

Pet Talk

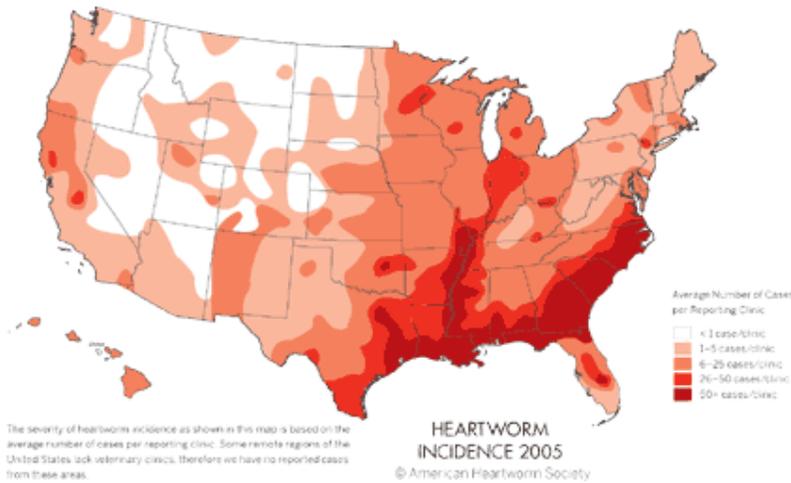
THREE NOTCH VETERINARY HOSPITAL
PARK VETERINARY CLINIC

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Feline Heartworm Disease and HARD

APRIL
2013

Feline heartworm disease has been diagnosed in all 50 states. Wherever dogs are considered to be at risk for heartworms, cats are at risk as well.



Research has shown that signs such as coughing and difficulty breathing, which are often diagnosed as feline asthma or allergic bronchitis, can be caused by the presence of heartworms in either larval or adult stages. **Heartworm associated respiratory disease, or HARD**, is the term for this condition.

Heartworm infection occurs when a mosquito carrying microscopic heartworm larvae takes a blood meal from a cat. The larvae enter through the bite wound and develop in the cat's tissues. The immature worms then enter a blood vessel and are carried to the arteries in the lung where they cause an inflammatory reaction. Most worms die at this stage, causing even more inflammation. The worms that progress to the adult stage can live undetected for a couple of years, but when the adult worms die the inflammation can be severe enough to cause death.

Symptoms Associated with HARD:

- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Lethargy
- Rapid heart rate
- Decreased appetite
- Weight loss
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Blindness
- Collapse
- Convulsions
- Sudden death



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**CHECK OUT PAGE 2
FOR INFORMATION ON
APVES** our partner emergency
facility, located in :

**Calvert County
Allied Partners Veterinary
Emergency Services**

Special points of interest:

- * Indoor Cats can get Heartworm Disease
- * Coughing & difficulty breathing can be signs of Heartworms in Cats
- * Heartworm Disease is preventable

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Mission Statement
Service Numbers
Office Hours
Available on our website
www.threenotch.com



Links for both locations available on our website...www.threenotch.com

EMERGENCY SERVICES

ALLIED PARTNERS VETERINARY EMERGENCY SERVICES

Three Notch Veterinary Hospital and Park Veterinary Clinic provide after hours emergency services through our partner emergency service, Allied Partner Veterinary Emergency Services.

APVES is located just north of Prince Frederick, Maryland in Huntingtown. APVES has emergency hours weekdays: 6PM-8AM, weekends and holidays: 24 hours.

**You may reach them by calling:
410.535.9722**

To learn more about APVES visit their website

www.vetmash.com/APVES



ONLINE RESOURCES

KNOW Heartworms is an awareness campaign cosponsored by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and the American Heartworm Society and funded by an educational grant from Pfizer Animal Health. The campaign was created to raise awareness of feline heartworm disease and HARD. The website focuses on the "Five Myths and Misunderstandings" of feline heartworm disease.

The **American Heartworm Society** has the most comprehensive and up-to-date information about heartworm disease, including **guidelines** for diagnosing, treating, and preventing heartworms in cats, a feline heartworm animation, a glossary of heartworm-related terms, and a "Just for Kids" page.

Ray Dillon, DVM, MS, DACVIM, of Auburn University has created a **website** to share his cutting-edge research on feline heartworm disease. His research is raising awareness among cat owners and veterinarians.

Compliments of :
Jane Brunt, DVM
Past President of AAFP
KNOW Heartworms Spokesperson
Cat Hospital at Towson
Baltimore, Maryland

Heart worms are preventable!
Ask your Veterinarian today which product is best for your Feline friend!



Obedience Corner

Hi Trainers – In this edition of Obedience Corner we’re going to focus on the mysterious world of... Housebreaking.

Over the years, there have been a lot of changes in dog training philosophies. Clicker training, positive reinforcement and doggie yoga for crying out loud! However, the one area that gets neglected a lot is housebreaking. It’s not one of the more glamorous or fun aspects of dog training and not many of the famous trainers devote much air time to “poop”. Although I may not be famous, I do have pups and I’ve got some personal lessons to share as well as some formal, proven methods.

(1) See Spot Pee – If you take one tip away from this article, it would be this: the most important step in housebreaking a dog is... See Your Dog Eliminate. When it’s time for Rex to “go outside”, go with him to make sure he eliminates according to his schedule and praise/treat him for it. A lot of times, we don’t want to go outside and we just assume that when the dog comes back inside, he’s done his business...right before he pees on the floor. Conversely, when Fifi is loose in your house, you have to watch her closely all the time so that when she makes a mistake, you can see it, stop it, and take her outside to finish. Using a leash or long line in the house to keep your dog with you is an excellent tool. If you don’t catch the dog in the act, the training opportunity is lost. If you don’t see them do it, clean it up, and wait for the next time. You missed your chance.

(2) Better safe than sorry – When housebreaking, take your dog outside as often as you can. That gives them more opportunity to eliminate where they are supposed to and more chances to get rewarded for it. The flip side of that argument is “I want them to learn to hold it”. My priorities for housebreaking are the same hierarchy I use for getting rid of other unwanted behaviors: (1) Prevent the unwanted behavior from happening as much as possible (eliminating indoors), (2) reward your dog as often as you can for the right



behavior (eliminating outdoors) and lastly, when you must (3) “Punish” unwanted behavior. That’s leads us to the next tip.

(3) We Do Not Rub Noses In Excrement... Ever. I couldn’t figure out a better way to say it. There is merit to the argument that dogs should be taught that going inside is bad, just like going outside is good. Here’s how you “punish” your dog effectively for eliminating in the house. You have to see them in the act (see step 1). If you see them, you will likely start making very loud noises and you will start running at your dog. Once you get there, pick them like they are a dirty diaper and take them outside. The noise, motion, and “scoop” are enough to startle your dog and stop whatever is

happening. This entire event is enough punishment to get the point across. Rubbing their nose in it accomplishes two key undesired results: (1) it makes them afraid of you and creates distrust. That creates much worse problems (2) They end up with urine or fecal matter on their noses and that’s gross on multiple levels.

(4) Consider the Source – If you’re aware of all of the things that give dogs the urge to eliminate, it’ll help you predict accidents before they happen. Here’s the normal list of triggers: waking up, (even after a short nap), eating, and playing. Sleeping, eating, and playing! No wonder; that’s all dogs do. But that’s just the beginning. Here are some lesser known triggers: the smell. Dogs can smell the smallest traces and that smell causes them to want to go again. Dogs can also detect urine and feces even after cleaning with stain removers and detergents. Clean accidents with enzyme cleaners that break down the organic matter instead of covering it

up. If you’re sure you’re doing all the right things and Trixie is still having trouble, see your vet. Infections can be sneaky and can really cause trouble with housebreaking.

Housebreaking is one of those things that you don’t really think about until it’s a



problem. I used to think that some dogs just “got it” faster than others. After working with dozens of clients and raising several puppies myself, I’ve realized most dogs are the same but their people are very different. Some people (like me) have multiple dogs and are around puppies pretty often. That’s rare though. Most folks go years (or even decades) in between housebreaking one dog and the next. Without some help or a lot of refresher research, we can be completely out of practice in housebreaking a dog. Hopefully these tips will make your next round of housebreaking a little easier (and save some carpet in the process). Have a great spring and don’t forget to get outside and play with your pooch.

GOOD LUCK AND

HAPPY TRAINING!



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