



## Welcome to September


We hope you had a wonderful summer with your friends, family and pets! If you have been postponing your pet's well-visit, we hope to see you soon.

As summer comes to a close, be wary that ticks and fleas can still be a problem. While it may seem these pesky insects should not be a concern when the weather cools - nothing could be further from the truth! Those little stinkers are just as problematic in the fall as the summer, so be sure to read on and make sure you are administering your pet their monthly preventive.

There is also much to do this month with Arts, Beats & Eats returning to Royal Oak this weekend and the Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo event the 24th and 25th.

Have a wonderful September and best wishes to all of our families with students starting school this month! As always, thank you for allowing us to share in the care of your pet.

The Greenfield Animal Hospital Team

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## Tick Transmitted Diseases

Ticks are such small insects, but they can pose a very great danger to us and our companion animals. They prey on the blood of dogs, horses, deer, birds, rodents, and people. There are hundreds of kinds of ticks, including the dog tick and the deer tick. Diseases that ticks can transmit to companion animals include Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ehrlichiosis (a bacterial infection), and babesiosis (a blood disorder).



Ticks live in cracks and crevices in the home or outside in vegetation, such as grassy meadows, woods, brush, and weeds. They cannot fly or jump, but they have a way of finding a host. Oftentimes, they will wait in wooded or grassed areas and attach themselves to any living creature that brushes them. Ticks can also detect the carbon dioxide given off by warm-blooded animals. They can crawl several feet to the carbon dioxide source.

### Lyme Disease

The first human outbreak of Lyme disease was identified in Lyme, Connecticut, in 1975, when an unusually large number of cases of

Wishing all of our students a safe and happy school year!



248-356-1100

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### In This Issue

[Fleas, Fleas, Fleas](#)

[Fleas, Fleas, Fleas](#)

[Meet Your Best Friend](#)

[Arts Beats and Eats](#)

[\\$25 Coupon](#)

### Important Reminder!



Please remember to give your pet their monthly heartworm and parasite preventive, and flea control this month.

Keep this e-mail in your Inbox as a reminder until you have administered the medication for this month.

arthritis resembling rheumatoid disease occurred within a small geographic area. Studies concluded that dogs from the same location also developed arthritis similar to that in human Lyme disease. Although Lyme disease is an illness common to humans and animals, there is no evidence that it can be transmitted from one to the other.

Lyme disease cases have been documented in more than 40 states. The disease is transmitted by the deer tick in the Northeast and Midwest, the black-legged tick in the South, and the western black-legged tick in the West. Clinical signs of Lyme disease in pets include loss of appetite, lameness, lethargy, and fever. Scientists believe the disease can affect humans for a long time, causing problems to the joints, heart, and central nervous system.

#### **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever**

Rocky Mountain spotted fever is primarily found in New England and the West. Dogs that live in wooded or mountainous areas are more susceptible to the disease. Depression, fever, rashes, skin hemorrhages, and joint disease are typical signs of Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

Antibiotics are effective if the disease is caught in the early stages. Improvement in the animal's health is usually seen within the first 12-24 hours. Once an animal has recovered from this disease, it is probably immune for up to 12 months. However, re-infections can occur if the animal is re-exposed.

#### **Tick Paralysis**

Female ticks release a toxin while feeding that causes tick paralysis. The toxin affects the nervous system and can cause weakness and even paralysis that develops seven to nine days after the tick attachment. The signs can vary from a mild form of unsteadiness of all four legs, to acute quadriplegia that leaves all four legs completely immobilized.

#### **Tick Removal**

At times, ticks can be difficult to find. Common places to find hidden ticks are the head, neck, ears, or feet. The longer a tick is attached to its host, the greater the chance for disease. If you find a tick, remove it immediately with tweezers. To protect yourself, wear gloves and do not touch the tick. Carefully grasp the exposed section of its body near the pet's skin. Gently pull until the parasite lets go. You can help prevent inflammation by applying antiseptic onto the bitten area.

To dispose of the tick, wrap it in several tissues and flush it down the toilet. Or, you can drop it in a small container of rubbing alcohol (ticks won't drown in water). Do not crush, burn, or suffocate the tick--this may spread the infectious bacteria.

#### **Preventative Care**

Dog owners should inspect their dogs regularly for ticks, especially after trips outside to the woods or mountains. By thoroughly combing your dog within four to six hours of exposure to tick-infested areas, you can help prevent ticks from attaching to your dog.

If you suspect your pet may have a tick, please contact our office at 248-356-1100.

ACCREDITED PRACTICE



## Fleas, Fleas, Fleas - Still an Issue After The Summer Months



Fleas are a common problem among cats and dogs. Most pets get fleas from normal routine activities like daily walks or laying down in their own yard. Fleas are in large numbers on the common wildlife in our area (squirrels, opossums and raccoons). The fleas jump off those animals and into the grass, waiting for our pets to walk by. Fleas also have amazing life cycles that allow immature stages to lie dormant until conditions are favorable for them to emerge and find food. The population of fleas outdoors is at its peak in summer months, but remember the climate inside your home is always perfect for supporting an entire population of fleas! In fact, we see the greatest number of patients with flea related issues in September!

The best way to control fleas is to prevent them in the first place. Environmental sprays and topical sprays can help reduce an established problem, but the most efficient and least messy way to avoid fleas is to use one of the many topical or oral monthly flea prevention products that are available from us. Further, consistency is also key - administering these preventive medications on a timely basis as directed. These products are effective and easy to use. If you suspect your pet may have fleas or you do not have a prevention and control program for fleas in place, please give our office a call at 248-356-1100.

## Meet Your Best Friend At the Zoo

Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo, the nation's largest off-site pet companion animal adoption event, will be held on September 24 and 25, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Detroit Zoo hosts this semiannual event in partnership with the Michigan Humane Society. Now in its 19th year, animals include dogs, cats, puppies and kittens. [Visit the detroitzoo.org](http://detroitzoo.org) to learn more!



## Arts Beats and Eats This Weekend



Looking for a fun time this Labor Day weekend? Royal Oak is hosting the Arts, Beats & Eats festival September 2-5. Check out [www.artsbeatseats.com](http://www.artsbeatseats.com) for the art, music, cuisine and kids activities of each day!

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