

September 2005

www.BradshawVet.com
(916) 685-2494



BRADSHAW VETERINARY CLINIC

September Newsletter

Parvovirus

We have witnessed an increase in the number of positive parvo cases over the past several months. Parvo is a viral disease that affects both puppies and dogs and targets their intestinal tract causing vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, fever and depression. Signs of infection will be seen within four to fourteen days after exposure. Symptoms are most severe in puppies six to eight weeks old and early detection is crucial. Because there is no way to directly kill a virus once an animal is infected, supportive care is the only method of treatment. Infected animals are hospitalized and given intravenous fluids

to prevent dehydration, antibiotics to prevent secondary bacterial infections, and anti-vomiting and anti-diarrhea medication. Preventing parvovirus is much more cost-effective and beneficial to the animal in contrast to treating the disease. Puppies should begin a vaccination series at eight weeks of age and continue receiving boosters every three to four weeks until sixteen weeks of age. Contact with other dogs, dog parks, pet stores and areas where dogs frequent should be avoided until the animal is fully vaccinated. Older dogs require yearly boosters of the vaccine. Parvo is a very hardy virus and is

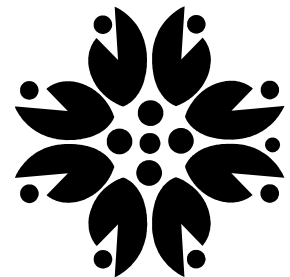
easily spread. It is very resistant to temperature change and can live in the environment for as long as six months. The most common route of transmission is through the feces of an infected dog or puppy, but it can also be spread by flies, human clothing and shoes or other objects. A solution of one part bleach to thirty parts water can be used to disinfect contaminated areas.

If you have any questions or need to schedule an appointment to update your dog's vaccinations please give us a call.

Clinic Updates

The staff at Bradshaw Veterinary Clinic will be having an off-site meeting and the clinic will be closed to general appointments, procedures and emergencies after 12 pm on Sunday, September 25th. We will

resume normal business hours on Monday, September 26th. Should you have an emergency please call Sacramento Veterinary Surgical Services at 916-362-3111.



Dates to Remember:

- *Low Cost Vaccination Clinic*
1st Saturday of Each Month
9am—11am
- *Sunday, September 25th*
The clinic will be closed after 12pm

Behavior

There are numerous behavior issues that can cause problems for both cat and dog owners. In fact, the number one reason for animals being relinquished to shelters is due to poor behavior. Unfortunately, most owners do not realize that there are other options available and that relinquishment does not have to be the first choice. To rule out any medical conditions as a cause for the undesirable behavior owners should have their pet examined by a veterinarian. After an initial assessment it can be determined what the best method of treatment for your animal may be. Treatments for behavioral problems vary from patient to patient, but may include: behavior modification techniques, drug therapy, training or a



combination of treatments. To schedule an appointment with one of our veterinarians to assess your pet's condition and behavioral concerns, please give us a call.

To learn more about common behavioral issues in cats and dogs, visit our pet care library online at

http://www.bradshawvet.com/library/behavior_issues.htm.

Flea Control

With the seasons of fall and winter ahead, most people do not think of controlling fleas because it is assumed the "flea season" is behind us. However, in our area fleas are a year round concern. Fleas, flea eggs, flea pupae and flea larvae can withstand the winter months unless the temperature drops below 37.4°F for 10 consecutive days or 33.8°F for five consecutive days. Because our climate rarely meets these criteria, fleas continue to live and reproduce all year long. To ensure that a flea population never has the chance to establish itself in your environment we recommend using monthly flea control for all of your pets. For dogs, we recommend Sentinel Flavor Tabs which prevent heartworm, fleas and intestinal parasites. For cats, we recommend Revolution Topical Solution which prevents heartworm, fleas, ear mites and intestinal parasites. To find out about either of these products or about flea control, please give us a call at (916) 685-2494.



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