

Keep Your Pet Protected This Winter

Pet owners are familiar with giving their pet monthly preventatives such as Heartgard and Frontline. These products are meant to be given monthly to prevent common diseases such as heartworm, roundworms, hookworms, fleas and ticks. Here are several reasons why continuing these products is important, even through the winter time.

Fleas

Fall and early winter is the most common time in Minnesota for pets to be infested with fleas. This is often because as the temperature gets colder wildlife including mice are looking for places to live. Mice can carry fleas and as they hide in your garage or basement, they are dropping flea eggs into the environment. Pets will then come into contact with the fleas in the environment and become their next host. Pets do not need to leave the house to get fleas. Frontline Plus applied at least every 3 months will help to prevent flea infestation. Most other products on the market will need to be applied monthly.

Ticks

When the temperatures get cold the ticks hibernate under deep beds of leaves waiting for rising spring temperatures to emerge. Even though ticks are less active in winter a warm day can stimulate them to come out from hiding, and bite your pet. Local pet owners have reported ticks found on their pets even in December and January. If your pet goes in any tall brush or woods, they should have products such as Frontline Plus applied monthly through winter.

Heartworm

Luckily in Minnesota freezing temperatures kill mosquitos, which are carriers of deadly heartworm. Heartworm prevention such as Heartgard should be continued in the winter because of its deworming properties. Also, many manufacturers require a certain number of doses of the product to be purchased from a veterinarian to get their full product guarantee.

Roundworms and Hookworms

These parasites are found very commonly in the environment and can be transmitted to people. Freezing temperatures do not kill the parasite eggs in the environment. Even indoor only pets can get infected by sources such as soil tracked in on shoes, indoor potting soil or mice feces. Because of the risk of human infection, especially to young children, deworming with a product such as Heartgard monthly is best done year round.

Disclaimer: This written content is meant to be educational and is not medical advice. Always consult a veterinarian about medical advice for your pet.