

# VH Monthly News

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April

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## Fun and Facts

- Send your ideas for the newsletter to bethany@idaho.vehospital.com
- Owls swallow their prey whole
- Baby elephants can drink over 80 liters of milk a day
- A chameleon's tongue is twice the length of its body
- The longest living animal was a turtle that died at 188 years old

## Birthdays

- Dani: 15th
- Dr. Caldwell: 28th



## Prevention of Animal Cruelty

Recently the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) announced that April is Prevention of Animal Cruelty month. Animal Cruelty can't easily be defined but it can be easily recognized if you know what to look for. A lot of people assume that it is only cruelty if they see the owner physically beating the pet. This is not true. Along with physical abuse, signs that a pet is being abused include:



- Emaciation or extreme thinness
- Pets are tied up outside for long periods of time without adequate shelter
- Ongoing open wounds going untreated
- Aggressive or timid behavior, even with the owner

Although it is very difficult to determine that a pet is being abused just on these indications alone, it's a good place to start if you are concerned an animal is being abused. For more information on identifying and preventing Animal abuse and neglect go to <http://www.asPCA.org/fight-animal-cruelty/>.

## Happy Healthy Hearts...and Worms?

With spring in the air also comes mosquitoes! In April we recommend you start your pet on heartworm prevention and continue it through October for your pets. You may wonder how this parasite got its name; simply because the adult worm lives in the heart. As you know the hearts function is a pump. So, if heartworms are allowed to live within the heart, you can imagine how much extra work is placed on the heart and the damage that will be caused. Mosquitoes are the vectors that transmit this horrible parasite. A mosquito that feeds on an infected animal ingests the larvae. During this time in the mosquito the heartworm larvae advance to the next larvae stage of life. The larvae is then transmitted to the next pet when the mosquitoes gets its next blood meal. You may ask; which pets are most often affected? The answer is: All of them. You may reduce your pets risk by keeping them indoors, but what you need to remember is mosquitoes can also live indoors. Prevention is the key here. We carry preventative medications that are approved by the FDA and are easy to use, and only once a month. These medications can be given by mouth or as a topical medication that is applied to the back of the neck. These medications also give you a little more for your money, preventing more than just heartworms. If your pet is consistently taking the medication they can be protected against fleas, ticks and intestinal parasites. This is a great added feature to the medications. How can you tell if your pet has heartworms? The simplest is blood test. A few drops of blood is all that's needed to perform a heartworm test to be sure that your pet is free of heartworms and can live a happy and healthy life!