Dogs need annual heartworm test

Why should dogs be heartworm tested each year if they are on the heartworm preventative?
T.W. Rochester

Annual testing is recommended by the American Heartworm Society, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the veterinary college at Michigan State University.

Heartworm tests will not detect infection until six months after infection has occurred. When an infected mosquito injects heartworm larvae into a susceptible dog, the larvae molt under the skin for a few months.

Then they migrate to the heart and grow to be six to 12 inches long and produce microfilaria (baby worms) that float around in the blood. This process takes about six months.

The heartworm test checks for these microfilaria. A dog infected with heartworms less than six months ago would have a negative heartworm test.

If followup tests were not performed, this infection would go undetected. Signs of heartworm disease often do not show until irreversible heart and lung damage has occurred two to three years later.

DOGS THAT are not tested and have microfilaria in their blood when put on heartworm are in danger of developing a fatal, shock like reaction.

If the dog were infected two months ago but has no microfilaria, it is safe to put him on the preventative. The preventative will make treatment of your dog easier on him by preventing additional worms getting into his system.

Followup testing would be essential for diagnosis and treatment of this infection.

Heartworm preventative destroys migrating heartworm larvae one to two months after the mosquito bites. Therefore, it is important to give preventative not only during the mosquito season but also for two months after all mosquitoes disappear.

IF PREVENTATIVE is stopped too soon, your pet could develop heartworm disease. The annual recheck in the spring would detect this. Early diagnosis is important for successful treatment.

Heartworm preventative should be given daily. If you miss one day, you should be OK. But if you forget for two days or more such as on a trip or weekend, your dog is susceptible for a brief period.

Other lapses in prevention may occur if your dog has vomiting or spits out the medicine when you are not looking.

The writers are area veterianarians. Send questions to: Pet Care, 2905 Walton, Rochester 48063.

Refusing drink test can cost license

Many Oakland County residents who are arrested for drunk driving have little knowledge of their rights and responsibilities under Michigan's Implied Consent Law, according to the Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland Country (TIA).

"For instance, there is a widespread belief that refusing to take a breath test will avoid prosecution for drunk driving in a court of law," said Jerry Pedderseen, TIA's director of public information.

"This is definitely not the case. Not only can you lose your license for 90 days for the refusal, but you can still be brought before a judge to face further fines and penalties."

UNDER THE law, a Michigan licensed driver agrees to take a test for blood alcohol concentration (BAC) if requested to do so by a police officer.

A driver has a right to refuse, but can receive an administrative license suspension for the refusal. A driver also has the right to demand that only a breath test be given.

Police agencies can accurately determine a suspect's BAC by a Breathalyzer test which measures the amount of alcohol in the blood by analyzing a sample of breath.

"If drivers test out between 0.07 percent and 0.09 percent, they are presumed to have been 'driving while impaired' (DWI)," Pedderson said.

"If they test 0.10 percent or above, the charge is driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor (DUIL). The latter charge is more severe and could result in a license suspension of up to two years and thousands of dollars in related costs."

MORE THAN 4,000 persons are arrested annually in Oakland County for drunk driving and that number is expected to increase because of a new alcohol enforcement and education project now under way.

Alcohol is involved in more than 50 percent of all traffic fatalities each year. In 1979, 84 out of 164 persons were killed in accidents in which drinking was involved.

"This $1.2 million, four-year program is designed to reduce alcohol related accidents in Oakland County through strict law enforcement and public and official information," said Feddersen.

General to forecast '80s defense future

The MX missile, the B-1 bomber, and the cruise missile — what's next as the country turns more and more toward the defense of both itself and its allies?

Lieutenant General Kelly H. Burke, in charge of research and development for the Air Force, will have the answers during a special presentation at Lawrence Institute of Technology on Thursday, April 17.

He will speak at 7:30 p.m. in the Science Building auditorium on the LIT campus, 21000 W. 10 Mile Road (near Northwestern Hwy.) in Southfield. The presentation is free of charge and open to the public.

General Burke, Deputy Chief of Staff, Research, Development and Acquisition, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, will be the keynote speaker for the annual LIT Open House, being held this year April 19-20.

He will discuss the latest research in the area of defense systems as well as outlining oopportunities available to young people in the armed forces.

A graduate of the Squadron Officer School, the Royal Air Force Staff College, the Naval War College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, General Burke also holds a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in international affairs.

He has been stationed in many parts of the world and held several positions of increasing responsibility in the Air Force before taking his current position in November of last year.

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Special Events

Monday, April 7th
The Story Lady
from the Children's Bookmark with her basket of stories and fun
11:00 a.m. J.C. Penney Court

Tuesday, April 8th
The Story Lady
11:00 a.m. J. C. Penney Court
Tots on Parade
Elaine's School of Dance
1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 5 p.m.
Center Court

Wednesday, April 9th
The Story Lady
11:00 a.m.-J. C. Penney Court
Hair make-overs & fashion ideas
Just for kids program
gifts, too. . .from Heidi's Salon
1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
Center Court

Thursday, April 10th
The Story Lady
11:00 a.m.-J. C. Penney Court
Mona from The Hot Fudge Show
and her doll P. J. Rags
1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Center Court

Friday April 11th
Melikin Puppet Theater
Stories from Beatrice Potter
11:00 a.m., 1-3-5p.m.
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