



Bailey's Qtrly Newsletter

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WHEN YOUR PET NEEDS SURGERY

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Many people have questions about various aspects of their pet's surgery, so we wanted to provide some information in hopes that it will alleviate some of your concerns.

Pre-anesthetic blood testing is important in reducing the risks of complications related with anesthesia. Every pet should have blood testing before surgery to ensure that they are a good candidate for anesthesia. Even apparently healthy animals can have liver or kidney problems that cannot be detected without blood testing. Performing these blood tests before surgery will help our doctors to determine if your pet needs an adjusted amount of anesthetic, an alternate kind of anesthetic or alert them to possibly postponing your pet's surgery until the problem is corrected.

Today's anesthetic monitors and procedures have made surgery much safer than in the past. We monitor all animals under anesthesia with modern equipment, which includes oxygen levels, blood pressure and temperature. A technician is also present during the entire surgery to manually monitor breathing, color and heart sounds. Our doctors and technicians also carefully monitor your pet after surgery to make sure they are fully recovered.

Pain medications will depend on the kind of surgery performed. It is safe to assume that what is painful to humans is also painful to animals even though they cannot always relay that information to us effectively. We provide all of our surgical patients with pre surgical pain meds and, depending on the procedure performed, we may recommend that you take some home to give to your pet as directed in order to help aid in their overall recovery.

Dissolvable stitches under the skin are used in most surgeries but in some cases topical stitches will be used and you will generally need to bring your pet back in to have them removed in 10-14 days. Although many of you can be tempted to remove the stitches at home, it is important to have your veterinarian or a technician remove them so that they are able to make sure that the incision is healing properly. Whether the stitches are dissolvable or topical, it is very important to limit your pet's activity, watch for swelling or discharge and, if recommended, keep the e-collar on at all times until your veterinarian gives you the green light to remove it.

When you bring your pet in for surgery, we will need approximately 10 to 15 minutes of time to fill out paperwork and make decisions on the blood testing and other options available. When you pick up your pet after surgery, you should plan to spend about 10 minutes to go over your pet's instructions for going home.

If you have any questions about your pet's surgery please don't hesitate to ask. We know this can be a stressful time and we want to make sure that you feel comfortable with your pet's stay here with us, as well as feeling comfortable with treating your pet once they go home.

Dr. Blair Bailey, Partner

Dr. Barry Downie, Partner

Dr. Paul Bailey, Partner

Chelsea VanderKley

Practice Manager

Monday – Friday

8am – 5:30pm

Saturday

9am – 4pm

Sunday – Closed

Emergencies

24 Hours Services

HEARTWORM DISEASE

Heartworms are...
Serious, Life Threatening & Completely Preventable!

Protect your pets!

With the return of warmer weather comes the return of those pesky little mosquitoes. Other than being annoying, they can also transmit heartworm disease.

Heartworms pose a threat to both dogs and cats. A heartworm infestation in dogs is difficult to treat and there is no approved treatment for cats.

Heartworm disease is a serious, progressive disease in which worms actually infest the heart. It is transmitted by the bite of a mosquito to a variety of species including dogs, cats and in rare instances, humans. Treatment can be expensive, extremely difficult on your pet and heartbreaking as not all treatments are successful. It takes only one bite from a mosquito to transmit the infected larvae that cause heartworm disease.

The good news is that heartworms are easy to prevent. There are a number of different options to help keep your pet protected. Most preventives even offer additional coverage from other intestinal parasites and some can protect against fleas as well. In the long run, it is more cost effective to keep your pet on a monthly preventive than it is to treat for heartworm disease; not to mention the pain and suffering your poor companion could be exposed to if infected.

Be sure to talk with your veterinarian so that they can help you determine the best product for your pet.

TO SHAVE OR NOT TO SHAVE

Summer is just around the corner and while humans would most certainly be more than uncomfortable wearing a fur coat in the blazing temperatures, your dog's coats are actually providing them with relief from the heat.

Not only does your dog's coat protect them from the sun (dogs can get sunburns and skin cancer too), but it also acts as insulation, keeping your dog warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

We're not saying that a shorter summer cut is a bad idea but we don't recommend shaving all the way down to the skin regardless of the season. Pets with little or no hair can suffer the harmful rays of the sun that can damage their skin. If you suspect your pet will be outdoors for a long period of time, applying a safe, animal approved sunscreen will help keep them protected.

Take time to discuss various haircuts with your groomer and listen to their recommendations. Sometimes a happy dog is a hairy dog.



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Can your pet get you sick?

A: You can't catch a cold from your cat or dog but certain things can be transmitted from pet to pet owner. Parasites such as hookworms, roundworms, giardia and toxoplasmosis can be transmitted through your pets' feces. Ringworm can be passed from pet to human as well, and ticks can spread Lyme disease and Ehrlichiosis to you and your pet.



Q: What type of food should I feed my pet?

A: Any major brand of pet food that is certified by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) is best. This demonstrates that the pet food company is meeting nutritional standards.

It is recommended that you feed puppy or kitten food for the first year and then change to an adult blend after that.

Certain breeds can benefit from specific diets, so be sure to talk to your veterinarian and get their recommendation for a food that will be the most beneficial to your pet.

Q: My pet has blood in their stool. What can this be?

A: Intestinal parasites could be the cause. Contact your veterinarian as soon as possible and be sure to bring in a fecal sample for testing.



DID YOU KNOW?

Just like humans, our pets sometimes need blood transfusions. In order for us to keep a constant supply of fresh blood on hand, we need blood donors. Ideal candidates include **Dogs:** 60 pounds or greater, in good health, current on vaccines and good temperament. **Cats:** 8 years or younger, at least 10 pounds, current on vaccines and good temperament. All pets considered will receive a heartworm test and comprehensive blood work at no charge. If you feel your pet would be an ideal donor, then please give us a call and we'd be happy to have one of our technicians discuss it with you.

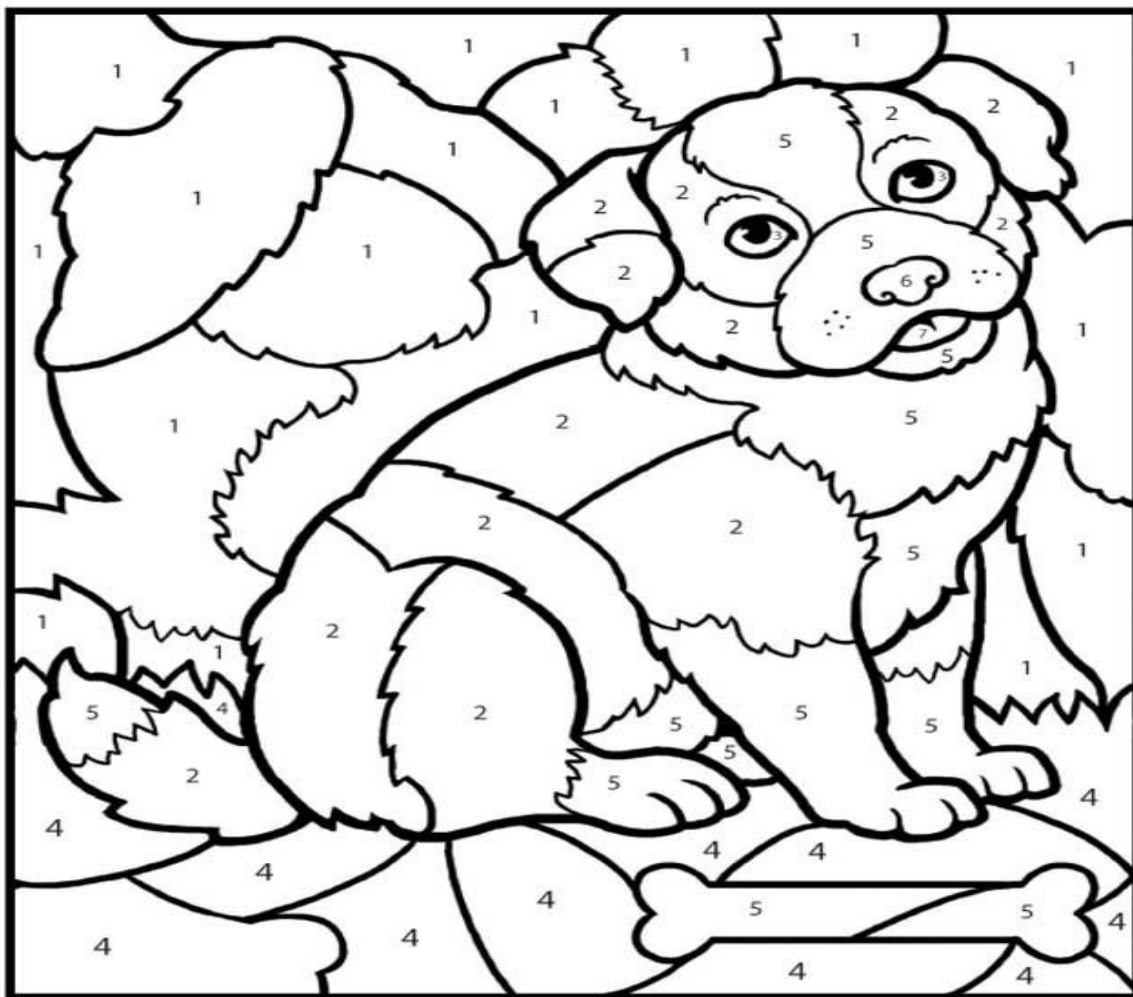
LYME DISEASE

With the warmer weather on its way, we can expect to see more ticks on our outdoor adventures. Lyme disease is a tick-borne disease affecting both humans and pets, which in Oregon, is transmitted by the bite of the western black-legged tick.

A tick must be attached to its host for more than 24 hours to spread the illness, but symptoms may not show for a few weeks after transmission. Some of the symptoms may include a red rash at the bite site, being stiff and painful, fever and the reluctance to move.

To help prevent Lyme disease, we recommend that you use a flea and tick preventative, check yourself and your pet for ticks after outings in tall grass and wooded areas, and remove any ticks found as soon as possible.

If you have more questions about Lyme disease, please feel free to discuss it with your veterinarian or ask one of our knowledgeable team members.



1= blue 2= brown 3=yellow 4=red 5=white 6=black 7=pink