



ZOONOTIC ALERT –

What is zoonosis and why should you care?

Zoonosis refers to a parasite, bacteria, or virus (such as rabies), that can be passed directly from animals to humans. Members of your family can unknowingly pick up a zoonotic disease at the park, playground, or even in your own backyard. Children are especially vulnerable to zoonotic diseases because they play outside and are more likely to put contaminated objects into their mouths. The most common zoonotic parasites are roundworms and hookworms. **The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that almost 14% of the U.S. population is infected with roundworms.**

The staff of Ellington Center Animal Clinic takes parasite infections and zoonotic disease transmission very seriously. We **STRONGLY** recommend annual parasite testing for your pet and a year-round monthly prevention program.

FECAL TESTING = INTESTINAL PARASITE SCREEN

☐ The fecal sample you brought today will be analyzed at the laboratory. You will receive a telephone call with results in 24 – 48 hours.

☐ A pre-paid fecal test will be added to today's invoice. At your convenience, you can drop off a stool sample. Test results will be available in 24 - 48 hours.

ROUNDWORMS: This parasite is very common in our pet population and is also a human health concern. Signs of a roundworm infection may include diarrhea, vomiting, slow growth, rough coat and a distended belly. Some pets may have no symptoms or signs of infection. Infections are contracted from pets ingesting contaminated stool samples or hunting wildlife.

A roundworm infection in humans can result in blindness.

HOOKWORMS: This parasite is a thread-like, bloodsucking parasite with razor-sharp mouth parts that attach to your pet's small intestine. Tissue damage, blood loss, anemia, and diarrhea may result. Hookworms can infect your pet in two ways: 1) ingesting eggs deposited in the soil from an infected animal or 2) Hookworm larvae may penetrate your pet's feet after a walk through a contaminated area. Hookworms can present a health risk to family members if the larvae come in contact with the skin.

TAPEWORMS: This parasite is very common in our pet population. Tapeworm infections normally occur when your pet ingests fleas while grooming or by ingesting mice that are infected with the tapeworm larvae. Tapeworms do not generally cause any outward signs of disease. An infection may cause your pet to sit down and drag along the ground.

WHIPWORMS: This infestation occurs when your pet swallows whipworm eggs found in contaminated soil. Whipworm infection causes bloody diarrhea, anemia, dehydration and loss of appetite. A female whipworm can produce 2,000 eggs daily. Eggs are passed in animals' feces, and can survive for YEARS in the soil. Whipworms are very difficult to eradicate.

GIARDIA: Giardia are a microscopic single-celled organism that can live in the small intestine. Giardia can be contracted by drinking contaminated water from streams and ponds. For your dog, just one lap of contaminated water is all it takes to contract giardia. Pets may also become infected by eating the stool of infected animals or by licking their paws/fur after walking through an infected area.

To prevent heartworm disease and intestinal parasites, use a monthly medication such as Heartgard Plus®, Interceptor Plus® or Revolution®. Use these products year-round to guarantee excellent prevention and control of parasites.



BLOOD PATHOGEN SCREEN = SNAP 4Dx® TEST

The Ellington Center Animal Clinic uses a simple blood test known as a SNAP 4Dx® Test to screen for infection in your dog. Often referred to simply as a “heartworm test,” this blood test provides an accurate, in-house test in just eight minutes for heartworm infection, ehrlichia, Lyme and anaplasma.

❑ **HEARTWORM DISEASE** in animals is a serious threat. One bite from an infected mosquito can transmit heartworms to your pet. Dogs are the most commonly infected, but cats and ferrets are also susceptible. Heartworms restrict blood flow and cause heart damage and ultimately can be fatal.

❑ **ERLICHIOSIS** is transmitted in dogs through the bite of infected ticks. The brown dog tick is the main reservoir of the organism in nature and is more of an issue in the southern United States.

❑ **LYME DISEASE** was first recognized in 1975 after a mysterious outbreak of arthritis occurred near Lyme, Connecticut. Reports have dramatically increased in both humans and pets all around the country. Lyme disease is spread by the bite of infected deer ticks.

❑ **ANAPLASMOSIS** is an emerging tick disease also transmitted by the deer tick and frequently found in pets already co-infected with Lyme disease. The symptoms of both Lyme and anaplasma are similar, although anaplasma is more likely to be associated with high fever and severe joint pain.

Parasites that can transmit vector-borne illnesses:

FLEAS: Fleas transmit a number of diseases, including typhus and plague, and they are a carrier for tapeworms. In addition, flea saliva is one of the most irritating substances known. Many dogs and cats are allergic to flea saliva that results in an allergic reaction. Flea allergy dermatitis is the most common allergic disease among pets.



Because fleas are small and difficult to see, their presence may be detected by observing “flea dirt” (the excrement a flea leaves behind after eating a blood meal). If you notice a pepper like material on your pet, try combing some of this dirt onto a paper towel and moisten it. If the dirt turns reddish-brown, you can be certain that your pet has been bitten by fleas.



TICKS: Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, and Ehrlichiosis are some diseases that are transmitted by ticks. Connecticut is the epicenter of many tick-borne diseases. Dogs are 50% more likely than humans to contract Lyme disease.



MOSQUITOS: Heartworm disease is transmitted from the bite from an infected mosquito. Although people are not typical hosts for the heartworm, dogs, cats and ferrets are susceptible. Mosquitos are also responsible for spreading other serious diseases such as West Nile Virus, Malaria, Dengue Fever and Chikungunya.



Protect your pets from insect bites. In Connecticut, use monthly flea and tick preventives during most, if not all months of the year. NexGard® chewable, and topical products like Frontline Gold®, Advantix II®, and Seresto® collars are all excellent choices to control fleas and ticks in our area.

Remember, prevention is the best medicine!



VACCINES FOR YOUR DOG

Every dog is unique and Ellington Center Animal Clinic takes your dog's lifestyle into account when we recommend vaccines. Not every pet should receive every available vaccine. Talk with our veterinarians and decide which vaccines are right for your pet.

🐾 *While vaccines are a very important part of good health, routine physical exams are the BEST strategy to keep your pet healthy.*



CORE VACCINES

▣DISTEMPER: (D) A highly contagious and often fatal viral disease. It affects the respiratory and nervous systems. The vaccine doesn't affect your dog's temperament or demeanor.

▣HEPATITIS: (H) A contagious viral disease of the liver and can also cause severe kidney damage

▣PARVOVIRUS: (P) A highly contagious and often fatal disease that causes severe vomiting and bloody diarrhea leading to dehydration and death.

▣PARAINFLUENZA: (P) This virus is highly contagious and causes a dry hacking cough.

Together, these 4 vaccines are given in a single injection known as the DHPP vaccine. This is considered a core vaccine, since all dogs are at risk. Puppies and unvaccinated adult dogs are at greatest risk. Vaccinations begin at 6-8 weeks of age and continue every 3-4 weeks until the puppy is 16 weeks old. The last vaccine is considered effective for 1 year. After the first year, DHPP vaccine is boosted every 3 years.

▣RABIES: Connecticut state law requires all dogs and cats to be vaccinated against rabies. Pets are exposed to rabies by a bite from an infected animal. The rabies virus attacks the brain. There is no treatment available so the disease is always fatal. An infected animal can transmit the disease to a human. Puppies receive their first vaccine at 3 calendar months of age (this is not the same as 12 weeks old). The first vaccine is considered effective for 1-year. After the first year, rabies vaccines are boosted every three years.

NON-CORE VACCINES

▣LYME DISEASE: This bacterial disease results from a bite of an infected deer tick. Lyme disease can cause permanent and painful disabilities, including kidney failure. It can cause lameness, joint and muscle pain, fever and depression. Due to the high prevalence of Lyme disease in Connecticut, we recommend vaccinating most dogs and using a monthly tick prevention on all dogs. The Lyme vaccine requires an initial injection, and a booster injection 3-4 weeks later. After the initial series, a booster vaccine is administered annually.

▣LEPTOSPIROSIS: This bacterial infection is carried by many wild animals and transmitted to dogs through contact with infected urine. This disease causes liver and kidney disease and can be fatal. It is zoonotic, which means, like rabies, it can be transmitted from your pet to you. Vaccination consists of an initial vaccine and a booster 3-4 weeks later. After the initial series, a booster vaccine is administered annually.

▣BORDETELLA: This bacterium contributes to the disease known as kennel cough. Dogs are at risk when exposed to other dogs in kennels, grooming salons, training classes, and dog parks. Symptoms include severe coughing sometimes followed by vomiting and gagging. Some dogs may also have watery eyes and a nasal discharge. Vaccination helps reduce the severity of clinical signs, but is not 100% effective in preventing disease. The vaccine requires 10 days to be effective, so we recommend planning ahead before kenneling your dog. We use an oral (mucosal) vaccine that is given every 12-months. Some kennels require 6-month vaccinations.

▣INFLUENZA: This highly contagious respiratory infection can have a significant impact on dogs. There are two known strains of canine influenza that have been reported. There has never been a reported case of human infection. However, several high-profile incidents documented the devastating effects as the virus decimated nearly every dog in affected kennels. The influenza vaccine available (H3N8) is a precaution for only one of the strains. It is administered every 12-months.

It is not uncommon for pets to experience mild side effects after being vaccinated such as soreness or local swelling at the injection site, usually starting within hours of the vaccination. A mild fever or decreased activity and appetite may be observed. If these side effects last more than a day, or cause your pet significant discomfort, it is important that you contact us.

More serious, but less common side effects could occur. These allergic reactions involve facial swelling or hives that develop within hours after vaccination. Anaphylactic life-threatening emergencies are very uncommon but may occur.

Contact us immediately if your pet experiences:

- ☐ Swelling of the muzzle, neck, eyes or ears
- ☐ Itchy skin that may seem bumpy ("hives")

Seek immediate care if your pet experiences:

- ☐ Persistent vomiting or diarrhea
- ☐ Severe coughing or difficulty breathing
- ☐ Collapse

A small, firm swelling under the skin may develop at the site of a recent rabies vaccination. The mass will start to disappear within a couple of weeks. Always inform your veterinarian if your pet has had prior reactions to any vaccines or medications.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Pets

Leptospirosis is a disease that can affect human and animals, including your pets. All animals can potentially become infected with Leptospirosis. While for many years occurrence among pets was rare, the disease has been diagnosed more frequently in the past few years. See below for information on how to protect yourself and your pets from leptospirosis and what to do if your pet becomes infected.

Infection in Pets

The bacteria that cause Leptospirosis are spread through the urine of infected animals, which can get into water or soil and can survive there for weeks to months. Humans and animals can become infected through contact with this contaminated urine (or other body fluids, except saliva), water, or soil. The bacteria can enter the body through skin or mucous membranes (eyes, nose, or mouth), especially if the skin is broken from a cut or scratch. Drinking contaminated water can also cause infection. Infected wild and domestic animals may continue to excrete the bacteria into the environment continuously or every once in a while for a few months up to several years.

If your pet has become infected, it most likely came into contact with the bacteria in the environment or was exposed to infected animals. Your pet may have been drinking, swimming, or walking through contaminated water. Because of increased building and development into areas that were previously rural, pets may be exposed to more wildlife, such as raccoons, skunks, squirrels, opossums, or deer that are infected with leptospirosis. Dogs also may pass the disease to each other, but this happens very rarely.

Signs and Symptoms in Pets

The clinical signs of leptospirosis vary and are nonspecific. Sometimes pets do not have any symptoms. Common clinical signs have been reported in dogs. These include:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- abdominal pain
- diarrhea
- refusal to eat
- severe weakness and depression
- stiffness
- severe muscle pain
- inability to have puppies

Generally younger animals are more seriously affected than older animals.

If you think your pet may have Leptospirosis, contact your veterinarian immediately. Your veterinarian can perform tests to determine whether or not your pet has the disease.

Treatment in Pets

Leptospirosis is treated with antibiotics, such as doxycycline or penicillin, which should be given early in the course of the disease. If an animal is treated early, it may recover more rapidly and any organ damage may be less severe. Other treatment methods, such as dialysis and hydration therapy may be required. Intravenous antibiotics may be required for patients with more severe symptoms. Persons with symptoms suggestive of leptospirosis should contact a health care provider. The time between exposure to the bacteria and development of disease is usually 5 to 14 days, but can be as short as a few days or as long as 30 days or more.

If your pet has been confirmed by your veterinarian as having leptospirosis, the appropriate action to take will depend on the nature of contact with your pet. Normal daily activities with your pet will not put you at high risk for leptospirosis infection. Types of contacts that are considered to be high risk include:

- direct or indirect contact with urine, blood, and tissues of your pet during its infection.
- Assisting in the delivery of newborns from an infected animal.

If you have had these types of high-risk contacts with your pet during the time of its infection, inform your physician. If common symptoms, such as fever, muscle aches, and headaches, occur within 3 weeks after a high-risk exposure, see your physician. Tests can be performed to see if you have this disease.

Prevention in Pets

To help prevent Leptospirosis infection, keep rodent problems (rats, mice, or other animal pests) under control. Rodents can carry and spread the bacteria that causes this disease. For more information about rodent control, see: [Prevent rodent infestations](#).

Get your pet vaccinated against leptospirosis. The vaccine does not provide 100% protection. This is because there are many strains (types) of leptospires (the bacteria that causes Leptospirosis), and the vaccine does not provide immunity against all strains. It is important to get your pet vaccinated again even if it gets leptospirosis because it can still get infected with a different strain of leptospires.

Pet owners should also take steps to prevent themselves and others from becoming infected with the disease due to an infected pet. The primary mode of transmission of leptospirosis from pets to humans is through direct or indirect contact with contaminated animal tissues, organs, or urine.

In some instances, shedding of leptospires in the urine may persist for as long as 3 months after infection as a result of inadequate or lack of treatment. Always contact your veterinarian and your physician if you have concerns about a possible exposure to an infected animal.

In addition, be sure to follow the below prevention guidelines:

- Do not handle or come in contact with urine, blood, or tissues from your infected pet before it has received proper treatment.
- If you need to have contact with animal tissues or urine, wear protective clothing, such as gloves and boots, especially if you are occupationally at risk (veterinarians, farm workers, and sewer workers).
- As a general rule, always wash your hands after handling your pet or anything that might have your pet's excrement on it.
- If you are cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated or have urine from an infected pet on them, use an antibacterial cleaning solution or a solution of 1 part household bleach in 10 parts water.
- Make sure that your infected pet takes all of its medicine and follow up with your veterinarian.

Purchasing Pet Drugs Online: Buyer Beware



“Discount pet drugs—no prescription required” may appeal to pet owners surfing the Web, but FDA experts say it can be risky to buy drugs online from sites that tout this message and others like it.

Some of the Internet sites that sell pet drugs represent legitimate, reputable pharmacies, says Martine Hartogensis, D.V.M., deputy director of the Office of Surveillance and Compliance in FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM). But others are fronts for unscrupulous businesses operating against the law.

FDA has found companies that sell unapproved pet drugs and counterfeit pet products, make fraudulent claims, dispense prescription drugs without requiring a prescription, and sell expired drugs.

Pet owners who purchase drugs from these companies may think they are saving money, says Hartogensis, but in reality, they may be short-changing their pet’s health and putting its life at risk.

CVM regulates the manufacture and distribution of animal drugs, while individual state pharmacy boards regulate the dispensing of prescription veterinary products.

Red Flags

Some foreign Internet pharmacies advertise that veterinary prescription

When ordering online

1. *Order from a Web site that belongs to a Vet-VIPPS accredited pharmacy.*
2. *Mail the prescription provided by your veterinarian to the pharmacy after your pet receives a physical examination.*
3. *Order from an outsourced prescription management service that your veterinarian uses.*

A veterinarian should physically examine an animal prior to making a diagnosis to determine the appropriate therapy.

drugs are available to U.S. citizens without a prescription. But, says Hartogensis, "There is a risk of the drugs not being FDA-approved."

A foreign or domestic pharmacy may claim that one of its veterinarians on staff will "evaluate" the pet after looking over a form filled out by the pet owner, and then prescribe the drug. "A veterinarian should physically examine an animal prior to making a diagnosis to determine the appropriate therapy," says Hartogensis.

CVM is especially concerned that pet owners are going online to buy two types of commonly used prescription veterinary drugs—nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and heartworm preventives.

"Both drugs can be dangerous if there is no professional involvement," says Hartogensis. "It's not generally a concern if the owner uses a legitimate online pharmacy and mails in a prescription from their veterinarian, who is monitoring the animal. But if there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship, it's a dangerous practice."

NSAIDs and Heartworm Preventives

Veterinarians often prescribe NSAIDs to relieve pain in dogs. NSAIDs should not be purchased on the Internet without a veterinarian's involvement because

- dogs should undergo blood testing and a thorough physical examination before starting NSAIDs
- dogs should be monitored by a veterinarian while they are taking NSAIDs
- veterinarians should discuss possible side effects of NSAIDs with the owner

- the prescription should be accompanied by a Client Information Sheet that explains important safety information to the owner

Heartworm disease is a potentially fatal condition transmitted by the bite of a mosquito that is carrying infected larvae of the heartworm parasite. Dogs, cats, and ferrets can get heartworm. Heartworm preventives, given daily, monthly, or semiannually depending on the product, kill the larvae before they become adult worms.

The American Heartworm Society recommends

- using heartworm medication for dogs year-round, no matter where you live in the United States
- getting dogs tested yearly to make sure they're not infected with heartworm

"Testing is important even in dogs regularly treated with heartworm preventive products due to the occasional reports of product ineffectiveness," says Hartogensis. An Internet pharmacy veterinarian cannot draw blood from the animal to perform the test. If the test isn't done, a pet owner could be giving heartworm preventives to a dog that has heartworms, potentially leading to severe reactions.


Tips for Buying Pet Drugs Online

- Order from a Web site that belongs to a Vet-VIPPS accredited pharmacy. Vet-VIPPS—the Veterinary-Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites—is a voluntary accreditation program of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP). NABP gives the




Vet-VIPPS seal to online pharmacies that dispense prescription animal drugs and comply with NABP's strict criteria, including federal and state licensing and inspection requirements, protecting patient confidentiality, quality assurance, and validity of prescription orders. Look for the Vet-VIPPS seal displayed on a pharmacy's Web site or check with NABP at www.nabp.net (click on "Accreditation Programs") to find out if a pharmacy is Vet-VIPPS accredited. Because this is a new program, begun in 2009, a small number of pharmacies are currently Vet-VIPPS accredited.

- Order from an outsourced prescription management service that your veterinarian uses.

These state-licensed Internet pharmacy services work directly with the veterinarian, require that a prescription be written by the veterinarian, and support the veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Ask your veterinary hospital if it uses an Internet pharmacy service. 

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Fun Facts About Your Dog!



Human Years	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Small Breed	0	15	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92
Medium Breed	0	15	24	28	32	36	42	47	51	56	60	65	69	74	78	83	87	92	96	101
Large Breed	0	15	24	28	32	36	45	50	55	61	66	72	77	82	88	93	120			
Puppy ■ Adult ■ Senior ■																				

Average Life Spans:

Small breed (1-20 lbs)- 12-14

Medium breed (21-50)- 10-12

Large breed (51-90)- 8-10 years

Giant breed (over 90 lbs)- 7-8 years

Oldest recorded age for a dog- 29 years

Did you
know that
your dog
can sneeze
in reverse?

How the spectrum looks to dogs and people



←
**This is how your
dog sees the
rainbow!**

- Dogs do not have an appendix
- Dogs were domesticated by humans between 27,000 and 40,000 years ago!

- Dogs have 42 adult teeth
- Average body temperature is 99.5-102.5 F
- Dogs have a special reflective part of their eye called the tapetum to help them see at night
- Dogs pant to cool off, but they do have some sweat glands on the bottoms of their feet

STAY SAFE AROUND THE DOGS YOU KNOW

Created by



thefamilydog®

THEIR BODY



Pet dogs gently with one hand, collar to tail (not on the head).



Sit **WITH** dogs, not **ON** them.



DON'T dress up dogs.



DON'T kiss, hug or pick up dogs.

THEIR FEELINGS



Learn what dogs are saying and listen when they need you.



Be kind. Do things dogs like.



DON'T yell, scare, hurt or tease dogs.



DON'T be bossy (or make dogs do things they don't want to).

RESPECT



Always invite dogs into **YOUR** space instead of going into theirs.



Walk away from dogs when they're in crates or resting anywhere.



Train and play with dogs using treats and toys.



Let grown ups take care of dogs when they have something they shouldn't.



DON'T go up to dogs when they're eating or chewing.



DON'T put your face in dogs' faces.



DON'T take anything from dogs...



...EVEN if it's yours!
Ask a grown up for help.

THEIR SPACE



THEIR STUFF