



# Bucksburn

## Veterinary Hospital



**\*\*\*We answer the phone until 11pm, 7 days a week!  
Please call us for advice before going to an emergency hospital!\*\*\***

### FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

➤ This issue:

- It's Tick Time Again!
- Is Your Pet Itchy? It Might Be Allergies!
- Attention Parents! Does Your Child Understand Dog Body Language?
- Welcome to Bucksburn


## It's Tick Time Again!



We've been hearing a lot about increasing tick populations this year. But with the cooler fall weather approaching, we may be hearing a lot more this fall. That is because adult ticks thrive during cooler weather, in the range of 4-20 C.

In the spring, nymphs (immature ticks that were hatched the previous fall), attach to a host like a rodent, pet, or human. After taking a blood meal from their host, they fall off. During the summer, nymphs 'molt', or mature into an adult tick. In the fall, these adult ticks are active again, looking for a meal from a host (like a deer, pet, or human). This gives them the energy to reproduce before the winter, and the cycle repeats.

The fall is arguably the most important time of year to use tick prevention medication for your pets! If your pet was prescribed a seasonal supply of k-9 Advantix, Simparica, Bravecto, or Nexgard this spring, please continue the medication to ensure your pet is protected. If you do not have any parasite control for your pet, or are using a heartworm product like Revolution or Heartgard, it is a good time to add tick protection for your pet. As an added bonus, tick products also effectively control fleas – another pesky fall threat!



**Don't FORGET!** Heartworm prevention products for all pets should continue until November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are travelling to warmer climates this winter with your pet, year-round heartworm protection may be needed!

Contact us today to ask about getting tick protection for your pet this fall. No blood tests are needed before these products are prescribed, and if we have examined your pet in the past year, an additional examination is not required!

## Did you know...?



Cats need tick control too! Your outdoor cat is at risk of exposure to fleas and ticks. Newly available for cats this year is topically applied Bravecto. One single application of this medication protects your cat from fleas and ticks for a full 12 weeks!



# Is Your Pet Itchy? It Might Be...

# Allergies!

We have seen many pets in the last several weeks with the complaint of red, itchy skin. In many cases, these itchy pets are suffering from allergies.

Pets can be allergic to environmental allergens (eg. pollens, moulds), foods (eg. chicken), and insects/arthropods (eg. dust mites, fleas). Pets that only suffer from itchy skin at certain times of the year are usually affected by environmental allergies. Fall is a common time to see a spike in allergy sufferers as there is an increase in airborne environmental allergens this time of year.

If your pet is showing signs of allergies, like scratching, paw licking, bum scooting, and ear infections, your veterinarian will need to determine if there are secondary bacterial or yeast infections in the skin, and treat these with medications if necessary. Many pets develop these infections because the skin is inflamed, and is chewed or scratched frequently, damaging its natural defenses against infection.

Treating the allergic itch and inflammation is often needed. Traditionally, drugs like steroids and anti-histamines are used. These medications are often quite effective but can cause side effects like lethargy and increased drinking and urinating. Newer steroid free medications with virtually no side effects are now available. We even have access to incredible new technology in an anti-itch injection that deactivates a molecule in the body that contributes to the itch sensation!

To try to determine the underlying cause for allergic itch in pets, food trials may be prescribed. Allergic testing is also available and results of which can be used to initiate a series of allergy injections. Allergy injections expose a pet's system to small amounts of the allergen they are reacting to, thus gradually desensitizing their immune system. Please, talk to us today about your pet's allergies!

## Attention Parents! Does **Your** Child Understand Dog Body Language?

There is no question that a dog makes a wonderful addition to a family! Children love to play and interact with dogs, creating precious memories in the process. However, it is very important that children and parents understand when a dog indicates they don't want to play. As tragic cases like Liam J. Perk and Daxton Borchardt have shown, even trusted family dogs can bite and severely injure or kill a child in certain circumstances.

Since kids are back in learning mode this fall, it's a great time to do some extra-curricular education about dog body language and proper ways to approach and interact with dogs. These helpful images below, from the Liam J. Perk Foundation website, illustrate *signs a dog is stressed* and it is time to separate a child from the dog and give it some space. See more at [www.liamjperkfoundation.org](http://www.liamjperkfoundation.org)



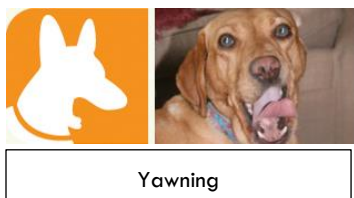
Lip licking



Turning Away



Half-Moon Eye



Yawning



Mouth Closed



Shaking off

# WELCOME TO BUCKSBURN!

We're happy to welcome these adorable new additions to our clinic



## QUIZ CORNER

Which of these 'people' foods is NOT safe to feed as a small treat to pets?

- a. Peanuts
- b. Green Peppers
- c. Raisins
- d. Portobello Mushrooms

Think you know the answer? The first 3 people who send us the correct answer by email will win a FREE nail trim!

The answer to last issue's question was (d) – Revolution was the only product of those listed that protects against both heartworm and fleas. Thanks to all those who participated!

## BBQ Success!

Thanks to all those clients who joined us this year for our annual summer barbecue – complete with face painting, pony rides, and a petting zoo! We were fortunate to have perfect weather this year. We hope to see you again next year!



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO DROP IN, CONTACT US AT 905-257-7777, SEND US A FACEBOOK, TWITTER, OR INSTAGRAM MESSAGE (@BUCKSBURNVET), OR EMAIL BUCKSBURNVETHOSPITAL@GMAIL.COM