

# Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital Newsletter

Small Animal Edition

March 2009

It's warming up and bug season is right around the corner! For our canine patients we offer Heartgard, Frontline Plus, and Iverhart just to name a few. Don't forget about those frisky felines; ask about our new topical dewormer Profender!

**Trivia**  
How many cervical vertebra (neck bones) does a giraffe have?

Cleary Lake  
Veterinary Hospital  
18577 Natchez Avenue  
Prior Lake, MN 55372  
952-435-8387  
[www.clearylakevets.com](http://www.clearylakevets.com)

**Facts & Tidbits**  
Did you know that preventing dental disease also prevents heart, liver, and kidney disease!

We all know dogs love to chase rabbits, but let's keep the chocolate bunny treats to ourselves. Chocolate contains both caffeine and theobromine, both of which are toxic to dogs in large enough quantities. Mild toxicity is exhibited as agitation, vomiting and diarrhea. More serious cases will progress on to involve tremors, cardiac arrhythmias and seizures. The toxicity depends on the amount of cocoa in the product. Semi-sweet and dark chocolate are 2-3 times as toxic as milk chocolate. Baking chocolate is 8 times as toxic. Cocoa powder is 16 times as toxic. In short, mild toxicity starts at 2-4 oz of milk chocolate or 1-2 oz of dark/semi-sweet chocolate per 5 pounds of body weight. An ounce brick of baking chocolate would be toxic to a dog weighing 45 pounds or less.

## Lyme Disease

Lyme disease is quickly becoming a threat in our own backyard. Once thought to be a disease of northern Minnesota and Wisconsin, Lyme disease affected many dogs tested at Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital in 2008.

Lyme disease is spread by the organism, *Borrelia burgdorferi* through the *Ixodes tick*-the deer tick. Only a small minority of dogs ever show signs of Lyme disease. Signs include lameness, fever, poor appetite, weakness, painful joints, and/or kidney disease. Annually, when we perform a heartworm test on your dog, this test also tests for exposure to Lyme disease, Ehrlichia, and Anaplasma (tick-borne diseases).

Frontline topical flea and tick preventative is our first line of defense. A vaccination against Lyme disease is also recommended for dogs at risk or in areas of high tick populations. Where your dog is, you are not far behind; perform regular tick check to protect yourself and your family.

## Reported cases of tick-borne diseases

Lyme Disease Top State: Massachusetts - 23,011 cases  
(Minnesota - 16,510 cases)  
Ehrlichia Top State: Massachusetts - 2,367 cases  
(Minnesota - 458 cases)  
Anaplasma Top State: Minnesota - 15,836 cases

From [www.dogsandticks.com](http://www.dogsandticks.com)

## What's Up Doc?

"Can dogs get mononucleosis from a person?" The answer is no. However there are some diseases that we can get from animals and we can give to them. These diseases are called zoonotic diseases. Rabies is probably the best known. A lesser known, but bigger problem is intestinal parasites. Keeping your pet on year round, regular deworming and practicing good hand-washing skills will keep your family safe.

**Pet First Aid Seminar**  
**Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 7pm - 9pm**  
**Presented by: Dr. Abram & Dr. Casper**  
**Seminar is free of charge, but please call ahead to reserve your seat!**