

IT REALLY BUGS ME

submitted by Donna Tomson

Winter ends and everyone enjoys the good weather, including parasites on our pooches!

At this time of year most of us receive a reminder by our Veterinarians of when and how to protect our pets. And, every year it seems we have to do more and more in order to accomplish this. What was the "perfect" product last year is no more... yet another "better" product is now on the market!

Cost and kickbacks to your vet clinic that can also entail substantial savings passed along to the consumer is what usually generates this. But pets are family and is *money* really what it is all about?

Due to the changing migration patterns of birds in recent years we have had more occurrences of ticks carrying one of five different strains of diseases including Lyme's. As our Veterinary community and Social Media offer more methods of prevention, debating how safe these preventatives are becomes confusing.

Manufacturers like Merial Canada and Bayer have one product for worms and one for ticks and fleas. For example Merial makes HeartGard which prevents heartworm (HW), hookworm and roundworm and NexGard which is for ticks and fleas. Bayer Advantage Multi will prevent worms, heartworm and fleas while its secondary product Advantix, prevents ticks and fleas. Therefore, if you are combining these products you could be giving flea prevention twice. Bayer does not offer a product that prevents ticks only.

Last year we were introduced to a 12-week product for fleas and ticks called "**Bravecto**". There have been several campaigns against this product claiming the product causes an assortment of side affects, including death.

Prevention is a hot and frightening topic. As you move into the pet industry you have several other products that can be very dangerous to the average pet consumers

There are also Natural remedies, which have been around for years. These are not as convenient as the topical and chewable ones but many feel safer in helping their pets, and in turn their families without the use of chemicals.

The magazine, "DOGS NATURALLY" (May 2010) offers



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some alternative tick protection.

To make your own tick repellent: combine about 20 drops of the essential oil, (e.i. 15 drops lavender, 5 drop eucalyptus) with two tablespoons almond oil, shake well. (you can use vegetable oil or Jojoba oil but almond oil contains sulphur that is also a tick repellent). Place a few drops on your dog or on his collar (these oils are not meant to be used with cats or pregnant animals).

For the complete article, please see;
www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/ticks-natural-prevention/

Food Grade Diatomaceous Earth is another handy substance for parasite prevention to have on hand. Added to your pet's food brings about a positive stimulation to the digestive tract, as well as reducing, preventing, and even eliminating parasites that could be living inside your pets digestive system for a very long time. Applied topically you can dust your hounds with DE for control of fleas and ticks. However, "*care must be taken to place your dog's head upwind to prevent them breathing in the dust*".

This product is safe for your children and your pets. It has no known side affects when applied properly.

Note: There are many more benefits for pets than we can list here in a short summary, for more details and information, please see their web page: www.diatomaceousearth.ca/

The products below are the ones provided by your veterinary clinic.

PRODUCT NAME	WHAT THEY PREVENT	ADMINISTRATION	APPLICATION	POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS
Advantage Multi	Worms, HW, mange & mites, fleas	Topical	4 weeks	May cause tingling sensations, Vomiting, diarrhea, bloody diarrhea, salivation, poor appetite, lethargy, weakness, restlessness, agitation, disorientation, ataxia, muscle tremors, seizures, panting, laboured breathing, acute pulmonary edema, and hives.
Trifexis	Fleas, HW and worms	Chewable tablet	4 weeks	Vomiting, itching, lethargy, diarrhea, decreased appetite, rash, and reddening of the ears and/or skin. Give on full stomach
Sentinel	HW, Fleas, worms, prevents fleas	Chewable tablet	4 weeks	Vomiting, depression/lethargy, pruritus urticaria, diarrhea, anorexia, skin congestion, ataxia, convulsions, hyper-salivation and weakness. Give on full stomach
Interceptor	HW, worms	Chewable tablet	4 weeks	Can cause diarrhea
HeartGard	HW, worms	Chewable tablet	4 weeks	Depression/lethargy, vomiting, anorexia, diarrhea mydriasis, ataxia, staggering, convulsions and hyper salivation
Advantage	Fleas	Topical	4 weeks	Vomiting, diarrhea, bloody diarrhea, salivation, poor appetite, lethargy, weakness, restlessness, agitation, disorientation, ataxia, muscle tremors, seizures, panting, laboured breathing, acute pulmonary edema, hives, tingling sensation
Comfortis	Fleas	Flavour tablet	4 weeks	Give on a full stomach
Capstar	Fleas	Tablet	4 weeks	Panting, vomiting, itching, in appetence, and diarrhea
Advantix	Ticks and Fleas	Topical	24 hours only	May cause tingling sensation skin irritation, vomiting or diarrhea
NexGard	Ticks and Fleas	Chewable tablet	4 weeks	Vomiting, dry/flaky skin, diarrhea, lethargy, and lack of appetite. Use with caution in dogs with a history of seizures.
Bravecto	Ticks and Fleas	Chewable tablet	4 weeks	Lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, in appetence
Revolution	Fleas, HW, tapeworm and worms	Topical	12 weeks	Vomiting, diarrhea with or without blood, in appetence lethargy), salivation, rapid breathing, pruritus urticarial (welts, hives), erythema, ataxia fever and rare instances of death. As per FDA
Drontal	Worms tapeworm	Chewable tablet	4 weeks	Diarrhea, Vomiting, in appetence

Worms = hookworm, whip worm, round worm HR=Heartworm

