

Welcome to Main Street Animal Hospital's seasonal newsletter, your quarterly source for pet health news, updates from around the hospital, savings opportunities, and staff profiles.

Featured Article: Lyme Disease

With warmer weather on the way, we'll be seeing an increase in the local tick population. Lyme disease is one of the most common tick-borne diseases in the United States. It is caused by a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is carried by *Ixodes* ticks, better known as blacklegged ticks or deer ticks. Research suggests that the deer tick needs to attach itself and feed on blood for about 48 hours to transmit the bacterium and the infection.



In dogs, Lyme disease can present in a number of different ways: lameness, joint swelling, fever, lethargy, loss of appetite, or swollen lymph nodes. In advanced cases, kidney disease is possible. Pets with Lyme disease may not show any symptoms for 2-5 months. If your veterinarian is concerned about your dog having Lyme disease, there is an in-hospital blood test that will show if they have been exposed to the bacterium and have developed antibodies. If they test positive, treatment with an antibiotic (doxycycline) will likely be recommended.

The best way to protect pets from Lyme disease is to be proactive. We strongly recommend using reliable tick-preventative products. Oral monthly medications (Simparica™ or Nexgard®) are now available at Main Street Animal Hospital, and topical products are available over-the-counter. Be sure to check your dog's coat and skin daily for ticks, especially if you have been in wooded areas or tall grasses. Clearing shrubbery next to homes and keeping lawns well maintained can also be helpful.

A vaccine for Lyme disease is also available. We consider this a "lifestyle vaccine" and recommend it if you and your pet's surroundings or activities – things like hiking or camping, living near wooded areas, or if deer are regularly found nearby – put them at a heightened risk for exposure. Please ask your veterinarian if you think your dog would benefit from this vaccine.

Dental Discount Extended!

Our February discount on dental cleanings has been extended! If your pet has pre-anesthetic blood work with a dental cleaning, you'll get 10% off. What a nice way to keep those chompers healthy! Please talk to one of our doctors to see if you and your pet would benefit from this special.



Oral Flea & Tick Preventative

Did you know that flea and tick preventative is now available as an oral treatment? Instead of applying a topical liquid to your dog's skin, you could simply give your pet a flavored tablet or chewable once a month.

If you need a resupply of your flea and tick medication, ask your veterinarian about our NexGuard® and Simparica™ options.