

SHAWNEE ANIMAL CLINIC



NEWS

MARCH 2023

Providing the latest news on events and community service projects from
your friends at Shawnee Animal Clinic.

www.sacpets.com



Supporting a Fundraising Event for Sierra's Haven

On March 25th, Sierra's Haven hosted their 21st Annual Pot of Luck Dinner. The Pot of Luck Dinner is a dinner auction that is held annually to raise much needed funds for the non-profit animal shelter. Sierra's Haven is the only non-kill shelter in our area, and their mission a noble one: to rescue, rehabilitate, & re-home every animal that comes through their shelter's doors. But this mission does tend to come with a big price tag.

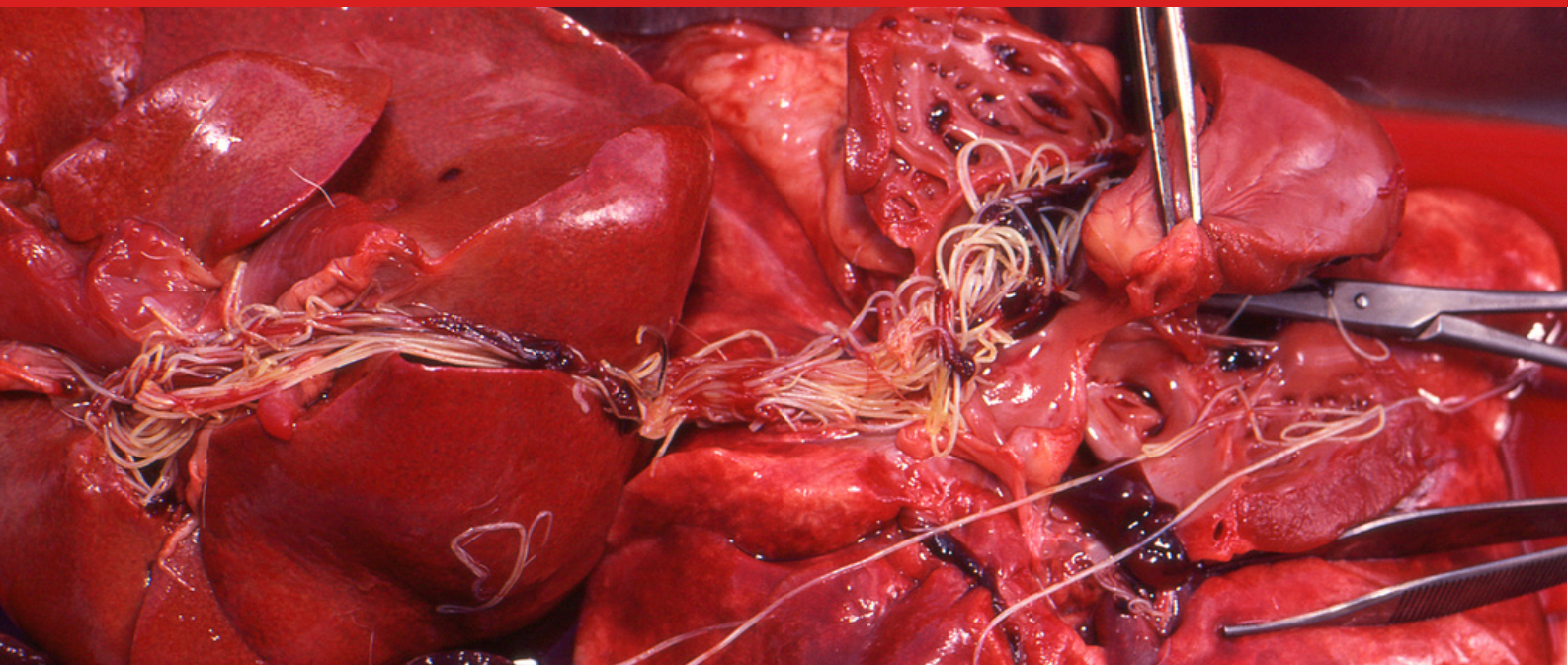
The Pot of Luck Dinner has historically been Sierra's Haven's largest yearly fundraiser, as most auction items have been generously donated to the shelter for the purpose of raising funds. Past donated auction items have included tvs, kitchen appliances, bedroom furniture, gift cards, spa services, wine baskets, building services, musical instruments, photography sessions, collectables, and much more. Attendees bid on these items over a delicious dinner and open bar.



Because Shawnee Animal Clinic wholeheartedly believes in the mission of Sierra's Haven, we have always volunteered our time to help the shelter with these large fundraising events. We love to see the shelter succeed and continue placing pets in new, loving homes each year. If you believe in their mission and wish to help volunteer or donate to Sierra's Haven, please call them today at (740) 353-5100.

Supporting a Noble Cause

Sierra's Haven's Pot of Luck Dinner



Heartworm Prevention

NATIONAL HEARTWORM PREVENTION MONTH

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease in pets in the United States and many other parts of the world. It is caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets, causing severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body. Heartworm disease affects dogs, cats and ferrets, but heartworms also live in other mammal species, including wolves, coyotes, foxes, sea lions and—in rare instances—humans. Because wild species such as foxes and coyotes live in proximity to many urban areas, they are considered important carriers of the disease.

Dogs. The dog is a natural host for heartworms, which means that heartworms that live inside the dog mature into adults,

mate and produce offspring. If untreated, their numbers can increase, and dogs have been known to harbor several hundred worms in their bodies. Heartworm disease causes lasting damage to the heart, lungs and arteries, and can affect the dog's health and quality of life long after the parasites are gone. For this reason, heartworm prevention for dogs is by far the best option, and treatment—when needed—should be administered as early in the course of the disease as possible. Learn more about heartworm medicine for dogs.

Cats. Heartworm disease in cats is very different from heartworm disease in dogs. The cat is an atypical host for heartworms, and most worms in cats do not survive to the adult stage. Cats with adult heartworms typically have just one to three worms, and many cats affected by heartworms have no adult worms. While this means heartworm disease often goes undiagnosed in cats, it's important to understand that even immature worms cause real damage in the form of a condition known as heartworm associated respiratory

disease (HARD). Moreover, the medication used to treat heartworm infections in dogs cannot be used in cats, so prevention is the only means of protecting cats from the effects of heartworm disease.

Ferrets. Heartworm disease in ferrets is caused by the same parasite that causes heartworm infection in dogs and cats. The disease in ferrets is an odd mix of the disease that we see in dogs and cats. Like dogs, ferrets are extremely susceptible to infection and can have larger numbers of worms than cats, but like cats, a low number of worms, perhaps just one, can cause devastating disease due to the small size of the heart. Heartworm disease is often more difficult to diagnose in ferrets and there is no approved treatment. Prevention is imperative for both indoor and outdoor ferrets.

How is heartworm disease transmitted from one pet to another?

The mosquito plays an essential role in the heartworm life cycle. Adult female heartworms living in an infected dog, fox, coyote, or wolf

produce microscopic baby worms called microfilaria that circulate in the bloodstream. When a mosquito bites and takes a blood meal from an infected animal, it picks up these baby worms, which develop and mature into “infective stage” larvae over a period of 10 to 14 days. Then, when the infected mosquito bites another dog, cat, or susceptible wild animal, the infective larvae are deposited onto the surface of the animal's skin and enter the new host through the mosquito's bite wound. Once inside a new host, it takes approximately 6 months for the larvae to develop into sexually mature adult heartworms. Once mature, heartworms can live for 5 to 7 years in dogs and up to 2 or 3 years in cats. Because of the longevity of these worms, each mosquito season can lead to an increasing number of worms in an infected pet.

What are the signs of heartworm disease in dogs?

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. Active dogs, dogs heavily infected with heartworms, or those with other health problems often show pronounced clinical signs. Signs of heartworm disease may include a mild persistent cough, reluctance to exercise, fatigue after moderate activity, decreased appetite, and weight loss. As heartworm disease progresses, pets may develop heart failure and the appearance of a swollen belly due to excess fluid in the abdomen. Dogs with large numbers of heartworms can develop a sudden blockages of blood flow within the heart leading to a life-threatening form of cardiovascular collapse. This is called caval syndrome, and is marked by a sudden onset of labored breathing, pale gums, and dark bloody or coffee-colored urine. Without prompt surgical removal of the heartworm blockage, few dogs survive.

What are the signs of heartworm disease in cats?

Signs of heartworm disease in cats can be very subtle or very dramatic. Symptoms may include coughing, asthma-like attacks, periodic vomiting, lack of appetite, or

weight loss. Occasionally an affected cat may have difficulty walking, experience fainting or seizures, or suffer from fluid accumulation in the abdomen. Unfortunately, the first sign in some cases is sudden collapse of the cat, or sudden death.

What are the signs of heartworm disease in ferrets?

The signs of heartworm disease in ferrets are similar to those in dogs, but they develop more rapidly because the ferret's heart is quite small. While dogs may not show symptoms until they have many worms infecting their hearts, lungs and blood vessels, just one worm can cause serious respiratory distress in a ferret. Symptoms of this distress include lethargy (i.e., fatigue, tiredness,) open-mouth and/or rapid breathing, pale blue or muddy gum color, or coughing.

How significant is my pet's risk for heartworm infection?

Many factors must be considered, even if heartworms do not seem to be a problem in your local area. Your community may have a greater incidence of heartworm disease than you realize—or you may unknowingly travel with your pet to an area where heartworms are more common. Heartworm disease is also spreading to new regions of the country each year. Stray and neglected dogs and certain wildlife such as coyotes, wolves, and foxes can be carriers of heartworms.

Mosquitoes blown great distances by the wind and the relocation of infected pets to previously uninfected areas also contribute to the spread of heartworm disease (this happened following Hurricane Katrina when 250,000 pets, many of them infected with heartworms, were “adopted” and shipped throughout the country). The fact is that heartworm disease has been diagnosed in all 50 states,



and risk factors are impossible to predict. Multiple variables, from climate variations to the presence of wildlife carriers, cause rates of infections to vary dramatically from year to year—even within communities. And because infected mosquitoes can come inside, both outdoor and indoor pets are at risk. For that reason, the American Heartworm Society recommends that you “think 12:” (1) get your pet tested every 12 months for heartworm and (2) give your pet heartworm preventive 12 months a year.

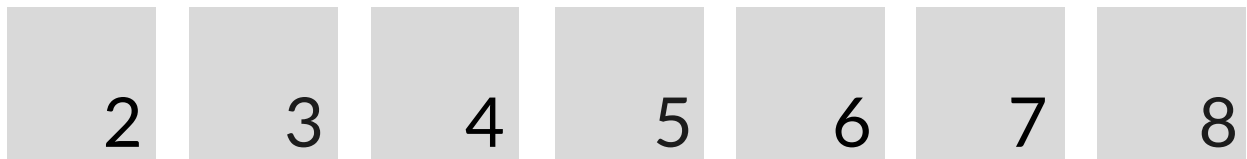
What do I need to know about heartworm testing?

Heartworm disease is a serious, progressive disease. The earlier it is detected, the better the chances the pet will recover. There are few, if any, early signs of disease when a dog, cat or ferret is infected with heartworms, so detecting their presence with a heartworm test administered by a veterinarian is important. The test requires just a small blood sample from your pet, and it works by detecting the presence of heartworm proteins. Results are obtained quickly so your pet can begin preventions or treatment.

heartwormsociety.org

April 2023

National Heartworm Prevention Month



National Ferret Day

Join us to learn more about ferrets and what it takes to own one.

World Rat Day

Join us to celebrate and learn more about this interesting species.



National Hug Your Dog Day

Give your dog a little extra squeeze today!

National Pet Day

Dog, cat, ferret, turtle, horse, today is the day to celebrate them all!

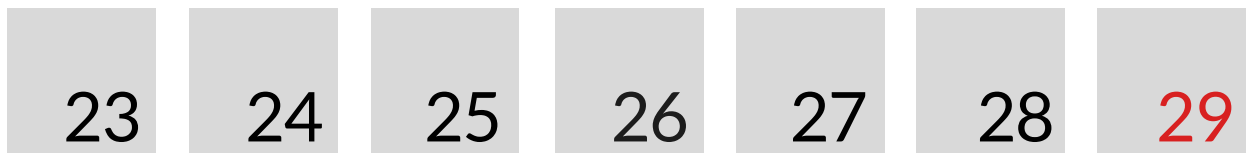
Bark for Your Heart

Free dog heartworm testing clinic & \$5 rabies vaccines



Get to Know Your Customers Day

Join us on facebook today so we can get to know you more!



National Lost Dog Awareness Day

Help us spread awareness for all of the lost dogs in our neighborhood.

National Kids and Pets Day

What's cuter than kids? Kids with pets!

World Veterinary Day

Join us in celebrating our veterinarians!

EVENTS BY SAC ARE IN RED