

## A Word From Dr. Jennifer



NEWSLETTER AIMS TO EDUCATE, INFORM, AND AT TIMES ENTERTAIN

Welcome to the first edition of *Michiana Pet Owner*, a publication by Animal Clinic of Granger.

Our goal for this newsletter is to educate, inform, and at times entertain our clients and other readers. Within this first edition you will find articles on various topics presented by multiple veterinarians working in private practice, academia, and other areas of veterinary medicine.

Would you like to know more about how to become a veterinarian or a veterinary technician? In each edition Dr. Rudman will provide valuable insight into the academics of veterinary medicine. Would you like to have timely information regarding seasonal pet issues? Dr. Rogers features a quarterly article on issues associated with the changing seasons.

I hope you enjoy our first edition. If you have topics you would like covered please email us at [newsletter@grangervet.com](mailto:newsletter@grangervet.com) and we will be sure to cover them in future editions.

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## Ask The Vet

By Frank Perusek, DVM

### Can My Pet Get Fleas During the Winter?

The answer is YES! Most commonly we see them as a problem during the warmer months, as people and pets spend more time outside. However, it is also common even in the winter months for pets to pick up these pesky little parasites. They may be lurking in a home that has been vacant for some time, already on an outside animal in close proximity of your property or home, and even on stray animals in the neighborhood.

Approximately 95% of the flea problem is within the environment. Only about 5% of the problem is actually on the pet. Eggs are laid in the hair coat and will fall

off the host into the environment (bedding, carpet, rugs, hardwood floor seams). Larvae develop in the environment and feed on adult flea feces (blood) that falls out of the host's hair coat. Larvae spin cocoons (often within carpet fibers) for pupation. Pupae are resistant to freezing, desiccation, and insecticides and can lie dormant for many months; they are stimulated to expulate as emergent adults by vibration, warming and increased carbon dioxide.

New fleas begin feeding within hours of finding a dog or cat. Once a blood meal has been taken, the flea can survive only a short time if it is dislodged from the host. Most fleas do not survive 72 hours on an animal that is itching and able to groom itself. (cont. on page 2)

### PET CARE TIPS FOR THE REST OF US

- ◆ Did you know that flea and tick preventatives purchased through online distributors cannot be guaranteed to work by the manufacturer?
- ◆ The EPA has issued an alert warning of counterfeit flea and tick products being sold through non-veterinarian retailers.

# THE MICHIANA PET OWNER

## Ask The Vet (Continued)

Continued from page 1

The entire life cycle of *C. felis* can be completed in less than 2 weeks.

As a consequence of fleas, many pets develop severe flea allergy dermatitis. This consists of licking, chewing, and scratching at the skin, sometimes to the point of bleeding or infection. Some pets in a household may have flea allergies, while some may not. However, that does not mean all will have the same reaction. If one pet in the population has fleas, they all do which means they all need to be treated by a product from your veterinarian and

that also means the environment needs treatment. Remember..... 95% of the developing fleas are in the environment.

Another common consequence of fleas is tapeworm intestinal parasite infections. As the flea larvae are eating flea dirt, they also consume tapeworm eggs. As the larval flea progresses in its development, the tapeworm inside it is also progressing in development. By the time the flea is an adult, the tapeworm is ready to infect a dog or cat. The flea goes about sucking its host's blood and is licked away host and swallowed.

Inside the host's stomach, the flea's body is digested and the young tapeworm is released. It finds a nice spot to attach and the life cycle begins again. It takes several weeks from the time the flea is swallowed to the time tapeworm segments appear in stool.

It is critical that pet owners speak with their veterinarian regarding this parasite and their pets receive appropriate and safe flea preventive (before flea infestation). Because even a few fleas can lead to a big problem.

FP.

## The Academic Corner

### AN INTRODUCTION TO VETERINARY ACADEMICS

By Jolynn Rudman, DVM

Welcome to the first edition of the Animal Clinic of Granger Newsletter. I am Dr. Jolynn Rudman, Veterinary Technology Program Director at Brown Mackie College – South Bend, and I will present an academic perspective of veterinary medicine. My introduction to the field of veterinary medicine began early in my life. Farming is my family occupation, and includes both grain and livestock production. 4-H programs exposed me to years of sheep and cattle shows, veterinary medicine and clothing projects. Farm life insured strong work ethics, dependability and responsibility. My parents provided strong examples and stressed the importance of education. My BS and DVM degrees were awarded

from Purdue University at the West Lafayette, IN campus. My professional career focus includes small animal medicine and now includes education. I enjoy sharing my chosen profession and the academic opportunity to



contribute to veterinary medicine by providing guidance, instructing students, mentorship, creating a positive and enthusiastic learning environment, and preparing graduates for the work place.

These early experiences helped create life long learning skills. In high school, students should

complete a science based curriculum. Communications are a regular part of the veterinary world. Students will write papers and give presentations. There will be applications. There will be research. Veterinarians and technicians will create treatment plans and discuss cases with pet owners. Learning will be a responsibility and a lifetime obligation. The discussion of education and the profession are just beginning. You may send discussion topics and questions by e-mail for future issues.

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# THE MICHIANA PET OWNER

## Seasonal Pet Issues

TREATMENT FOR INGESTION OF MOUSE AND RAT POISON

By Amanda Rogers, DVM

While we love our pets, no one can watch them at all times. Often despite our best efforts, our furry friends can get into a lot of trouble while our backs are turned, whether it's stealing shoes out of the closets, cookies out of the kitchen, or getting into household chemicals and poisons. Rat poisons are a particular danger to pets, and are still commonly used in barns and garages to keep the rodent populations in check. The most common type of rat poison contains an anticoagulant that prevents the formation of clots in the body. If our pets eat these in large enough doses, they will begin to bleed internally. If you notice your pet eating any rat poisons seek veterinary care immediately. The main treatment for these poisons is Vitamin K, which allows the body to form clots. In a case of rat poisoning the pet often needs to be treated with Vitamin K for six weeks!

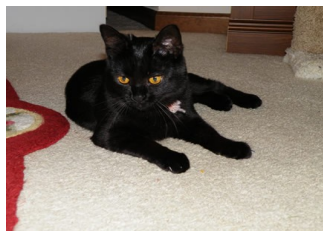
Because it can take a while for your pet to show signs, you might be unaware there is a problem. I saw a case last year in which a dog was admitted for bladder surgery, and during the surgery the bleeding could not be controlled – he had eaten rat poison. That dog had a happy ending; he was hospitalized for a week, kept on IV fluids, and supplied with enough Vitamin K to allow him to clot, but it was a close call. It pays to be vigilant before our pets get into that situation.



## Pet Spotlight

### Midnight Dwyer

Midnight presented to our office in mid-February 2009 as a tiny kitten of 2.3 pounds for a fever of 107°F (normal is no more than 102.5°F), severe weakness, vomiting, dehydration, an eye infection and a severe respiratory infection involving the lungs. Antibiotic injections were prescribed along with fluid therapy as Midnight was not eating and started with intermittent vomiting. Her family knew that the prognosis for a recovery was very poor, but wanted to give their newly adopted a pet a fighting chance.



After eight weeks of therapy Midnight was doing better than ever. She had more than doubled her weight and was now ready for her spay. She was very active and would jump from the floor to the window ledge in the exam room to watch the birds outside.

Following surgery, she remained very active, with a good appetite and continued to gain weight and grow. The oral anti-virals continued for several more weeks into the month of June and she was weighing in at a normal 6.1 pounds.

**Animal Clinic of Granger**

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