



September 2018

NEWSLETTER

Fear Free Veterinary Care For Your Furry Friend. That's Franklin Farm.

HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 7:30am-6:30pm

Saturday: 8:00am-1:00pm

Sunday: Closed



POINTS TO PAWNDER

An Infection to watch for...



When you take your dog for a swim in the lake, a walk through the woods or even a romp in the backyard,

you both may

unwittingly be exposed to *Leptospira* bacteria. This spirochete organism is a normal inhabitant in the urinary tract of many common creatures like raccoons, opossums and rats and is released into the environment when these animals urinate. Farm animals can also be carriers of infectious strains.

Since the organism needs to stay in a moist environment to be infectious, dogs that swim, wade through puddles or streams, or spend time outside in other areas common to wildlife are at greatest risk for exposure and infection. Infections are most commonly seen between the months of July and November, although pets can be exposed at any time throughout the year.

Cats do not generally develop illness from exposure to *Leptospira*.

People are also susceptible to this infection. As with dogs, exposure to rodent or wildlife urine causes infection. Veterinarians and others who work with dogs or farm animals are most likely to be exposed, but owners of infected dogs are also at risk.

Signs of leptospirosis infection are often initially vague, with lethargy, fever and increased thirst and urination the most common symptoms. Other symptoms include shivering, muscle tenderness, reluctance to move, dehydration, vomiting (sometimes bloody), diarrhea, loss of appetite, and yellowing of the skin and mucous membranes. The infection most commonly leads to kidney failure with or without liver failure and bleeding disorders. Severe lung disease and difficulty breathing are infrequent complications from infection. The infection severity is extremely variable, ranging from very mild to lethal.

Diagnosing *Leptospira* can be challenging. Blood tests taken several weeks apart can confirm infection. Since the infection is very responsive to antibiotics, treatment is often start-

ed prior to disease confirmation. Hospitalization with strict infectious disease protocols is usually required for ill dogs. Supportive care and treatments will vary depending on how the illness presents in an individual patient.

We recommend vaccination against this disease for any dog who might be at risk. The vaccination triggers an immune response to the most common strains of *Leptospira* and helps prevent infection if the dog is exposed. The vaccine is initially given as a two-vaccine series administered two weeks apart and then repeated annually. Please contact us with any questions or concerns about this disease or the vaccination.



Article provided by
Dr. Kathleen Phillips DVM
Veterinarian here at Franklin Farm

PET OF THE MONTH



Liberty

Our pet of the month is Liberty, a wonderful sweet girl who spends much of her time outside and near the water with her doggie siblings.

She was always a tick magnet, often covered with ticks despite diligent use of her oral tick control product. All of that changed when Liberty started using the Seresto Collar for flea and tick prevention. Her family reports no tick sightings since beginning to use the collar! Its greatest advantage is it both kills fleas and ticks and repels them before they've bitten; a godsend for pets with severe flea allergies, or those like Liberty who live in rural areas with overwhelming tick populations.

Thank you Phil Blake for contributing our Pet of the Month story!



RUFFeral Program



At Franklin Farm, we believe "RUFFerals" are the greatest form of flattery. That's why, when you refer a furry friend to Franklin Farm, everybody gets a treat!

YOUR PET

Refer a friend and Your pet will receive a \$25.00 credit at your next appointment after your referral has mentioned you!

YOUR REFERRAL'S PET



Your referral's pet will also receive a \$25.00 credit at their first appointment with Franklin Farm!

Did you know...

- Female cats are right-pawed and male cats are left-pawed.
- A cat has five toes on its front paws, while the back paws have only four.
- A cat's body is covered with roughly 130,000 hairs for each square inch
- A cat has the ability to jump up to six times its length.

www.msn.com/en-ca/news/catfacts

Did you know...



- Dogs wag their tails not just when they are happy. It may also be a sign of fear, insecurity or aggression.
- A Great Pyrenees dog named Duke is the mayor of Cormorant, Minnesota.
- If your dog experiences separation anxiety, try leaving behind a few of your worn clothes, which might calm him/her down.

www.fact-about-dogs.info

Tick Control Option

With summer coming to a close and the weather changing, a spike in the number of fleas and ticks in our area is soon to come. With so many flea and tick control options to choose from, figuring out which one is right for your pet isn't always easy. One option to consider is the Seresto Collar for flea and tick prevention, like our pet of the month uses. It is non-toxic, water resistant, and provides continual protection for up to 8 months. The collars are also available for cats and even have a break-away safety feature. Franklin Farm will soon be offering the Seresto collar as another proven option to protect your furry family members. Please contact us to discuss our parasite control options, especially if you have a fuzzy tick magnet at home like Liberty!

