

Jake Geis

# Heartworms Can Cause Problems For Your Pets

BY JAKE GEIS, DVM  
Tyndall

Does your arrival home in the evening make your dog's heart flutter? That is something to be thankful for, as long as that flutter isn't a swarm of parasitic worms in your dog's pulmonary arteries. The parasite *Dirofilaria immitis*, commonly known as the heartworm, infests the heart and lungs of pets. Treating a pet for heartworms can be a difficult, expensive and risky process, however, the good news is preventing heartworm infestation is easy. By knowing how this parasite spreads and what it is susceptible to, we can successfully keep our pets protected.

Heartworm larvae spread from pet to pet by mosquitoes, which give us one more reason to hate those bugs. The mosquito bites an infected dog and ingests blood with heartworm larvae. When the mosquito then bites another dog, some of the heartworm larvae are left in that dog. These larvae mature under the skin for about one hundred days, and then migrate to the blood stream. From there they travel to the pulmonary arteries in the lungs and develop into mature adults. The adults then breed and release new larvae. These larvae circulate through the blood until they are picked up by another mosquito, continuing the spread.

Worms residing in your dog's heart and lungs is as bad as it sounds. The first problem they cause is pulmonary hypertension, which is increased pressure in the arteries of the lungs. If there are enough worms they can block the valves of the heart from closing, causing a condition known as Caval Syndrome. The increased pressure in the lung arteries causes blood to back up into the liver, leading to liver damage.

Although the consequences can be dramatic, because the symptoms appear gradually most infected dogs are undiagnosed. Dogs can remain symptomless for years. If untreated, eventually the dog will start to show signs of heartworm infestation. These symptoms include coughing, difficult or heavy breathing, exercise intolerance, and right sided heart failure.

As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This is especially true in regards to heartworm disease. A preventative dose of a dewormer, such as ivermectin or moxidectin, prevents heartworms from infecting your pet. This dewormer comes in many forms and is typically administered once per month. However, before you give the dewormer, it is critical to test all dogs seven months and older to see if they currently have heartworms. If the dewormer is given an infected dog, the worms will die all at once and break into fragments. These fragments are carried to small arteries in the lungs and block the blood flow, which can lead to death.

If your dog hasn't been tested recently, resist the urge to buy heartworm medication from sources that claim they can sell it to you without a prescription. Heartworm medication is legally available by prescription only and must only be administered with a current heartworm test. Despite the assurances of shady dealers, giving heartworm preventative without a current heartworm test can kill your pet.

The most critical time for using heartworm preventative is during mosquito season. Even if your dog is an inside-only dog, mosquitoes do not respect the boundaries of the screen door. Have your dog tested before the start of spring and put the dog on heartworm preventative through at least the end of November. This is sufficient for northern climates like Nebraska and South Dakota, but it will not hurt to keep them on the preventative all twelve months of the year if you desire. It is recommended to treat for all 12 months if your pet goes south with you for the winter.

If your dog is already has heartworm disease, treating it is a long and costly process. Because of the dangers of fragmenting worms, the process of eliminating the current worms must be done carefully. Often this will require hospitalization to monitor the dog's condition. Hence, prevention is key with heartworm disease.

Although heartworm disease is often thought of a dog disease, it can affect cats. Cats are not the normal host for the heartworm, and infestations are seen less often. They can also be placed on a preventative program similar to dogs.

Heartworms are nasty creatures, but with a good preventative plan we can keep ahead of them. That way, your pet's heart only flutters for happy reasons.

Jake Geis, DVM, works out of the Tyndall Veterinary Clinic.



Jake GEIS

# For Fan Repair In Older Car, Put A Price On 'Annoying'

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

**Dear Car Talk:**  
I have a 1999 Mercedes ML430 with 150,000 miles, and for the past bunch of years, occasionally there would be a ticking/clicking/clacking sound coming from the dash area. I determined that it occurs when the temperature dial is set all the way to the cold side, and my mechanic thinks it's the heater gate getting stuck or trying repeatedly to close when it may already be closed. I suspect that pieces of insulating foam may be blocking the gate. (I've seen pieces of gray foam fly out of the dash vents when the fan speed was on high!) Is there an easy fix for this? The vehicle is quite old (although it drives well), so I don't want to pay to have the entire dash taken apart to get to the problem area; however, the clicking noise is quite annoying in the summer, and I'm concerned that the gate motor might fail eventually. Thanks! — Ken

Well, there's your easy fix for the clicking sound, Ken: The gate motor will



Ray MAGLIOZZI

blend door and can't.

If you can keep it from clicking by turning the temperature selector almost all the way to hot instead of all the way to cold, that'd be the cheapest and easiest solution. But I'm guessing you've tried that.

In most cases, to replace those servo motors, the dashboard has to come out. That'll easily run you about \$1,500.

So, is the clicking sound \$1,500 worth of annoying? If it is, then I would

eventually fail.

Those are called servo motors. They use little gears to move things — in this case, your ventilation system's blend doors. The gears usually are made of plastic. And when a gear gets stripped, you get that clicking sound when it repeatedly tries to close the

have your mechanic replace all the servo motors and the fan blower motor while he's in there. You'd hate to spend that kind of money and then have another electric motor fail a week later. And they're all the same age.

I'd also have him replace the heater core while he's in there. That also requires removing the dashboard, and if it starts to leak three weeks after you put the dashboard together, that will redefine "annoying" for you. Good luck.

*In the pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Click and Clack break down the strategies for buying a car, so you can make the most of your money. Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.*

*Got a question about cars? Write to Car Talk in care of this newspaper, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.*

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Yankton Area Foundation Sponsors World Archery Youth Championship

Yankton Area Foundation sponsors the upcoming 2015 World Archery Youth Championship

The Yankton Area Foundation announced their sponsorship of \$2,500 to the World Archery Youth Championship taking place in June.

The Yankton Area Foundation is a non-profit corporation dedicated to providing grant funding to organizations in the Yankton community. Funds from the Foundation are distributed to local organizations in April and October of each year with grant applications due no later than April 1 and Oct. 1 for each funding cycle. Currently, the Foundation has nearly \$750,000 in funds invested through the South Dakota Community Foundation and has awarded over \$300,000 in grants since its inception. Grant applications and other information about the Foundation are available at [yankton.sdcommunityfoundation.org](http://yankton.sdcommunityfoundation.org).

Yankton Area Foundation Board of Directors member, Jeff Jones, states, "This tournament is bringing the Yankton Community together and benefiting the economic growth of the city

which is exactly what our mission is all about."

The World Archery Youth Championship is expected to attract 600 youth archers, ages 15-20, from 60 different countries worldwide with total visitors to the Yankton area expected to reach 3,000. The competition is taking place on two outdoor fields located behind the NFAA Headquarters building. Nancy Wenande, Tournament Manager for the WAYC, says, "We are proud to utilize the Yankton Area Foundation's sponsorship to increase the cultural experiences of youth in the community. The tournament is providing a new economic opportunity for not just the archery center, but also the retail stores, restaurants, and other businesses throughout the region."

The World Archery Youth Championship is looking for businesses to sponsor their tournament in multiple ways. As a sponsor, you will be a part of one of the most prestigious youth archery tournaments in the world. If you would like to get involved with the tournament, please contact Nancy Wenande at [nwenande@neyac.org](mailto:nwenande@neyac.org).

## AG Explains Initiated Measure Petitions

PIERRE — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley announced today that two Attorney General Explanations for initiated measures have been filed with the Secretary of State. These statements will appear on petitions that will be circulated by the sponsors of the measures. If the sponsors obtain a sufficient number of signatures on the petitions, as certified by the Secretary of State, the measures will be placed on the ballot for the November 2016 general election.

1. An initiated measure to criminalize the transfer of alcoholic beverages

2. An initiated measure to criminalize the transfer of tobacco and tobacco paraphernalia

Under South Dakota law, the Attorney General is responsible for preparing explanations for proposed initiated measures, referred laws, and South Dakota Constitutional Amendments.

It is anticipated that additional Attorney General Statements for initiated measures and initiated constitutional amendments will be filed in the near future. Specifically, the explanation includes a title, a clear and simple summary of the effect of the proposed measure and a description of the legal consequences.

To view the Attorney General Statements for the measures, as well as the final form of the measures submitted to this office, click on the link: <http://atg.sd.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=D23oQmges8E%3d&tabid=442/>.

### MENUS

Menus listed below are for the week of May 25, 2015. Menus are subject to change without notice. All meals are served with milk.

#### THE CENTER / YANKTON

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: Swiss Steak  
Wednesday: Baked Fish  
Thursday: French Dip  
Friday: Ham Loaf

#### TABOR SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

Monday: N/A  
Tuesday: Roast Beef  
Wednesday: Breaded Fish  
Thursday: Turkey  
Friday: N/A

## 'Yankton Bike To Work-Bike To Play Month' Set

The Yankton Parks and Recreation Department and the local Bike Yankton group announce that June is "Yankton Bike to Work - Bike to Play Month."

More than two-thirds of the U.S. adult population is overweight or obese, costing our nation more than \$68 billion in health care and personal costs annually. More than one in four kids are overweight, as well. Bicycle commuting is a great way to squeeze regular exercise into a hectic schedule for adults or children. For a 180-pound man, a 10-mile round trip bike commute burns 400 calories; for a 130-pound woman, this same commute burns 300 calories. A study of nearly 2,400 adults found that those who biked to work were fitter, leaner, less likely to be obese,

and had better triglyceride levels, blood pressure and insulin levels than those who didn't actively commute to work. Plus, bike commuters report lower stress and greater feelings of freedom, relaxation, and excitement than car commuters. Employers in the community benefit from a healthy, active workforce, as well. There's nothing like riding to stimulate circulation, relieve stress, allow creative thought and establish a positive attitude toward oneself and one's environment.

Bicycle commuting saves on fuel costs and auto maintenance costs. According to analysis by the League, Americans saved more than \$4.6 billion by bicycling instead of driving in 2012 alone. The average annual operating expense of a bicycle is just

\$308, versus more than \$8,000 for a car. And biking is good for business, too. Research in multiple cities has shown that patrons arriving by bike visit more often and spend more money.

The transportation sector is responsible for more than 70 percent of all petroleum use in the U.S. More bicycle use means a smaller carbon footprint. During the 2012 National Bike Challenge, Americans kept more than 13 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions out of the atmosphere by riding their bikes instead of driving their cars. Beyond carbon dioxide, cars

are the single largest source of U.S. air pollution. Short trips are up to three times more polluting per mile than long trips. When bicycling is substituted for short auto trips, 3.6 pounds of pollutants per mile are not emitted into the atmosphere. Add to that: There are 800 million car parking spaces in the U.S., totaling 160 billion square feet of concrete and asphalt. Ten bikes can park in the space used by a single motor vehicle.

Visit the Yankton Parks and Recreation Facebook page and the Bike Yankton Facebook page for June bicycle events.

For more information on

the benefits of bicycling, cycling tips and more, visit [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org).

**Thank You!** We wish to thank everyone who came to our open house for our 90th birthdays and for all of the beautiful cards and best wishes we received that day. We would also like to thank the people who sent us cards and best wishes in the mail. It was greatly appreciated. A special thank you to our family for hosting the party. It was a great day! Thanks also to the Trinity Lutheran Church for the use of the multipurpose room.

**Garland & Evelyn Timm**

### Thank You

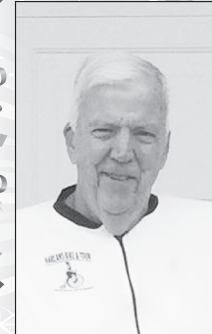
The family of Helen Mischke would like to thank everyone for helping her celebrate her 90th birthday with a wonderful card shower. She enjoyed all the cards, notes, visits and phone calls. We would also like to give our thanks and appreciation for the outpouring of support and love during her illness and following her death.

Love and prayers,  
The Family of Helen Mischke

### Thank You

I would like to thank the staff at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital for the kind and professional care I received when I had back surgery in early May. Both nurses, Julie List and the surgical nurse let me know that I was in their care with their smiles, touch and comforting words, "I am here to take care of you." The last words I heard just before I went under was from the smiling anesthetist, "See you in a little while."

I walked into the hospital with tremendous pain and walked out pain free. My wife had the same experience one year ago. I cannot thank Dr. Brett Adams enough. I was so fortunate to have had a surgeon as capable as he in Yankton. ~Jack & Pam Frick



## 80th Birthday Party for Lyle Malone

Open House  
Saturday  
May 30, 2015  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

JoDean's  
2809 N Broadway, Yankton  
Send greetings to  
2603 Ella Lane • Yankton, SD 57078