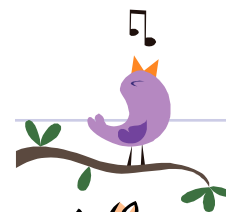


# INDEPENDENCE VETERINARY CLINIC

## Quarterly Newsletter

### Volume 8



## Seasonal Allergies



Do you ever notice your pet chewing, licking, and scratching excessively, especially their feet and face? Have you ever noticed any hair on your pet stained brown or orange in color where they have

been licking? If so, your dog could possibly have atopy, or seasonal allergies. This usually occurs during certain seasons when flowers and trees are blooming. There's little you can do to prevent your pet from being exposed to these allergens, but your veterinarian can prescribe medications that can bring relief from itching. Also, omega fatty acids and special diets can be prescribed to help provide relief. So, let us help you keep your pet happy and itch-free this spring season!



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## What We've Been Up To

- On February 28th, we held our second annual Academy Awards Dinner honoring our Top Clients. Everyone had a blast!
- This February we had one of our most successful Dental Months ever. Thanks to everyone who participated!
- Keep your eyes peeled for our new weight loss and senior programs!
- During the week of February 16th-21st, Dr.'s Bart and Michelle attended the Western Veterinary Conference to further their education.
- During the week of March 26th-30th Donna will be attending an AAHA conference to enhance her management skills.
- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** On Saturday May 24th from 12-5 pm, People and Pets Photography will be at IVC to take photos of your pets. The session fee is \$15 and packages range from \$20 and up. Everyone who participates will receive a free 8"x10" photo. The session fee will be donated to the Humane Society of Union County.

## Dental Month

This February, Independence Veterinary Clinic had one of our most successful dental months. Thanks to all of our clients who participated in having their pets' teeth cleaned. We would also like to congratulate our two lucky winners in the gift basket give away, Puddy Worth and Gummy Bear Grimm. We look forward to an even bigger and brighter dental month next February!

## What Are Zoonotic Diseases?



**Zoonotic means any disease that can be passed from animal to human.**

**Most people are not aware of the potential zoonotic diseases they can get from their dog or cat. That is why IVC would like to help you and your family stay informed.**

**More than 1/3 of the nation's dogs and cats are infected with intestinal parasites. The most common intestinal parasites are roundworms and hookworms. Both can result in very serious health conditions in humans. Approximately 4-20% of children contract roundworms from their pets each year. In the Southeast, in particular, zoonotically transmitted intestinal parasites are very common. Many children test positive to exposure to these parasites. Children, in general, are more susceptible because they tend to stick their hands and foreign objects in their mouths.**

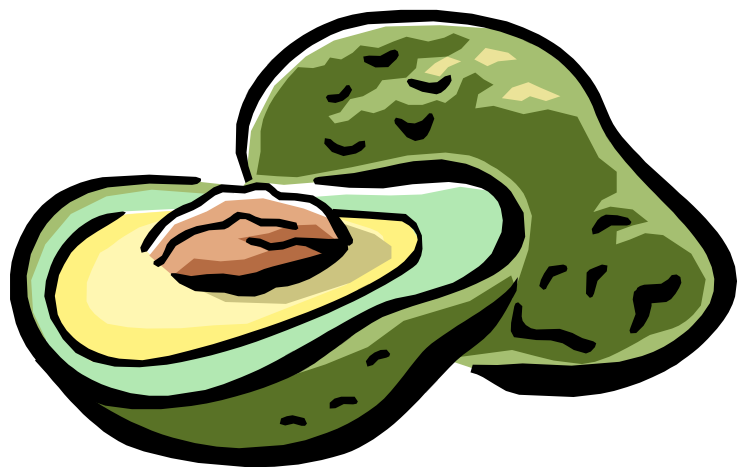
**The transfer of parasites from pet-to-owner is completely preventable. A pet's stool may appear normal even though it may contain an active infection. Owners should have their pets' stool checked bi-yearly. Another way to possibly prevent the spread of these parasites is to wash your hands whenever you handle your pets. A child's play area, such as a sandbox, should be kept covered when not in use. An owner should always wear gloves or use a plastic bag when handling pet feces. Although we love our pets, we should avoid letting them kiss and lick our faces. Keep in mind pets usually go to the bathroom in the same yard where we live. Always wash your hands when you are working outside in these areas.**

**IVC can help you find the perfect solution for your family in preventing zoonotic diseases.**

## Dasuquin

**Dasuquin is a complete joint supplement for dogs and cats. The canine formula comes in a tasty chewable tablet while the cat formula comes in a convenient tuna flavored capsule that is sprinkled on their food. This product contains glucosamine, chondroitin, and avocado. These products, together, help protect cartilage by blocking the enzymes that break it down. The addition of avocado makes Dasuquin different from any other joint supplement.**

**Even if you are feeding your pet a food supplemented with glucosamine and chondroitin, diets generally don't have the level of these ingredients your pet needs to make a difference. So, if you notice your pet limping or showing signs of arthritis, we would recommend you come pay us a visit and try out Dasuquin in conjunction with omega-3-fatty acids to make your pet more comfortable.**



## Meredith's Guacamame!

## Spring Dangers

### You will need:

**1 pound shelled edamame (cooked)**

**1 tsp. salt**

**1 tsp. chopped garlic**

**5 tablespoons olive oil**

**1 tablespoon lime juice**

**1/2 tsp. pepper**

**Blend in food processor or blender until the texture is smooth. Garnish with chopped tomatoes, if desired. Serve with warm tortilla chips and enjoy!**



**Edamame is becoming rapidly more available in American markets. The term "edamame" can refer either to the whole pod of the soybean or the shelled soybean. This particular recipe calls for shelled edamame, which can be found in the frozen vegetable section, or the deli/sushi section of many grocery stores. To prepare frozen edamame for this recipe, simply follow the directions on the package. I hope you enjoy this recipe as much as I do!**

Spring is on it's way! Warm weather, refreshing rain showers, and new flowers: we can't wait...but springtime can also bring dangers to your pets. With a little prevention, you and your pet can have a happy, healthy spring and summer!

1. **Bugs that Bite!!** Here in the South, it's always flea season, but the problem intensifies in the warmer months. Owners with flea allergic pets may know this by heart—prevention is the best and easiest way to treat your pet when it comes to fleas. We recommend Frontline flea prevention for dogs, and Revolution flea prevention for cats. The application is simple—once a month, apply to the skin at the base of your pet's neck, and forget about it for another 29 days! Bee's and other stinging insects are also a hazard to your pet. Some signs you may notice that indicate your pet has been bitten are: your pet is scratching it's head or rubbing it on the ground, swelling around the eyes. Dogs and cats can be allergic to bee stings just like we can. If your pet is having trouble breathing or has excessive swelling, please bring them to the veterinarian! Mosquitoes, which can carry the microfilaria that causes heartworms, are also gearing up their populations in spring. Heartworm prevention medications are available at Independence Veterinary Clinic, with or without flea prevention. To avoid the mosquitoes all together, consider taking your pets on walks before dawn or after dark, not at dusk or dawn. These are prime times for mosquitoes.



2. **Dehydration!** Springtime in Charlotte is notorious for nippy, windy chills in the morning and baking-hot, humid afternoons. You may forget that your pets are at home all day with no way to control their temperature other than panting. Panting — instead of sweating or turning up the A/C—is how your animals regulate their temperatures. Their tongue uses evaporation to cool the blood, which means they are losing moisture constantly to keep themselves cool. This process is not quite as efficient as sweating, so your pet could easily become dehydrated. Make sure you provide a full bowl of water for everybody every morning before you start your daily grind. Also, consider your dog's water needs while on the neighborhood walk. If you bring a bottle of water for yourself, maybe you should consider sharing that water with Bowser! He's going to be just as thirsty as you after all that exercise! Another important consideration is the time of day you choose to go on your walk. The rays from the sun are certainly refreshing after the dark winter months, but light colored dogs can get sunburned and dark colored dogs can get overheated.
3. **Toxic Substances in and around the home!** Lilies—like the ones that may be around your home for Easter—are lethal to cats; azaleas and rhododendrons can be lethal to dogs. The best advice that we can give about Easter candy (and other Easter goodies, like ham dinners or eggs) is: NO HUMAN FOOD FOR PETS! Fatty foods can cause pancreatitis, chocolate causes severe diarrhea and dehydration, and sugar substitutes can cause liver damage in dogs. Make your Easter egg hunts safe for your four-legged children by placing all candy out of reach. Use tissue paper in your Easter baskets instead of plastic grass. Teach all your two-legged children that Bear does NOT need a taste of the chocolate bunny's ears!

Everyone here at Independence Veterinary Clinic is wishing you, your family, and your furry friends a happy and healthy spring season!

## 2008 Academy Awards Dinner

Our 2008 Academy Awards Dinner was held on February 28th, 2008, at Colonel Frances Beatty Park. We honored our Top Clients this year with great food and awesome awards. Here are the top 10 ways to make sure you are able to attend next year.

10. Take excellent care of all your pets.
9. Clean all your pets' teeth once a year.
8. Adopt 5 more pets.
7. Feed your pet BBQ or chili.
6. Work at IVC!
5. Let your cat play with string.
4. Have a litter of puppies!
3. Let your pet become obese.
2. Play lots of Frisbee with your pet (torn ACL)
1. Pay off Donna!!



We would like to thank Drs. Bart and Michelle Bryan for making the event possible, Gayle Dean for the wonderful meal, Donna Dean who coordinated the event, Brittany VanDerDeid who put together the slideshow presentation, Shannon McSheehan who made our great sign, and the rest of the IVC staff for participating and helping out with the dinner. We would also like to acknowledge our vendors Liz (Butler), Elizabeth (Novartis), Jorge (Royal Canin), and Christi (Merial) who all helped out financially. Everyone had a great time and we hope to see you next year!

## Bug Repellents And Your Pets

The seasons are changing and it will be getting warm soon. That means it's time for the creepy crawlies to come out. So, here are some tips for keeping your pets safe while protecting yourself from the bugs.

- When using fire ant killer in your yard, pets should be kept out of the area for several hours to insure the ants use up the product.
- If spraying for wasps or hornets, make sure to keep your pets away when spraying and until the product is dry.
- Mosquito repellent is a big one we use in the warmer months. When using on yourself, be sure not to spray the product on or near your pet. Refrain from letting your pet lick you afterwards as these products are toxic to pets.



Remember, we want you to keep the bugs away but keep your pets safe at the same time.

