



Finances Don't Have to Keep You From Giving Your Pet the Care it Needs

March/April Newsletter

In today's economy, many people are having a hard time justifying certain expenses in their life. Luckily, many people still do their best to provide excellent care for their pets. This newsletter is designed to give you some preventative tips to keep you from having to pay large veterinary bills for a problem that would have been inexpensive to prevent.

First of all, prevention comes in different forms. Heartworm prevention, flea prevention, tick prevention, intestinal parasite prevention, and dental disease prevention are just a few of the most important types of prevention your pet should receive.

Heartworms are very easy to prevent; however, it can be very expensive to treat and very dangerous to your beloved pet. One chewable tablet (Heartgard is a product we carry in this form) once a month can cost you about 4 to 6 dollars a month (give or take dependent on the size of your pet). This will prevent you from having x-rays, full blood work, exams, painful injections, heart damage to your pet, and stress associated with the treatment process... and of course, the fees associated with the treatment. In addition to heartworms, Heartgard also protects your pet from intestinal parasites such as hookworms and roundworms which your pet could become infested with just by walking outside (paws coming in contact with eggs, therefore ingesting eggs and introducing them to your pet's intestinal track). These worms can cause diarrhea which leads to dehydration and discomfort, anemia which will make your pet lethargic and inappetent, and in few cases, death.

Another very important at home preventative procedure is dental care. Studies show that 80% of dogs and cats that are at least 3 years of age have some stage of periodontal disease. Left untreated, these pets will

progress through periodontal disease causing many metabolic diseases. Bacterial build up in the mouth causes plaque which is easily brushed away; however, left untreated, the plaque mixes with saliva to form tartar. Each milliliter of tartar contains one trillion bacterial cells (virbacvet.com). Those bacterial cells infect the gums causing gingivitis. They then get pushed through the bloodstream and infect organs such as the kidneys, liver, lungs, and heart. The greater the bacterial cells in these organs, the greater the illness in your pet. In simple terms, brushing your pet's teeth everyday might cost you about 5 cents a week; however, the fees associated with an extensive, yet preventable procedure are unnecessary. If brushing your pet's teeth is not an option for you and your pet, speak with one of our friendly technicians and they will be happy to help you find the preventative care that is best for you and your pet.

Lastly, it is important to at least briefly talk about pet insurance. It is becoming more and more accepted in the veterinary field with veterinarians and clients alike. At first glance, some people may automatically say, "no way" when looking at the monthly costs of carrying insurance for your pets. Fortunately, many insurance companies (such as VPI- Veterinary Pet Insurance) are introducing "Well Care" plans. These plans are reasonably priced and covers wellness prevention such as: biannual exams, vaccinations or titer testing, heartworm and intestinal parasite screens, heartworm and flea prevention, and routine care such as dentals, spays/neuters, etc. See a Planco Veterinary Care Staff member to get details about the insurance plans available so you can find which plan is best for you and your loved one.