



# AMC Quarterly

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For more information on us or Articles in this Newsletter please visit these websites.

[www.animalmedical.org](http://www.animalmedical.org)  
*Visit our website for additional topics and information regarding our clinic.*

[www.wisdompanel.com](http://www.wisdompanel.com)  
*Visit for detail information regarding DNA testing as well as company information.*

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<http://www.animalmedical.org>

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[frontdesk@animalmedical.org](mailto:frontdesk@animalmedical.org)

## The Doctor Is In

Everyone has heard that a “dog year” equals 7 “human years.” This myth was started when the average human life span was 70 years of age and dogs lived an average of 10 years. Life expectancies have gotten longer for both species, and the way we look at “equivalent” ages has changed. We now consider breed in our age comparison. The first year of life is the fastest growing period in your pet’s life and is equal to 14-15 “human years.” To look at more accurate age charts or to see what your pet’s age in human years, check out the following websites.

[www.npwm.com](http://www.npwm.com)

[www.dogchow.com/health/The\\_Aging\\_Rate\\_Of\\_Dogs.aspx](http://www.dogchow.com/health/The_Aging_Rate_Of_Dogs.aspx)

[www.purina.com/cats](http://www.purina.com/cats) and click on to their guide prompt.

## Scratching Kitties

Here are some helpful tips to help prevent scratching.

1. Provide the right scratching surface. Try different materials such as wood, carpet, cardboard.
2. Make sure the post is steady and secure.
3. Position - know where the cat already scratches and place one there. Avoid corners and consider placing by the food dish or sleeping areas.
4. Lure them to the scratching post by dangling a toy in front of it. This works well for kittens.
5. Some cats like posts vertical while others prefer it horizontal.
6. Some scratching surfaces are flat and can be placed directly onto the surface you don’t want them to be scratching on.
7. In a multi-cat home, offer multiple scratching posts.
8. If your cat increases its scratching behavior, look for other marking behaviors. They might be suffering from territorial frustration.
9. Before replacing worn-out posts, set the new one next to the old one.
10. Deter scratching on surfaces your cat likes by using double-stick tape, nubby plastic or any other adverse surface.



## Subtle signs that your cat may be sick

Cats are good at hiding illness, and it may not always be obvious when they aren't feeling well. It is important that you observe your cat's behavior and know the difference between normal and abnormal behavior. Here are a few examples of abnormal behavior.

- **Inappropriate litter box use:** going outside the box or straining.
- **Social interaction:** hiding or unusually affectionate.
- **Activity level:** a decrease or increase in activity level.
- **Sleeping habits:** The average adult spends 16-18 hrs/day sleeping. Know your cats sleep pattern so you can note any changes.
- **Bad breath:** Can be an indicator of dental disease or renal disease.
- **Food and water consumption:** a decrease or increase in consumption as well as how they chew their food.
- **Grooming habits:** increase or decrease in grooming may be signs of anxiety, fear, or obesity.
- **Vocalization:** an increase could mean that they're in pain or anxious.
- **Signs of stress:** Any of the above signs that can decrease or increase could be signs of stress as well.



### WORD SEARCH

B A F L C X E N O N W R  
M V C G O D O G Y F Y E  
S R A L J W T L C V F T  
F E L C K A T I R L F U  
A M I V C O N D A R U E  
P E C C A I P D B F L N  
K R O H L M N T B K F N  
V G Y C C Q W A I X Y C  
E E E S X D O C T O R O  
T N X V J A T L H I C S  
T C B A C O S Y A Q O E  
H Y D I M H P U P P Y N

VACCINATION DOCTOR DOG CAT  
EMERGENCY NEUTER CALICO VET  
CLINIC EXAM RABBIT FLUFFY  
PUPPY

## Did You Know



The flea can jump 350x its body length. That's like a human jumping the length of a football field.

Dogs and cats age faster than humans!



9% of dog owners will have a birthday party for their pets.



## What is Heartworm Disease?

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal condition caused by parasitic worms living in the arteries of the lungs and the right side of the heart. Heartworm disease affects dogs and cats as well as other species such as wolves, foxes, ferrets, and sea lions. Pets become infected by mosquitoes that carry immature heartworms (larvae) when they bite the pet. These larvae migrate to the heart over the next 6-8 months where they mature to adult worms. Our current heartworm test is an antigen test that tests for the adult female worm. The best medicine is preventative medicine. There are several products available for both **DOGS** and **CATS** that kill the several stages of larvae. Interceptor® and Sentinel® (Milbemycin oxime), Revolution® (Selamectin) and Heartgard Plus® (ivermectin) are products that we carry to keep your pet safe.



## Lyme Disease

### What is it?

Lyme disease is caused by bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. This particular bacterium is transmitted through the bite of an infected tick called *Ixodes scapularis* or commonly known as the deer tick. Despite the name, the deer tick feeds on many animals including birds, raccoons, skunks, opossums, dogs and cats. This tick is an extremely small (poppy-seed sized) tick and can be easily overlooked. The infected tick must remain attached to the dog or human for a day or two before it can transmit the disease.

### How can I prevent Lyme disease?

Check your pet and yourself for ticks when in high weeds or brush. When removing ticks, use a pair of small tweezers, try not to crush the tick, grasp the tick's mouth parts as close to the skin as possible and pull the tick away, removing all of the head and small tag of skin. Keep the grass in your lawn short, trim trees and clear brushy areas.

There is a vaccine for dogs at risk. There are 2 initial injections given 2-3 weeks apart followed by a yearly booster. Use a monthly topical product such as Frontline Plus® or K9Advantix® as well.

### What are the signs?

If a dog were to acquire Lyme disease, the most common signs are depression, fever, hot painful joints and reoccurring lameness that may shift from leg to leg. A dog will often walk stiff with an arched back because of the pain. If you see any of those signs, it is recommended that you make an appointment with us ASAP.

People who have contracted Lyme borreliosis from an infected tick also show an unusually wide variety of symptoms such as swollen and painful lymph nodes, muscle & joint pain, flu-like symptoms and/or a rash called erythema migrans. These skin rashes often form a "bull's-eye" like pattern that vary in size and appearance.



## Ever heard of Anaplasmosis?

*Anaplasma phagocytophilum* is a bacterium that is transmitted by the same tick that transmits Lyme disease. *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* is the cause for Canine Anaplasmosis. When infected a dog may show signs of lethargy, fever, joint pain, anorexia, lameness and/or thrombocytopenia (low platelet count). These symptoms are similar to Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections. It is also possible to have a positive dog with no clinical signs.

A blood test can determine if a dog is infected. Testing for Lyme disease may be done at the same time. Although there is no vaccination for Anaplasmosis, tick products will help prevent this infection. Both Anaplasmosis and Lyme disease are treatable if your pet becomes infected.