things you should think about first. If you're going by car or RV, it's important to have with you some basic essentials. For all pets, food and water (obviously!) are important. There are collapsible food and water containers and bowls available from most pet stores and outdoor supply stores. Bring along some drinking water so Fido won't be as tempted to drink from puddles at the rest stops (who knows what's in the water). Never let your pet off leash in an unfamiliar area. If traveling by plane, check with the airline concerning any regulations they might have. Most airlines require a health certificate to be filled out by a

veterinarian, following a physical examination typically given within 10 days of travel. Choose a direct flight if at all possible, or one with the shortest layover, and don't travel when the temperatures are extreme. Make sure to have the clip-on water bowls hooked to the carrier door, so airline workers can give water when needed. However you get to your destination, be sure Fido and Fluffy have ID tags, and consider having a microchip placed as further protection. The ID tag should have your cell phone number, or the number of a dependable contact back home. Your home phone number won't help much if you're not there to

answer it. Also, carry a clear picture of your pet to have printed on flyers if the unthinkable happens and he gets lost. Last, but not least, check ahead to be sure pets are welcome where you're going. More and more hotels are allowing pets to spend the night. Mostly, HAVE FUN! Vacationing with your pet can be rewarding and entertaining for both of you. It's like taking a little bit of home (the best part, actually) with you.

**If your dog experiences car sickness, there is a new, non-drowsy medication available. Call us for details or visit www.dogsinmotion.ca



Ticks in Bedford! How to protect your pets

...prevention is the key and depends on two factors...preventing ticks from attaching and vaccination...

It is now generally accepted that Lyme disease has become established in several areas of Nova Scotia. One of these areas is Admiral's Cove Park in Bedford. Other areas include parts of Dartmouth and several areas along the South Shore of the province. Over the past two years, there have been at least 14 dogs diagnosed with Lyme disease in the metro Halifax area. For the most part, it was not known where these dogs became infected. The tick that transmits the Lyme disease bacteria are deer ticks (black legged ticks). Deer are ubiquitous in the metro area and it can be assumed that infected ticks may be found outside of the above listed areas.

Lyme disease has been diagnosed in dogs and humans since the mid 1980's. Lyme disease is a very serious illness which can cause debilitation, arthritis, and major organ damage in infected people and pets. Although human vaccination is not yet possible, *you can act now to protect your dog.*

Lyme disease is caused by bacteria carried by several kinds of ticks and present in the blood of infected mice, deer, and other mammals. The bacteria can be spread from wildlife to your dog when it is bitten by an infected tick. Ticks which carry Lyme disease are common to most provinces and may inhabit the lawns and gardens of suburbia or

the fields and forests of rural areas.

The tick's small size and initially painless bite makes this parasite extremely difficult to detect. In a very short period of time, an infected tick can bite your dog and transmit the bacteria to your pet. By the time the infected tick grows to visible size your dog will have become infected with the bacteria. If you do notice a tick on your dog it is wise to call us for further advice.

Prevention is the key and depends on two factors – preventing ticks from biting and vaccination.

There are products available to help prevent ticks from attaching and biting your dog. These range from various collars, sprays, and topical spot-on treatments. No product will completely protect your

dog. Therefore, it is important to thoroughly check your dog for ticks after coming inside. If you find any ticks, call us for advice. If you have been shown how to properly remove ticks, do so immediately. There are devices available to facilitate tick removal. Do NOT attempt to smother the tick with grease or try to burn the tick. Once removed, bring the tick to the clinic. We will submit the tick to a laboratory for identification and testing for the Lyme disease bacteria.

Vaccination is a safe and effective means of giving your dog yearlong protection from canine Lyme disease. Due to the recent rise in the number of reported cases in the area, we have decided to recommend vaccination for Lyme disease for at-risk dogs. Please call us for information.



Staff Focus....Peach

Most of you will recognize Peach as our ever-present clinic cat. She is a four year-old domestic short haired feline that came to us as a tiny kitten with medical problems. After treating her, we decided to adopt her as one of our own and her official position is now greeter.