

# Folly Road Animal Hospital APRIL

## This Month: Fleas and Ticks!

Flea and Tick season is fast approaching and your pet could be a prime target for these backyard pests!

### Controlling Fleas and Ticks:

Developments in veterinary parasite control in recent years have flea protection and prevention much easier to achieve. The FRAH offers a variety of products including but not limited to FrontlinePlus, Revolution, Capstar and Sentinel Flavor Tabs. Recommendations can be given depending on animal and severity of flea infestation. The key to getting rid of fleas is to disrupt the cycle; a helpful hint is to start protecting your pet before the cycle begins. Ask the FRAH staff about how to keep your loved one flea free this season, your pet will thank you.

### Flea Facts:

- Worldwide, there are about 3,000 different types of fleas, but the cat flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*) is the most commonly found on dogs and cats.
- Adult fleas can jump 600 times an hour. Each jump, in terms of a flea's size, is the equivalent of a person clearing a 50-story building.
- The record jump for a flea is 13 inches.
- In just 30 days, 25 adult female fleas can multiply to 250,000 fleas.

### Tick Facts:

- A female tick can lay up to 3,000 eggs.
- Except for eggs, ticks need a blood meal to progress to each stage of their life cycle.
- Some ticks can live for more than a year without a meal.
- In very rare cases, toxins secreted by ticks can cause paralysis.

### More Flea and Tick Information:

Adult fleas are wingless insects, generally smaller than a sesame seed, who feed on the blood of animals. Enlarged back legs give them extraordinary jumping ability. Female fleas can lay 30-50 eggs per day. Eggs drop to the ground within eight hours, hatch within 2 days, and after about a week the larvae spin cocoons to become pupae. As early as one week later the pupae develop into adult fleas and emerge from their cocoons when they sense a host animal is near. The cycle can take as little as 12 days or as long as 180 days. For our area, the cycle is most commonly thought to last around 21 days. Flea bites may go unnoticed on some pets, cause slight irritation in others and produce extensive itching, red lesions, hair loss and even ulcers in those animals with flea allergy dermatitis, which is the result of extreme sensitivity to flea saliva. Fleas can also transmit several diseases, as well as tapeworms.

Ticks are also parasites that feed on your pet's blood. Ticks are equipped with an apparatus called Haller's organ which senses heat, carbon dioxide and other stimuli to allow the ticks to locate the presence of an animal food source. You should inspect your pet regularly for ticks, especially if he or she has been outside in areas where there are woods, brush or tall grass. If you find a tick, it should be removed immediately. The chances of disease increases the longer the tick is attached to the host. Do not touch the tick. Wear gloves and use tweezers to carefully grasp the exposed section of the tick's body. Ask the receptionist next time you visit about special tick tweezers that help ensure the entire tick is removed from your pet. To dispose of the tick, wrap it in tissue and flush it down the toilet.

### Success Story: Fletcher!

Fletcher was a poodle mix found on the side of the road with a broken leg. He was brought to the FRAH where we checked him out and sent him to the SPCA to find his owners. However, the SPCA called, saying that Fletcher had been abandoned by his previous owners and Dr. Sheridan took him back, fixing his broken leg and giving him a home in the Folly Road Animal Hospital. As he recuperated for nearly three months at the FRAH, the staff worked on finding him a home. After a couple false starts, Fletcher was adopted by two responsible roommates, given a beautiful new collar and tag so he will never be lost again, and taken home to his new family.

### Dates, Upcoming News, Specials:

Dr. Sheridan will be giving a bird vaccination clinic on Wednesday April 13th at Rainbow Birds in Goose Creek.

The FRAH currently has dogs for adoption! Call or stop by the clinic for more information.

Buy six doses of Revolution or FrontlinePlus and get a seventh dose free! We now also carry Tri-Heart Plus, a cheaper alternative to Heartgard heartworm prevention.

Thinking of moving to a new apartment? Hoping to take your pet? Check out the following article on tips for bringing your furry friend successfully into a new home:

<http://houseandhome.msn.com/rentals/doesyourpetcomewithpapers.aspx>

### Meet Homer and Jeter:

Homer and Jeter are two yellow Lab brothers who were going to be put down at a local animal shelter. Because of their sweet temperaments, Dr. Sheridan rescued them and has given them a temporary home in our kennel where they wait patiently for a new family. They are very friendly and loving, well-mannered, and great with other dogs. They are up to date on all shots and are neutered.

