

# Lakeland Veterinary Hospital

[www.lakelandveterinaryhospital.com](http://www.lakelandveterinaryhospital.com)



7372 Wolda Road · Baxter, MN 56425 · (218) 829-1709

Spring 2005

## ProHeart Not Available This Spring For Heartworm

Last fall, Fort Dodge Laboratories, at the request of the FDA, announced a voluntary recall of their injectable heartworm preventative, ProHeart®6. This recall was requested because of the possibility that there may be more medication reactions than were detected during initial product testing. At this time, the drug is

undergoing review by experts in the field and will not be available to us for use this spring.

It should be noted that no other country in the world has asked for a recall of this drug. In some countries, such as Australia, it is used in concentrations three times that used in the United States, to give protection for up to one year on a single injection. Even at this increased dosing, the incidence of side effects appears not to be greater than those experienced by the use of oral medications. Side effects

with either oral or injectable preventatives have been very infrequent.

Based on information that we have been given access to, we feel that ProHeart®6 is both safe and effective, but we will have to await the findings of the inquiry

**ProHeart®6**  
(moxidectin)

before we can give our full endorsement. In the meantime, we will be

recommending that all pets be tested for heartworm and placed on Heartgard® Plus for the summer.

At Lakeland Veterinary Hospital, we administered 1,902 doses over a two year period. We had very few reactions that we could attribute to ProHeart®6. We are very disappointed with this recall because we believe ProHeart®6 to be very safe and effective. Should any new information become available, we will post it on our website.

## Lakeland Participating in Study

Ticks are a major health problem to both dogs and people in this area. For the past 9 months, we have been participating in a study with Idexx Laboratories to see how widespread tick problems are in our dogs. The main problems that we see are Lyme disease and another disease called Anaplasmosis (which used to be called Ehrlichiosis). Both of these diseases are carried by the deer tick. Unfortunately, Anaplasmosis is a relatively new problem and our knowledge is limited.

In this study, we are collecting blood samples from healthy dogs to see if they have been exposed to the bacteria that causes Lyme or Anaplasmosis. Based on these results, we are developing better ways to identify, treat, and follow-up on dogs that become sick. Our goal is to be able to rapidly diagnose and cure dogs that develop infections. The initial results of this study are already giving us new knowledge and insight.

So far, we are shocked to see how many dogs have been exposed to Anaplasmosis. It is just as prevalent as Lyme disease in this area. Based on our 3DX test, about 40% of dogs have been exposed to Lyme disease. The scary part of this is that you and I can get sick from Lyme disease and Anaplasmosis. We do not get these diseases directly from dogs, but we can be bitten by the same ticks.

In order to prevent problems, we need to focus on tick control. All dogs should get Frontline®, at least monthly, through the tick season. We would love to have your pet participate in this study, if they have not already. All we need is to collect a blood sample, which can be done quickly with a minimum amount of stress. We can do this at the same time as we collect the heartworm/Lyme test. The study is ongoing and our final results will help us keep your dog healthy!

**Heartgard® Plus**  
(ivermectin/pyrantel)

# DON'T FORGET!!

**FRONTLINE® Plus**

## Heartworm & tick season is here!

All dogs should given Heartgard® June 1st - November 1st

Plan to have your pet tested for heartworm disease and pick up Heartgard® & Frontline®!

Call to schedule an appointment today! (218) 829-1709

# New Website Developed

Kim, our hospital manager, has developed a website that we feel will be both interesting and informative. We would encourage everyone with internet access to visit the site. The site includes a virtual tour of the hospital, allowing you to see areas of our hospital not visible from the reception or exam rooms. We also feature short biographies of our doctors, a featured employee of the month, our most recent newsletter, links to other websites of value to pet owners, and a "joke of the month" by Kim. Because the website is in its infancy, we would encourage you to give us any suggestions on how to improve it after you have had a chance to visit it.

## Visit:

[www.lakelandveterinaryhospital.com](http://www.lakelandveterinaryhospital.com)



## Grape & Raisin Toxicity Growing Concern in Dogs

Recently, there has been a lot of concern about grape and raisin toxicity in dogs. While there is little published data, there is mounting anecdotal evidence this can be a serious problem in some dogs.

### What we know:

1. Dogs that are affected will vomit within a few hours of eating grapes or raisins. In the next 24 hours, they may develop diarrhea and lose their appetite. Symptoms may last days to weeks, and do not necessarily correlate with the amount consumed.
2. Some dogs will develop kidney damage soon after ingestion. As this damage progresses, vomiting will get worse, dehydration will develop, and urine production may cease. Once this happens, death will follow.
3. Dogs that are treated early and aggressively have a good chance for recovery. The longer treatment is delayed, the worse the prognosis for recovery.

### What we don't know:

1. We do not know what the actual toxin is. It appears to be in the grape itself, as most possible insecticides or fungicides have been ruled out. Dogs have been poisoned by grapes grown at home with no chemicals applied to them.
2. There does not seem to be a critical dose that dogs need to be exposed to in order to develop toxicity. Some affected dogs have had large exposures, while some have had very little. Many dogs have eaten grapes repeatedly without any problems. The number of cases seems to be about equal between eating grapes or raisins.
3. There does not seem to be a breed, age, or sex of dog that is more affected than another.

### What you should do:

1. Avoid feeding grapes or raisins to your dog. Keep them somewhere that an unsupervised dog cannot accidentally find them.
2. If your dog should eat grapes or raisins, watch it closely for loss of appetite or vomiting over the next 24 to 48 hours.
3. Call us immediately if the above symptoms develop. Treatment and laboratory monitoring should commence immediately to try and prevent irreversible kidney damage.

### More information:

1. If you have questions that we have not answered here, you can call us at (218) 829-1709, and we will do our best to find answers for you.
2. Additional information may be found at ASPC animal poison control center website: [www.apcc.aspc.org](http://www.apcc.aspc.org).

## Youth & Paws Program Being Presented in Local 2nd Grade Classrooms

Youth and Paws is a presentation put together by one of our technicians, Gretchen Patrick, CVT. It is designed for teaching second graders about dog bite awareness. So far, it has been done in classrooms in Willmar as well as here in Brainerd at Garfield, Harrison, Whittier and Riverside Elementary schools. Not only does Gretchen love teaching and interacting with the kids, but the kids seem to get a lot out of the presentation as well. If you have a second grader, ask them if they've had a visitor in their classroom!

### Why teach dog bite awareness?

- ✓ Every 40 seconds, a person in the US seeks medical attention due to a dog bite.
- ✓ Every year in the US, dogs bite 4.7 million people. 60% of those are children and most bites are to the child's face.
- ✓ Nearly half of all children under the age of 12 have been bitten by a dog.
- ✓ Many pets are euthanized every year because they attack a child; many of those were provoked incidents because a child was antagonizing the pet in some way.

### The goal of Youth and Paws:

- ✓ Teach children the proper steps to take when encountered by a strange dog at any time.
- ✓ Show children what to look for in a pet that is showing signs of aggression.
- ✓ Teach children what not to give dogs: certain toys, holiday no-nos, outside hazards, etc.

### Included in the Youth and Paws presentation:

- ✓ "Dogs, Cats and Kids" – an educational video featuring Dr. Wayne Hunthausen, an internationally known speaker on pet behavior.
- ✓ Interaction with the kids – they are asked to answer and ask questions during the presentation.
- ✓ Pet Activity Book
- ✓ A visit by Mattie. Mattie is an 8-year-old black Labrador retriever that is a Canine Good Citizen. The kids may pet and visit with her after the presentation, as long as its authorized by the teacher(s).

## **OraVet, a New Product for Dental Care**

Merial, a manufacturer of veterinary pharmaceuticals, recently released a new product to help protect pets from dental disease. The product, OraVet®, is a polymer that when applied to the teeth, helps to seal them against plaque formation.

Plaque is a complex structure made up of bacteria, cellular and food debris, and carbohydrates (sugars). As plaque accumulates, minerals begin to adhere to it, leading to the thick brown deposits referred to as tartar. As tartar builds up, periodontal disease develops, eventually leading to infection, bad breath and tooth loss. Studies also show that periodontal disease can lead to heart, kidney, and liver disease. By age four, 80% of dogs have some stage of this disease. Daily brushing is the "gold standard" for removing plaque, but only about 2% of pet owners brush their pet's teeth.

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## **Periodontal Disease is the #1 diagnosed condition in pets**

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OraVet® is applied initially to the teeth after cleaning and polishing them in our hospital. This initial application is followed by weekly applications at home. This home treatment will not adhere unless the teeth have been thoroughly cleaned first, which is why we cannot just dispense it as we would many other medications. In a field study, using actual pets in their homes, OraVet® was applied to one half of the mouth, and nothing to the other half, for 8 weeks. The half treated with OraVet® had an average of 24% less plaque and 47% less tartar. OraVet® can be combined with regular brushing, is the best approach of all.

**For more information, visit  
[www.oravet.com](http://www.oravet.com)**



## **Feline Resorptive Lesions Common in Cats**

Feline resorptive lesions (also called feline odontoclastic resorptive lesions or FORL for short) occur when the tooth eats away on its self. This is similar to the cavities that you and I get. While true cavities in cats are very rare, FORLs happen in as many as 2/3 to 3/4 of all cats. The most common breeds are Persians and Siamese cats and older cats tend to have more of these lesions. The cause of FORLs is not known at this time.

The most common teeth to be effected are the premolars and molars (the "grinding" teeth). The process of resorption begins when cells called "odontoclasts" on the tooth begin to eat away (resorption) at the tooth's base. This occurs just under the enamel and the resorption goes in both directions: outward (through the enamel) and inward (toward the pulp). This leads to pain and eventually destruction of the entire tooth.

You may not notice anything is wrong in the early stages of this disease. However, in later stages you may begin to see problems develop. You may see your cat's eating behavior changing. Some examples are chewing its food on one side of its mouth exclusively, picking up food and dropping it, lack of appetite, and/or preference for soft food. Other signs you may notice include excessive drooling and/or your cat's mouth becoming painful.

Unfortunately, in most cases, by the time we can diagnose a FORL, the only option is to remove the tooth. Only rarely, in early cases, can the tooth be saved.

Since we do not know why this happens, there currently is no way to prevent this from happening to your cat. The best option is routine dental care and cleanings to detect these lesions before they become painful to your cat. Daily brushing is also very beneficial. For more information, you can visit a website called PetPlace.com. The URL is: <http://www.petplace.com/articles/artShow.asp?artID=4502>. You can also feel free to call our staff with any questions or concerns.

## **Dental Case Study - Rex the Terrier Mix**

Rex is a 6½-year-old terrier mix. Always a happy, friendly dog, his owner noticed that he wasn't feeling well. He was refusing to eat and seemed very painful in his mouth. She decided it was time to bring Rex in for an examination.

During a physical examination, it was noted by Deb Piegras, DVM that Rex had a heart murmur that was not present during an examination 8 months previously. Rex also had a Grade 4 Periodontal Disease (graded on a scale of 1 to 4). This is the most advanced stage of dental disease. In this stage, there are multiple abscesses in the teeth, severe tartar build-up and many loose teeth. It is a very painful condition that often leads to infection in other organs, such as the heart, kidneys and liver.

Extensive dental work, including extractions, and aggressive antibiotics were recommended. Rex was scheduled for his dental the following week.

On the day of the procedure, an intravenous catheter was placed into Rex's leg. He was given an injection of an anesthetic to help him sleep, then a tube was placed down his throat to help him breathe. He was placed on IV fluids and a monitor for his heart rate. During the dental, x-rays revealed which teeth were damaged too severely to save. Diseased teeth were extracted and

the remaining teeth were cleaned and polished. Several teeth needed to be surgically removed and the gums sutured. A normal canine mouth has 42 teeth. Three hours and multiple extractions later, Rex recovered with only 14 teeth remaining. He was given medications for pain and hospitalized overnight.

The following day, Rex was happy and eating well. At home, he recovered rapidly and the owner described him as acting like a puppy again.

Like many people, Rex's owner had been given dental recommendations previously. Unfortunately, his owner did not fully realize how severe the disease could get. Today, thanks to a loving and concerned owner, Rex is playful and more active than he has been in years. He is gaining weight and his heart murmur is improving. He does things the owner thought he had stopped doing because of his age, such as jumping up to kiss them in the morning.

Rex's owner is thrilled with his new found zest for life. Her only regret is that it took such extremes to realize it. She recommends brushing your pet's teeth, starting as a puppy. She also wishes she had his teeth cleaned every year or every other year when the veterinarian had recommended it.

# Tips for Pets in the Summer!

- ❖ NEVER EVER leave a pet in the car!! The sun can heat the car to temperatures above 120 degrees in minutes, even when the windows are down.
- ❖ Keep pets leashed when outdoors in a new area. This will keep them from getting into things that may make them sick.
- ❖ ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS have fresh water available! Even indoors, pets need to drink lots of water, so make sure their bowl is always full of fresh, cool water.
- ❖ Keep pets well groomed. If they are furry & have mats or tangles, heat can't escape from their bodies, & they will get too hot. They also may be more prone to hot spots (a severe, painful skin infection).
- ❖ Be careful on humid days. Again, pets can't get rid of heat like we can, so they pant. Heavy air (humidity) makes panting & heat loss less effective, so be careful not to overdo the activity.
- ❖ Be sure your pet doesn't get too excited outside. Exercise makes pets hot too, so make sure they aren't getting too much & make sure there's lots of water to drink.
- ❖ Bring your pet inside when possible. Even though they may be able to lie in the shade, it doesn't mean they're staying cool. Bringing them in will reduce stress & make them more comfortable.
- ❖ Be alert for heatstroke. **THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!!** You can lower their body temperature by placing cool towels on their body. NEVER spray them with water – it can cause more damage. **SEEK VETERINARY ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY!** Heatstroke can be fatal. **Signs of heatstroke:** panting, staring, anxious expression, refusal to obey usual commands, warm and dry skin, high fever, rapid heart-beat, vomiting, collapsing, fire red gums.
- ❖ Watch for sunburn! Dogs that have been shaved, are light colored, have short or thin hair, & dogs that lay on their backs in the sun may get sunburned. Try to limit the amount of time they are in the sun or put a small amount of sunscreen on their bellies, nose & ears.
- ❖ Make sure your pet is up to date on all of its vaccines & if you have a dog, that it is placed on heartworm preventative. Since many dogs go places with their families during the summer, that usually means meeting other dogs too. Make sure that your pet is protected from diseases that other pets might carry. It is also helpful to use Frontline® to prevent fleas, ticks & the diseases that come with them.



## Lakeland Veterinary Hospital Staff

### Hospital Director:

Richard Piepgras, DVM

### Doctors:

Deb Piepgras, DVM

Matt Eberts, DVM

Craig Reiman, DVM

Joyce Brick, Office Manager

Kim Erickson, Hospital Mgr

### Technicians:

Kathy Holtti, CVT

Colleen Williams, CVT

Gretchen Patrick, CVT

### Assistants:

Jenni Galligan

Darla Grotzke

Jennifer Joyce

### Receptionists:

Stacy Fetters

Jenny Waidelich

### Groomers:

Dianna Anderson

Julie Knowlen

Karen Schumann

### Maintenance:

Glenn Vold

### Kennel Staff:

Mandi Kostohryz, Manager

Amy Espersen

Anje Mehr

Britni Smith

### Night Attendants:

Mary Payne

Karen Millner

Megan Johnson

Cheeri Yde



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IS HERE! CALL US TO  
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