



Island Cats Mews

Volume 4 Issue 2

Fleas, Tapeworms...and Heartworm?



Spring is here...isn't it? Well, despite the schizophrenic weather, we are starting to see the usual influx of parasites hopping onto cats, and subsequently infesting homes. Fleas can cause extreme discomfort, allergies, transmit blood-borne diseases and tapeworms, and are a nuisance to get rid of once they're in your home. Island Cats recommends treating your cat with a monthly topical treatment such as

Advantage or Frontline *prior* to flea infestation -- it only takes one flea to get things started! Is there heartworm in Washington? According to the American Heartworm Association, the incidence in Washington is still low, but its headed our way. Heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes. (cont. pg. 2)

A Country Club Prison for Cats?

Most people feel their home is their castle, and it's a pleasure to invite others into our homes. Often times however, the more we tidy our homes, the more we construct a sort of "country club prison" for our cats where their there's no need to hunt, or opportunity to play or explore. Cats need frequent stimulation and an environment that promotes their natural behaviors like vertical spaces to climb & perch, a rotation of toys, and convenient amenities in order to prevent pent-up energies or anxiety that leads to inappropriate behaviors. These behaviors can include but are not limited to elimination outside the box, aggression, destructive scratching, increased vocalization, over-grooming, and obesity. Data on pet ownership has revealed that cats now outnumber dogs as the most popular pet. Despite this increase however, veterinary visits for cats are declining. No one has an explanation for this trend but some experts speculate a contributing factor may be due to significant gaps in some people's understanding about the true nature of cats and their behavior. One of the biggest misconceptions in cat ownership is the lack of emphasis placed on environmental enrichment. Environmental enrichment is the first and largest step in decreasing a cat's pent-up energy and allowing them a healthier lifestyle. It can be strange to believe that simply adding some new toys, a little one-on-one attention either through play or grooming, some vertical climbing spaces, and convenient amenities can make all the (cont. pg. 2)



Favorites Corner

Get to know us as we get to know you and your cats

When we're not on islandcatsvet.com, Island Cats folks love to surf at www.islandcatsvet.com.

Dr. Marshall: reioutlet.com

Dr. Monahan: wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/seattle

Dr. Gross: netflix.com

Amy: imdb.com, dictionary.com

Cheryl: lonelyplanet.com

Cindy: facebook.com

Dana: ebay.com, pogo.com

Hayla: stuffonmycat.com

Biscuit: kittywar.com, cuteoverload.com

Blue Sky: bestfriends.org,

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In Case of Emergency—Planning Ahead Is Key

In the event of an earthquake, fire, snow/windstorms, or other disaster, your pets are especially vulnerable. Take steps now to help keep your entire family safe.

TO PREPARE:

Make sure that you have an emergency preparedness plan and supplies for the humans in your household. If you are not safe, you cannot care for your pets. Make an emergency supply and traveling kit for your pets as well as yourself. Store this kit near an exit, or in an outbuilding, so that it can be reached even if your home is damaged. Identify a friend or relative outside of your immediate area who could care for your cats for an extended time, if needed. Many emergency/evacuation shelters do not allow pets. (cont. pg. 2)





Dr. Gary Marshall
Dr. Laura Monahan
Dr. Cori Gross

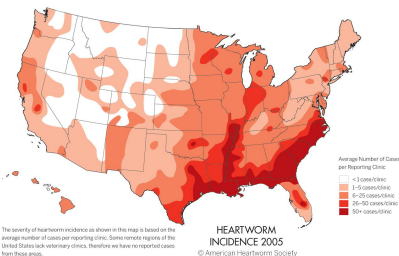


23-Cat Dr.
(206) 232-2837
www.islandcatsvet.com

...Heartworm?

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If not prevented, heartworm can lead to lifelong severe respiratory disease and death. There is no treatment for cats, only prevention, and it's easy! Island Cats recommends a once-monthly application of Advantage Multi to the skin at the back of your cat's neck. Advantage Multi prevents heartworm, fleas, and most common intestinal parasites. It is "prescription-only," so requires a current doctor-patient relationship (physical exam at Island Cats within the past 12 months) to purchase. The cost is about the same as other prescription flea treatments. *For more information, go to www.knowheartworms.org*



The severity of heartworm incidence as shown in this map is based on the average number of cases per reporting clinic. Some remote regions of the United States lack veterinary clinics, therefore exclude unreported cases from those areas.

HEARTWORM INCIDENCE 2005
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In Case of Emergency

(continued from pg. 1)

For kits, the ASPCA recommends:

- Pet first-aid kit and guide book
- Canned (pop-top) or dry food (in date)
- Photocopies of medical records
- Disposable litter boxes
- Flashlight & batteries
- Blanket / towel (to pick up a fearful pet)
- A traveling bag or sturdy carrier, one for each pet
- Recent photos of your pets (to make "Lost" posters if needed)
- Two-week supply of any of in-date medications (replace food & medications regularly)
- Extra leash
- Litter or paper toweling
- Pet feeding dishes
- Bottled water
- Microchip ID info

Permanent identification, such as a microchip, will make it easier to reunite with your pet if you become separated. Microchips reunited thousands of lost pets with their families after Hurricane Katrina. If your cat needs microchip ID, please make an appointment at Island Cats to get one soon.



Pop-Up Pawt

DURING A STORM OR EARTHQUAKE:

Always bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or disaster. Pets can become disoriented and wander away from home during a crisis. Determine well in advance which rooms offer safe havens. These rooms should be clear of hazards such as windows, flying debris, etc. Choose easy-to-clean areas such as utility rooms or bathrooms. Access to fresh water is particularly important. Fill up bathtubs and sinks ahead of time if possible to ensure that you have a supply of water.

If you need to evacuate, do not leave your pets behind. They depend on you to keep them safe. Listen to news reports on a battery-operated radio for information and instructions.

For more information, or to order a Pet Rescue Alert sticker for your home, please visit www.asPCA.org

Country Club Cats (continued from pg. 1)

difference to a kitty. Inappropriate behaviors can be a challenge to modify, and it's easier to believe the cat is "crazy" than fault ourselves as providers. Sometimes the dilemma has more to do with the aesthetics of adding cat items in the populated areas of the house. As members brought into our families, however, cats are entitled to exhibit natural behaviors. They want be in the rooms of most value, often wherever you or family members are. It's in our best interest to encourage them to scratch, play, eat, potty, and perch in cat-convenient, appropriate places. No human likes to go down three stories into the basement in the middle of the night to eat or go to the bathroom. Cats tend to feel the same way. We also don't like to wait or compete for our food so separate, protected feeding stations are the best way to avoid frustrations in multi-pet households. Just like with small children, cats need stimulation. If they don't have appropriate ways to release their energy, they will release it inappropriately. If you are living with an inappropriate cat behavior, we recommend scheduling a consultation with your veterinarian. These tend to be lengthier visits where the doctor will rule out common medical contributors, and discuss a behavior modification plan for your family. Excellent resources to explore this topic further include: www.indoorcat.org, www.animalbehaviorassociates.com, Twisted Whiskers, Think Like a Cat, or Cat vs. Cat by Pam Johnson-Bennett.