

- **Dr. Alfieri and Dr. Campbell rescued horses who would have been slaughtered. Dr. Alfieri's horse is pregnant.**
- **The Vet Center started doing spays and neuters for NJ Boxer Rescue. We already help St. Huberts, Mt. Pleasant, and Parsippany Animal Shelter.**

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# Paw Prints

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## Rabies Found in Morris County

In the past few months, there have been several confirmed cases of rabies in Morris County. Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. The virus is secreted in saliva and is usually transmitted to people and animals by a bite from an infected animal. Less commonly, rabies can be transmitted when saliva from a rabid animal comes in contact with an open cut on the skin or the eyes, nose, or mouth of a person or animal. Once the outward signs of the disease appear, rabies is nearly always fatal.

Once the rabies virus enters the body, it travels along the nerves to the brain. Dogs and cats with rabies may show a variety of signs, including fearfulness, aggression, excessive drooling,

difficulty swallowing, staggering, and seizures. Rabid wild animals may only display unusual behavior; for example, an animal that is usually only seen at night may be



**Never approach any wildlife. Contact your local animal control to handle it.**

seen wandering in the daytime. In addition to those signs, they may exhibit depression, self mutilation, or increased sensitivity to light.

Only mammals can get rabies; birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians do not. Most cases of rabies occur in wild animals—in New Jersey, it is mainly skunks, raccoons, bats, ground hogs, and foxes. In recent years, free roaming cats have become the most common domestic animal infected with rabies. This is because many cat owners do not vaccinate their cats before the cats are exposed to rabid wildlife outdoors. Rabies also occurs in dogs, especially dogs left to roam unattended, either in their own yards or in their neighborhood.

To best protect your pet, be sure to keep their rabies vaccine up to date, and monitor their outdoor excursions.

## Barbecue Dangers

This summer, many of us will be barbecuing, and we would love to include our pets in our summertime fun. Unfortunately, there are many risks to pets during the summer month. Here is a list of things to be mindful of for your pet's well-being:

- 1) Barbecued food may look delicious, but can make your dog or cat very ill. Avoid the temptation and give your pet a dog-friendly treat instead.)
- 2) Corn on the cob can be a delicious snack, but the cobs can be deadly if your dog eats them. Keep them out of your pets reach.
- 3) Steak bones and chicken bones can also make your pet terribly ill and may require surgery to remove. Don't let your pet have them.

# Senior Wellness



Keeping your senior dog fit and trim will help them maintain good joint health.

*“Remember, age is not a disease, and there is no reason to ignore signs that could be treated.”*

Senior cats should be screened annually for renal insufficiencies.



At the Veterinary Center of Morris County, your pet's well being is our number one concern. Veterinary medicine has come a long way, and our pets are living longer lives because of it.

Unfortunately, with longer lives can come the many medical problems associated with aging, like arthritis and renal insufficiencies. With proactive care, and proper medical management from your veterinarian, we can keep your pet happy and healthy through her golden years.

It can be difficult to watch your pet slow down with age. Remember, age is not a disease, and there is no reason to ignore signs that could be treated. Our pets are considered senior as early as six years old in large breed dogs, and by eight years old for cats and smaller dogs. With more specialized management and routine exams, your senior pet can share many more years by your side. Here is a list of things to be attentive to:

**Nutrition:** Older pets have special nutritional requirements. As pets age, their metabolism slows down. Putting your pet on a senior diet will offer restricted calories, and often a softer kibble for sensitive teeth. Lower sodium and phosphorus levels in senior pet food promote kidney health. Antioxidants are also added to fight the effects of aging in your senior pet.

**Joint Health:** Older animals will often develop signs of degenerative joint disease. This can be exacerbated by obesity and inactivity. Keeping your pet at an ideal weight and maintaining an exercise routine of walking and stretching can ward of some of the symptoms of degenerative joint disease. It is also beneficial to supplement your pet with glucosamine, chondroitin, hyaluronic acid, and MSM to help lubricate the joints and keep cartilage healthy. Commercial joint supplements are available from your veterinarian.



**Dental health:** As pets age, so do their teeth. Many pets will continue to eat well even though their teeth are diseased and painful. Brushing your pet's teeth from an early age can help prevent dental disease from developing. There are also prescription diets specifically formulated for maintaining oral health by mechanically brushing the teeth as your pet chews. If your pet is diagnosed with dental disease, your vet can place them under anesthesia and scale and polish the teeth back to a healthy state.

**Blood Work:** Many senior pets do not show clinical signs of underlying disease until it is too late to correct them. By running routine blood work on your senior pet, your veterinarian can see elevations in kidney and liver function and treat them before they become a problem for your pet. Other common problems in senior pets, like diabetes and thyroid disorders can be discovered through routine blood work.

**Parasites:** As your pet gets older, the less likely it is to be able to fight a parasite infestation. Routine fecal examination will ensure your pet is free from intestinal parasites. Using a monthly heartworm preventative will also serve to protect your senior pet.

Other parasites, like fleas and ticks will also take advantage of a senior pet. Be sure to continue Frontline for their protection.

You know your pet better than anyone, and are the best advocate for his well-being. If you suspect something has changed, or you notice anything out of the ordinary, call your veterinarian and schedule an appointment. The sooner we find a problem and begin treatment, the better your pet's chances of not experiencing any lingering affects.

# Beware of Fleas



With the warmth of spring, come the beautiful flowers and trees in full bloom.....and the dreaded fleas. The flea is one of the most common pests we see on our cats and dogs. In addition to causing severe

**Prevent flea infestation by treating your pet monthly .** itchy skin, the flea also carries another parasite inside of it, the tapeworm. In severe infections, fleas often jump onto a human and bite causing small red itchy bumps. Around the size of a pinhead, this parasite can jump 100 times its own height, making it possible to travel very quickly from host to host and from host to hiding place for laying eggs,

making it very difficult to get rid of. Female fleas need a blood meal in order to reproduce and the newly hatched fleas need a blood meal in order to grow. In an infested home, the fleas would rather feed on a dog or cat; however the occasional person will do just fine.

The life cycle of the flea is relatively simple. Female fleas lay eggs on the host animal, in this case your dog or cat. The eggs then fall

off onto whatever is there; carpet, pillows, bed, kitchen table...etc.. It then takes up to 5 days for the eggs to hatch and the flea larvae to emerge. The larvae then forms a pupa which offers protection as it becomes an adult, like a cocoon does for a butterfly.

*The Veterinary Center of Morris County recommends Frontline Plus for flea and tick prevention.*

# Ticks: A danger to pets and people

Ticks are the most important arthropod in transmitting diseases to domestic animals. They can cause disease and illness directly. They are responsible for anemia due to blood loss, dermatitis due to salivary secretions, and ascending tick paralysis due to neurotoxins in the salivary secretions. They also can be the vector of other diseases such as Lyme disease, Rocky Moun-

tain spotted fever, Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis and Ehrlichia. When you locate a tick, it is best to use tweezers to pick up the body. Try to remove the tick very slowly, ideally the mouthparts will release. However, this does not always happen. If you completely remove the tick, you should see a small crater in your dog's skin, if you see what looks like black lines, you've

left the head of the tick in. Ideally, if your dog allows it, try and remove what was left behind. If you are unable the remaining mouthparts can lead to an infection, and your dog should be taken to the vet for removal. If you find a tick on yourself, remove it in the same fashion and save it to show to your doctor.

# Flea and Tick Preventatives

Dog owners have access to a plethora of flea and tick control products from herbs and electronics to biological controls. Some products repel, some kill adults, some kill larva or eggs, and some prevent from growing and reproducing.

Frontline uses fipronil to wipe out adult fleas and to control ticks. For flea and tick control, it

should be administered once a month. Frontline continues to work after you give your pet a bath or if he goes for regular swims.

Advantage is a topical treatment that kills adult fleas and prevents infestation for up to one month. Bathing your dog will reduce effectiveness. Advantage does not work against ticks.

There is a vaccination against Lyme disease for dogs that is now available. It is Borrelia Burgdoferi Bacterin .

It is your choice which preventative you choose to use for your pet.



**Ticks can cause harm to both you and your pet.**



## Veterinary Center of Morris County

33 Eagle Rock Avenue  
East Hanover, NJ 07936  
Phone: 973-887-0522  
Fax: 973-887-8095  
E-mail: [vetcentermorristcty@verizon.net](mailto:vetercentermorristcty@verizon.net)

**Where We Treat Your Pet Like One of Our Own**

The Veterinary Center of Morris County is a small, fully-equipped AAHA accredited veterinary hospital in East Hanover. We have three full time doctors who specialize in dogs and cats. We will also see pocket pets and birds including rabbits and ferrets for routine care. We have boarding available for our clients, as well as a full time groomer. We are also the only Veterinary Hospital in NJ with a registered ultrasonographer on staff full time. At The Veterinary Center of Morris County, we treat your pet like they are our own.



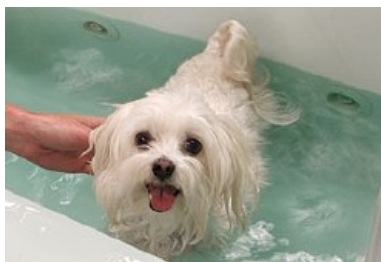
# Schedule Your Pet's Vacation Now

Planning a summer vacation? If your pet can not come with you, consider leaving them with us. The Veterinary Center of Morris County has a fully equipped kennel available to our clients. Our canine vacationers enjoy leash walks outdoors three times daily. Our feline friends stay in a separate cattery with views of the area wildlife to entertain them.

You can bring your pet's own food and treats to make the transition as seamless as possible for them. You can also bring along a favorite toy for your pet's entertainment while you are away. We supply your pet with ample cozy blankets for added comfort. You do not need to leave your leash, as we have safety leashes we use to walk them.

Our kennel is only available to our

clients. We require distemper annually, bordetella every six months, rabies, and an annual heartworm test and fecal exam. If your pet has any medical issues, we will be happy to have a doctor address them while your pet is here. We can also perform routine surgery during their stay, like dentistry or spay/neuter.



**You can have your pet professionally groomed on the day he is due to go home.**

For our special needs guests, we will gladly go the extra mile to take care of all their medicines and treatments. Just bring along your pet's medicine and one of our qualified veterinary technicians will administer it. There is an additional charge for medication given while boarding, but it is well worth the peace of mind in knowing that your pet is receiving the best possible care.

We can also schedule a bath or professional grooming on the day your pet is due to go home. Grooming should be scheduled in advance by calling Janice at (973)887-3237.

Planning ahead will ensure your pet has a safe and happy home away from home, so you can truly enjoy your vacation, knowing your pet is in good hands.