



CSDR NEWS

CHIHUAHUA & SMALL DOG RESCUE, INC

Canine Heartworm Prevention

By Karen Hutchins, Vet Tech



Canine Heartworm Disease is a serious infestation of internal parasites that travel through dogs' bloodstream and lodge in the right side of their heart. When the infestation becomes severe, these worms clog the main blood vessels, reducing the blood supply to other organs of the body, particularly lungs, kidneys and liver, causing their malfunction, and potentially death.

Heartworm disease is transmitted dog to dog by mosquitoes. Canine heartworm is species specific; it cannot be transmitted from dog to humans or any other species. There is a feline heartworm, which is also only transmitted from cat to cat.

Though heartworm disease has a higher incidence in humid, hot weather regions (where mosquitoes thrive), during the past years it has spread to places where dogs have been relocated (like after hurricane Katrina).

How it happens:

1. A mosquito sucks the blood of a dog already infected with heartworm larvae.
2. It carries these larvae in its saliva, then "injects" them on the next dog it bites.

Heartworm symptoms

The most common signs of heartworm infection are lack of energy, difficulty breathing, exercise intolerance, coughing, and/or weight loss. When these signs are visible, the infection may be very severe. Treatment is costly, and harsh for the dog. It has to be kept with very restricted activity for several days; as the adult worms die, they can clog the dog's blood vessels and cause heart failure. In some cases, the remaining worms might need to be surgically removed.

The good news is that heartworm disease can be easily

prevented with a simple blood test that determines if the dog has adult worms. If it doesn't, all you need to do is give him a monthly chewable or topical solution.

Currently there are several kinds of heartworm preventives on the market. Here are just a few:

1. Heartgard Plus - a chewable that also protects against roundworms and hookworms (intestinal parasites).
2. Interceptor - a chewable that works against the above parasites plus whipworm (another intestinal parasite).
3. Sentinel - a chewable that works against the above internal parasites plus fleas.
4. Revolution - a liquid applied between the shoulder blades, which is absorbed by the skin. It targets internal and external parasites (fleas, ear mites

and scabies mites), and can be administered to dogs and cats as well. Discuss with your veterinarians which product would be more in accordance to your needs.

Though the risk of heartworm disease is higher during the mosquito season (April through October), keeping your dog on heartworm preventives will protect them year round against the other parasites, and you wouldn't need to retest your dog yearly, but every other year instead. ■

Obesity in Pets

By Kelly Marshall

Obesity in dogs, just as with humans, is a serious health risk; it is not cute nor is it funny. An overweight dog is at a much greater risk for developing serious health issues. Heart and respiratory difficulties, arthritis, spinal troubles and diabetes are just the most

common of them. These health issues can be painful, debilitating and some can even be fatal. Obese dogs cannot be happy, normal dogs; they are easily stressed, breathing is difficult and just moving around is not easy. Sadly, these overweight dogs be-

come old and inactive long before their time.

Some breeds are naturally prone to adding unnecessary pounds. Toys through giants can and do become literal couch potatoes, just lazing around all day,

CONT ON PAGE 3

Inside this issue:

A CSDR Milestone	2
Eye Problems in Dogs	2
3 Things To Know	2
Obesity in Pets Cont.	3
Vital Signs in Dogs	3
Eye Problems Cont.	4
3 Things Cont.	5
Forever Home	5
From Our Readers	6
Upcoming Events	7

A CSDR Milestone



In just over 3 years, CSDR

has saved the lives of over 500 dogs. Quinntos, or Quinn for short, and his brother Potsie, were born on March 8, 2009 by cesarean section. Quinn marks our 500th rescue.

Our goal is to save 600 dogs by our 4th anniversary in October. We feel that we are well on our way to this and should have no problems meeting, or even beating, this goal.

Both Quinn & Potsie are healthy, playful little puppies who will soon be available for adoption. Thanks to all our supporters, we look forward to reaching many more milestones in the years to come!



Quinn & Potsie

Eye Problems In Dogs

By Kelly Marshall

All dog breeds can suffer from eye problems generated from injury, infections or genetic disorders. Due to the shape of their eye in relation to their skull, dogs with prominent eyes are more susceptible to injuries than others. Some dog breeds naturally have more eye problems than others. It is important that you research the breed you are interested in and be aware of any health issues that are common with them. This also includes checking the genetic line of the dog. Most eye issues in dogs can be treated or surgically corrected.

Dry Eye (Keratoconjunctivitis or KCS)

This is a common condition in dogs. It occurs when a dog's tear glands do not produce sufficient amounts of tears, causing dryness of the eye. The irritation and inflammation this causes can lead to blindness. Another problem associated with dry eye is the plugging of a dog's tear ducts, infections, genetic conditions and distemper. The immune mediated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

3 Things All Dog Owners Should Know

Brandi Goff (Vet Tech)

1. Most of us know that we shouldn't feed our dog chocolate or chicken bones. But, did you know that pork can be very harmful to dogs as well?

Working as a Vet Tech, I have seen numerous cases of hemorrhagic gastroenteritis (severe bloody diarrhea) that have occurred after eating pork, or more commonly, from chewing on pork bones. I even warn people that give their dogs hot dogs to select turkey or all beef hotdogs. Without treatment, H.G.E. can be fatal.

2. Most of us have heard that it is okay to give aspirin to our dogs. Several people make the mistake of also thinking that Tylenol or Advil will be okay as well. This is NOT the case! Dogs lack the enzyme in their livers to break down the Tylenol and Advil. These drugs are toxic to dogs and can cause vomiting, dehydration, and even death. It is also important to note, that before giving your dog aspirin, you should contact your veterinarian for the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Fresh water is especially important for our dogs in the hot summer months. If you can't be home to provide fresh, cold water during the day, consider freezing an old soda bottle full of water. Putting this in your dogs water bowl in the morning will help keep the water cool until you return home.



Obesity in Pets Cont..

Xylitol, a sweetener found in some sugar-free chewing gum and candies can be toxic to your dog. Xylitol can cause a temporary low blood sugar level and liver failure in dogs. If you believe that your pet has ingested even a small amount, you should immediately have him seen by a vet. www.petplace.com

doing little if anything in the way of exercise. If your dog gains weight easily, or is generally inactive, here are a few helpful pointers. Feed a healthy diet; stop the table scraps and the "just a little taste" of human foods. Go easy on the treats and cut out all the in between meal snacks. In a normal diet doggy treats should be less than 5% of the daily food intake, and should be counted as part of the food ration - not as an "extra". Be sure to decrease the food allotment in direct proportion to the amount of treats fed.

*Feeding

Dog food manufacturers all have a recommended feeding guide and portion amount for all weights and sizes of dogs listed on the bag, box or can. Using this guideline prevents overfeeding. A less active dog will need less food than what is listed. Portion suggestions on the food containers are based on dogs engaging in normal activities and the more sedentary dogs will need fewer calories and less protein per day. There are also foods on the market targeted to older dogs, less active dogs, and even overweight dogs and can be found just about anywhere dog foods are sold.

Is your dog currently overweight even by a just few pounds? Decrease the portion by one fourth no matter the activity level. In

other words, if you feed 1 cup twice a day, change the amount to 3/4 of a cup twice a day. Carefully monitor your dog for two weeks. He or she should have lost a few pounds, even if there is no other change in routine and he or she is still a couch potato.

*Exercise

Dogs and people both need to burn more calories than they consume in order to achieve weight loss. The easiest way is just increase activity levels even if food portions remain the same. Start out easy and build up, there is no need to physically stress your dog; muscle and joint problems may be the end result. Walking briskly twice a day for 5 to 10 minutes is a good starting point. Each day lengthen the walk and go just a little faster. Games like fetch, playing with the kids, walking around the house and even just moving in the yard are all forms of exercise.

*Measuring Weight Loss

The easiest way to keep track of your dog's weight loss is to use a bathroom scale. First, weigh yourself then step off the scale. Pick up the dog, step back on the scale and weigh again. Subtract the two weights and the difference is your dog's weight. For larger dogs, speak with your vet. Most vets will usually allow you to stop by every week or so and use their floor scale in order to keep track of the dog's progress. ■

Article by Kelly Marshall of Oh My Dog Supplies. Your top spot to buy unique dog clothes online.

www.ohmydogsupplies.com

Vital Signs in a Dog

Heart Rate or Pulse: The heartbeat can be felt at about the point where the left elbow touches the chest, about the 5th rib. A normal Heart Rate should be:

Small Breed Dogs (under 30lbs) - 100-160 beats per minute.

Medium to Large Breed Dogs (30+ lbs) - 60-100 beats per minute.

Puppy (until 1 year old) - 120 - 160 beats per minute.

Normal Breathing Rates: 10-30 breaths per minute and up to 200 pants per minute.

Normal Temperature: 100° - 102.5°

Eye Problems Cont..

conditions will destroy the tear gland tissues. This is common in the following breeds:

*West Highland White Terriers.

*Miniature Schnauzers

*American Cocker Spaniel

Your vet will more than likely treat this condition with eye drops. Eye drops automatically moisten the dog's eye and diminishes mucus.

Cataracts

Humans are not the only ones who suffer from cataracts. Dogs 5 years and older, tend to develop cataracts. What happens is, the lens of the eye becomes an opaque color and the eye becomes rigid—this can

lead to blindness. A dogs cataracts can be removed. An artificial lens can be surgically implanted. Not all dogs will require this treatment.

Entropion

Entropion in dogs is described as the rolling of the eyelids. This rolling, caused the eyelashes to scratch the surface of the eyes. Generally the lower eyelid is affected, but it can occur with the upper eyelid as well. Most dogs will develop this at a very young age, however, it does happen in older dogs as well. This often happens to dogs who have a lot of excess skin in the facial area.

The condition is corrected by a minor surgical procedure. Dogs who do not

have this condition corrected will develop an infection and, over time, full vision loss.

Eye Tearing

A lot of tearing is normally a sign of irritation or infection in the dogs eye. Treatment of this common condition includes routine cleaning, drying, and clipping of the area around the dog's eye and antibiotics to control bacterial infections.

As with any injury or illness, you should contact your vet for further information and treatment. ■

Article by Kelly Marshall of Oh My Dog Supplies.

www.ohmydogsupplies.com



Foreign objects such as string, small toys, clothing and plastic can become lodged in a dogs stomach and cause severe problems for your dog. If your dog has vomiting, a sudden loss of appetite, excessive drooling or abnormal bowel movements and you believe he has ingested a foreign object, you should have him checked out by a vet right away.



3 Things Cont..

proper dosage for your dog. I also recommend that you give enteric coated (buffered) aspirin as it is more gentle on your dog's stomach.

3. Probably the most important thing that I wish I could tell every new puppy owner. You should NEVER take your puppy to the pet food store, dog parks, or any other location that is frequented by other dogs until they are FULLY VACCINATED.

We would never let our

newborn child down on the floor at PetSmart because we would think that the floor wasn't clean enough, right? The fact is that while a puppy is still nursing, it has a good immunity to viruses from the antibodies passed through the mother's milk. As soon as the puppy stops nursing, it becomes very vulnerable to acquiring diseases. This is the point where we usually begin vaccinations so they can build up their own antibodies. BUT, until the puppy has had it's last set

of distemper/parvo vaccines they are not fully protected from acquiring those viruses.

It is hard to keep a cute little puppy at home and not show it off, but it's much safer to wait until they are no longer susceptible to catching parvo. ■

You never know when a First Aid Kit will come in handy. Ready made ones are available at pet supply stores, or you can put one together with the following items:

- * Tweezers
- * Saline solution
- * Gauze - roll and sponge
- * Adhesive tape
- * Antibiotic ointment
- * Leash
- * Plaster splint
- * Thermometer
- * Rubbing alcohol
- * Blunt-tipped scissors
- * Petroleum jelly
- * Medicine dropper
- * Benadryl
- * Peroxide
- * Activated charcoal

I Found My Forever Home!

The following little ones were adopted during the months of March and April!

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| ♥ Precious | ♥ Lenny |
| ♥ Meg | ♥ DeeDee |
| ♥ Mamacita | ♥ Frankie |
| ♥ Tweety | ♥ Spanky |
| ♥ Lacy | ♥ Faith |
| ♥ Muffy | ♥ Chana |
| ♥ Teddy | |
| ♥ Straus | |
| ♥ Speckles | |



Put a string of lights around your heart!

Chihuahua & Small Dog Rescue, Inc
53 Monk Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80911

Phone: 719-291-3536
Fax: 888-310-3571
Email: info@chihuahua-smalldogrescue.org

CSDR NEWS
Editor Jamie Seipel
csdrnews@yahoo.com



Welcome to CSDR!!

Kim Dimmett

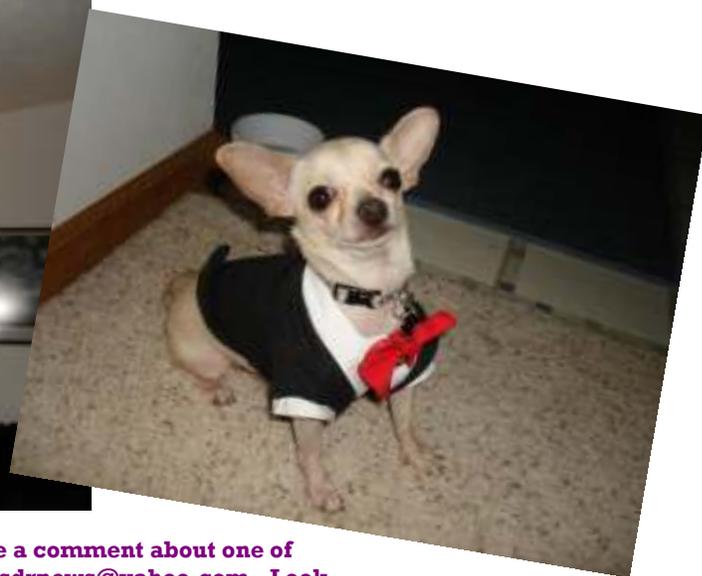
Jean Gnow

Nichole Ballard

Jaime Landy

From Our Readers

Katie and Lamar recently attended the Best In Show fundraiser benefiting Downtown Animal Care Center. Lamar's outfit was made by CSDR Volunteer Charlie Burgess.



Wanna see your picture in our newsletter? Have a comment about one of our stories? It's easy, just drop us an email at csdrnews@yahoo.com. Look forward to hearing from you!

Put a string of lights around your heart!

Upcoming Meet & Greet

Come visit with some of our little ones that are available for adoption. Our foster parents will be available to answer your questions and we will accept applications for adoptions. This is a day that you can meet several little ones at the same time. We look forward to seeing you there.

June 13, 2009

PetCo
4515 Continental Heights
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
9:00am - 3:00pm

PetCo
9425 E. County Line Road
Englewood, CO 80112
9:00am - 3:30pm

June 14, 2009

Old Pearl Street Farmers Market Pet
Fair
1500 Block of S. Pearl St.
9:00am - 1:30pm

This event will have several other
rescues and local vendors. Come
join us for a morning of fun.

June 20, 2009

PetCo
450 E. 120th Ave, Unit A2
Northglenn, CO 80233
9:00am - 3:30pm

June 27, 2009

PetCo
4515 Continental Heights
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
9:00am - 3:00pm

July 11, 2009

The Brown Dog School
9900 W. 44th Ave
Wheatridge, CO
11:00am - 3:00pm

Please join us at the 6th annual
Adoption Party. There will be food,
pet caricatures, vendors, games,
agility, prizes and several rescues.

July 18, 2009

PetCo
450 E. 120th Ave, Unit A2
Northglenn, CO 80233
9:00am - 3:30pm

PetCo
4515 Continental Heights
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
9:00am - 3:00pm

July 25, 2009

PetCo
4515 Continental Heights
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
9:00am - 3:00pm



Oscar is one of our many dogs just waiting for the perfect forever home. Him and others like him can be seen at our Meet & Greet or by visiting the Furry Friends page of our website.