

Quick heartworm test says pup OK

By Lem Messee
outdoors writer

Our tough little puppy didn't flinch as the veterinarian's lab assistant twice poked a needle into her front leg to draw a blood sample.

The test result came in a few minutes: negative on heartworm.

"Do you have any pills left from last year?" the lab lady asked. We did, so our tough little puppy will be a healthy tough little puppy this year.

Heartworm continues to be a problem in this state, the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association reports. Dogs are infected when bitten by mosquitoes carrying immature stages of the parasite. As the parasite lives off the dog's heart, the dog loses stamina, coughs and suffers shortness of breath.

It takes six months before a heartworm infection can be detected in a blood test. Our pup is more than eight months old and spent a lot of time outdoors last August and September, so a heartworm check was in order.

A healthy dog should start taking a daily pill May 1, we were advised. But not begin giving last year's leftover pills until your dog has had this year's test.

And because our tough little puppy is heavier than her "big brother," we have to give her a different dosage than the old-timer.

It's a small price to pay for keeping her healthy.

"SOUNDS OF Spring," an evening nature program, will run 7-9:30 p.m. Friday at Independence Oaks, Sashabaw Road north of I-75.

OCC course studies alternate energy

Alternate sources of energy will be explored, April 24 in a special program at Oakland Community College's Auburn Hills Campus, 2900 Featherstone Road, Auburn Heights.

It's designed to appeal to builders, heating and cooling experts, engineers and homeowners. The program will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Room F-119. Fee is \$10. A repeat of the program will be offered June 12.

Full-size solar collectors and wind generators, supplemented by a variety of models, will be on display.

For registration information, call the Auburn Hills Campus at 852-1000, Ext. 210.

outdoors

Naturalist Kathleen Dougherty will talk and show slides, then lead a frog discovery hike. You'll learn how to identify frog species by their sounds. Call her at 853-0933 to pre-register. Vehicle entry fee is \$2.50 for Oakland residents.

THE WIND is one of our cheapest and most fun ways to travel, as you'll find out at 8:30 p.m. Friday at the American Youth Hostels' fund-raiser in Ford Auditorium, Detroit.

John Biddle will show two films, the first on a 1,000-mile catamaran race, the second of a hot-air balloon ride over France's wine and chateau country. Warren Miller's film, "Have Windsurfer, Will Travel," will round out the show.

AYH will use proceeds to develop hostels (inexpensive places to stay overnight) in Michigan and promote outdoor recreation. Tickets at \$4.50 for person under 18 and \$5.25 for others are available at the AYH office at 3024 Coolidge, Berkley, as well as at sailing shops, Hudson's, Ford Auditorium and CTC ticket outlets.

TWO MICHIGAN vacations will be given away during the Michigan Recreation Show, a display of boats, campers, vans and motorcycles at Oakland Mall, I-75 and 14 Mile, Troy. The show closes Monday at 8 p.m.

One is a weekend at the Traverse City Hilton. The other is an overnight canoe trip on the AuSable River. Persons 18 and older are eligible to register. Denise Yokley of Rochester is displaying her original wildlife photo exhibit with closeups of the Alaskan brown bear.

ARE STEELHEAD biting? The Michigan Travel Bureau has a toll-free number for information: 800-292-5404.

A recorded message will give you current fishing conditions, hot spots and popular baits.

STONY CREEK Metropark northeast of Rochester will hold registration for its land boat storage area at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 17 at the boat launch building.

Rental agreement forms are available at the park. You'll need your state boat registration num-

ber (or sail number), length of boat, trailer make, trailer license registration, a metroparks vehicle entry pass (\$7) and a boat entry permit (\$7).

Rent is \$100 for the season, running from April 17 to Oct. 17. The land storage area is lighted and locked at night. Each stall has a numbered, buried anchor to which the boat and trailer may be chained.

HURON-CLINTON Metroparks have a heavy schedule of nature and farm programs the week of April 17-21.

All are free, but call the individual park office for advance registration. In each case, there is a vehicle entry fee of \$2, or you can buy a season pass to all metroparks for \$7.

• Birds and Bands, 10 a.m. Sunday, nature center of Stony Creek Metropark, northeast of Rochester. Naturalist Roger Bajorek will guide visitors along nature trails, spotting territorial songsters and demonstrating capturing and marking techniques. Bring binoculars. 781-6921.

• "Three Decades of Nature Programs," 10:30 a.m. Sunday, nature center of Kensington Metropark near New Hudson. A slide program will review work of former naturalists and kick off the nature center's 30th anniversary celebration. 685-1561.

• Bird Eggs of Farm and Forest, 2 p.m. Sunday at the Kensington Farm Center at the north end of the park near Milford. Naturalists will explore the nesting process of wild and domestic birds, examining nesting, egg-laying, incubation and hatching. Baby chicks may be hatching. 685-9105.

• "Farm Stories," 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 20, Kensington Farm Center. Ann Wiersma, farm interpreter, will read stories for preschoolers on farming, then take children and parents on a visit to the farm animals. 685-9105.

• "Nature's Night Life," 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Kensington nature center. Naturalist Mark Szabo will lead an exploration of night life on the woodland trails. Wear boots. 685-1561.

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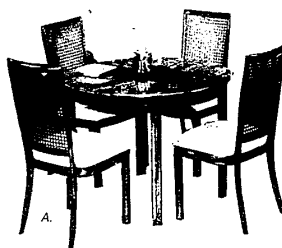
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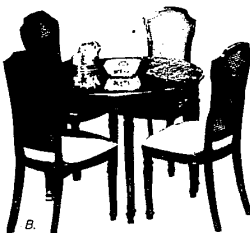
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