



Hello everybody! Hope everyone is doing well and had a great Easter. I had some good feedback on the last couple newsletters. I am glad some of you learned something new about introducing new members to your existing pet family.

The next few months we are going to talk about some important topics to get everybody ready for summer. We are going to start with the pesky creatures that come along with owning a pet. This month we are going to talk about fleas and the various preventatives, and next month we will talk about heartworms and their preventatives.



## FLEAS:

Fleas are pesky little external parasites that live off the blood of hosts- mammals and birds. The flea life cycle begins when the female lays eggs after feeding on blood; they must feed on blood before they are capable of laying eggs. Eggs are laid in batches of 20 or so, usually right on the host. These eggs roll off the host onto areas where the host rests and sleeps. The eggs take 2 days to 2 weeks to hatch. Fleas' larvae emerge from these eggs. Larvae should pupate and weave a silken cocoon within 1-2 weeks. Then, after another week or two the adult flea is fully developed and leaves the cocoon. However, if the pupae do not receive the proper stimuli alerting them that a host is nearby they can stay in the cocoon for months- through an entire winter! Once becoming an adult flea they have 1 week to find food, but they can survive 2 months to 1 year between meals. The flea population is unevenly distributed and luckily decreases as it goes: 50% eggs, 35% larvae, 10% pupae and 5% adults. One single adult flea can lay up to 500 eggs in a lifetime!

Now that you know a little bit about the flea, we are going to talk about the wonderful ways of preventing these pesky creatures. We carry a couple of different products, which all work great and last 1 month per treatment.



## ADVANTAGE:

Advantage comes in dog or cat and is a one a month topical that you put on the back of the neck. It kills adult fleas and will kill 98% of fleas within 12 hours of application. It also kills the fleas before they lay eggs. We sell the advantage in 4-month boxes, which range from \$46-50/box. If you buy 2 boxes you can receive a free dose.

## ADVANTAGE MULTI:

Advantage Multi is a fairly new product. It not only kills and control fleas; it also prevents heartworm, hookworm, roundworm and whipworm in dogs and ear mites, hookworms, and roundworms in cats. It is a topical that is applied monthly. This is a great product if you want everything all in one dose. We sell Advantage Multi in the 6-month boxes ranging from \$78-100/box. You also get a free dose with a 6-month purchase.



## ADVANTIX:

Advantix is once a month topical that repels and kills ticks, including those that transmit Lyme disease, fleas- 98% in 12

hours, mosquitoes and repels biting flies. This product works great, but it is only to be used on dogs. If there are cats in the household, please make sure they do not lick or come in contact with the application spot for 12 hours or until it dries. We sell Advantix in a 6-month box, prices range from \$62-70/box. You also receive a free dose with a 6-month purchase.



### FRONTLINE:

Frontline is a once a month topical that not only kills fleas but also flea eggs and flea larvae, ticks that may transmit Lyme disease and chewing lice. Frontline is available in dogs and safe to use on cats. It can kill fleas for up to 3 months but for complete break down of the flea life cycle and tick protection, it is recommended monthly. We sell Frontline in a 3-month box, prices range from \$50-54. If you buy two 3-month supplies you will get a free dose.

**All of the topical flea treatments are water resistant. We recommend waiting 24 hours before or after bathing to apply. You can also purchase single doses of all these topical medications, prices range from \$13-\$18.**

### SENTINEL:

Sentinel is the only pill form of flea treatment that we carry. Sentinel is a once a month flea and heartworm preventative. It has no effect on the adult flea but does control the flea population by breaking the flea cycle at the egg stage. It comes in a six-month box and is only made for dogs and puppies. Prices range from \$66-90.

## FLEA SPRAY:

If you have a lot of fleas on your pet, then you more than likely have fleas in your house. As you read earlier, the larvae and pupae like to live in the cozy corners of your furniture waiting for their host. It would be a good idea to treat your house along with your pets. We carry an area treatment flea spray, Knockout®, that you spray around the edges of your rooms and the furniture. It works really well in killing active flea and tick infestation and prevents re-infestations of fleas for 7 months. Other stores do sell flea/tick sprays; just be sure you read the label for precautions before using.

## WHAT'S NEW ON THE HILL:

We are happy to tell you about our new hire, Valerie Vapner. Val is the little sister of a former employee, Mica Vapner, who is graduating from Tuskegee Veterinary School this May. CONGRATS MICA!! We are happy to have Val as part of our crew. She just got accepted into Nursing School at West Virginia University, CONGRATS VAL, so she may not be with us long. But we are happy to have her as long as we can. 😊

I also have some sad news this month. Our clinic mascot of 15 years, Carmel, passed away Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> of chronic renal failure. All the staff and clients who knew him loved him. He lived a good life as a clinic cat and will be greatly missed.



### DR. TIDBIT BY DR. KELLEY OWEN:

One of the most important aspects of treating pets for fleas and ticks is to remember to treat all the pets in the family. This is often forgotten and we blame the product for failing to remove all the fleas and ticks, when we have left a reservoir for the pests to continue their life cycle. Also, if there is a heavy infestation of fleas and ticks in the house or environment, the entire environment should be treated with a premise spray.

### ADOPTIONS:

We are happy to report that our two kitties, Mork and Mindy got adopted. Sue Weimer instantly fell in love with them and she took Mork and her son, David adopted Mindy. Thanks guys for rescuing our kitties!! This month we have an absolutely adorable orange kitten named Re Run. Re Run is about 5 months old and he is felv/fiv tested, neutered and vaccinated and ready to go! He has the best personality and just loves other animals- dogs, cats and bunnies!!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

The Animal Friends Golf Tournament is coming up on June 14<sup>th</sup> at Meadow Ponds Golf Course. I will have more details in the next newsletter or you can call us here at the clinic if you are interested in participating.

The Cash Bash was a big success. Thank you for all who attended or bought a ticket to support the Animal Friends shelter.

## RECIPE:

In honor of our pets having no fleas the recipe for this month is:

### NO-FLEA DOG BISCUITS:

2 cups unbleached flour

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup wheat germ

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup brewers yeast

2 cloves minced garlic

3 Tbs. Vegetable oil

1-cup chicken stock

Preheat oven to 400° and oil 2-3 baking sheets. Combine first four ingredients. In a large mixing bowl, combine garlic and oil. Slowly stir flour mixture and stock alternately into oil and garlic, beating well, until the dough is well mixed. Shape dough into a ball. On lightly floured surface, roll out dough 12" thick. Using a 2" biscuit cutter or knife, cut dough into rounds. Transfer biscuits to prepared baking sheets. Bake 20-25 minutes or until well browned. Turn off heat and allow biscuits to dry in oven for several hours. Store in refrigerator or freeze. Makes about 26 biscuits.

**THAT IS ALL WE HAVE FOR THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS**

**ABOUT FLEAS OR FLEA PREVENTION, PLEASE FEEL  
FREE TO CONTACT US!**