



PVPC Newsletter



January 2025 Issue

Happy New Year to all! We know you're chomping at the bit to take advantage of our dental month discount in February. As a way to thank our community for your continuous support, we would like to begin the dental month festivities a little early. Starting this month, we will offer a 10% discount on ALL dental services including routine and extensive procedures. Please call our office at (530)644-2424 to get your pet scheduled for their discounted dental procedure today!



New Doctor Alert!



This just in, PVPC will be starting the 2025 year off with a new doctor! That's right! Dr. Miranda Ciotti-McClallen will be gracing us and our beloved clients with her passion and expertise in veterinary medicine. Dr. Ciotti-McClallen graduated in 2023 from Midwestern University School of Veterinary Medicine in Phoenix, Arizona. Prior to graduating vet school, she acquired many skills and knowledge in wildlife species volunteering at San Diego Wild Safari Park while in high school and spent much time as an avid horsewoman in high school as well as college when she was able to travel on multiple occasions for equine related activities. Dr. Ciotti-McClallen then felt the need to pursue a career in veterinary

medicine as a way to improve the lives of animals and their owners. The venture of pursuing her dream career led her to gain experience in shelter medicine at the Placer SPCA as well as a small veterinary practice in Washington all while taking the steps to finish her education. Throughout Dr. Ciotti-McClallen's already well established career in veterinary medicine, she gained a keen interest in preventative medicine including surgery and dentistry, integrative medicine including acupuncture, and mixed species medicine including large animal (equine and farm life) and limited exotics. Lucky for all of our clientele and local community, she also has a passion for client education and community outreach. When not in practice, Dr. Ciotti-McClallen mostly stays true to her love of animals whether she is riding her horse or hiking with her dog, otherwise she is happy as long as she is outside in the sun with a good book or spending quality time with her husband. Not only are we looking forward to welcoming Dr. Miranda Ciotti-McClallen to our PVPC family, but she is more than ecstatic to get to know our patients and their loving owners.

Welcome



Tick Borne Diseases: To Use Prevention Or Not to Use Prevention?

Many have heard of lyme disease and most know it is transmitted by being bitten by a tick. But did you know there are two other tick borne diseases we in veterinary medicine encounter in our area? That's right, there are a total of three tick borne diseases that pest our pets right here in El Dorado County. Lyme, anaplasma, and ehrlichiosis are all tick transmitted bacterial diseases that we diagnose in pets regularly and the testing used to indicate that a patient has been exposed to any of these three tick borne diseases tests for the antibodies the bacteria in each of them create. All three bacterias work the same when introduced to the body by triggering an immune response to then create antibodies. The antibodies the tests are designed to detect are *Borrelia burgdorferi* (lyme), *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (anaplasma), and *Ehrlichia canis* (ehrlichiosis). If a pet tests positive for any of these bacterial diseases, it's important to understand that this means the pet has been introduced to the bacteria, but may not necessarily mean they have an active infection due to the bacteria. At this point, further diagnostics may be recommended to investigate an active infection and/or the prescription of oral antibiotics may be underway.

When looking to confirm an active infection caused by lyme and anaplasma, it is most common to run complete blood counts and full urinalysis. If an infection is confirmed then the patient should be treated with a 14 to 30 day course of oral antibiotics. If tests come back with no evidence of an infection then pet owners are urged to closely monitor for

symptoms which can take up to five months before showing in lyme and 14 days in anaplasma. Symptoms to monitor for both lyme and anaplasma include lethargy, malaise, shifting-leg lameness, decreased appetite, and depression. In an anaplasma positive pet with an active infection, labored breathing, fever, and seizures may also be noted. If any or all of these symptoms show, treatment should begin immediately before the disease advances to more life threatening conditions such as kidney disease, development to the nervous system or heart, or respiratory distress.

Ehrlichiosis is a particularly different type of tick transmitted bacterial disease in that it can affect huskies and german shepherds the most due to their high susceptibility. The infection of ehrlichiosis can be difficult to confirm with further testing so the first step after receiving a positive test is typically to have the pet placed on a 30 day course of oral antibiotics. If no treatment is done and the infection takes its course, ehrlichiosis will present itself in three phases. The first phase is known as the acute phase where symptoms such as lethargy, decreased appetite, fever, limping/swollen joints, and petechiae (bruising of the skin) will show 1 to 3 weeks after the tick bite. The second phase, the subclinical phase, can last months to years with unnoticeable symptoms making it the most difficult to diagnose. The last phase is the chronic, life-threatening phase which produces severe kidney and liver damage, lung injury, hemorrhaging, etc. Although these can be end-of-life symptoms, it's difficult to correlate to ehrlichiosis if it's not diagnosed by the first phase.

So, how do we prevent our pets from contracting any of these tick borne diseases? For all three bacterial diseases, the easiest



way to protect our pets from contracting them is to administer a routine tick preventative year round. There are many products on the market to use as a tick preventative. Some have been around for many years and have been known to have lost their efficacy after all of this time while others are still just as effective now as they were when they were first brought into the prevention world. Regardless of what brand and form of tick prevention it is, they all tend to work similarly in that ticks do have to bite an animal to be exposed to the preventative; however, the ticks are not alive long enough after blood ingestion to transmit any of their bacterial diseases back into the animal. In addition to administering a routine tick preventative, there are lyme vaccines available to help prevent dogs from contracting the bacterial disease.

The most common response from pet owners to veterinary staff is that owners do not feel their pets need to be on preventative because they feel their pet's exposure is low or preventative is only needed at certain times of the year. While both scenarios may be true, it's important to understand that ticks are sneaky parasites and often crawl then embed themselves into our pets without us even seeing them. In veterinary medicine, we will see more pets with positive lyme, anaplasma, and/or ehrlichiosis tests during certain times of the year; however, we also see them positive for any or all of the tick borne disease throughout the entire year. What's more is that our pets living without prevention are the main culprits for bringing unwanted visitors into our homes which exposes us to having the same diseases transmitted to us if we are bitten by an infected tick.



Of course, we always take a pet's lifestyle and health into account before we automatically prescribe tick preventatives. Before making a final decision to not use tick prevention in your pet we always strongly urge you seek medical advice from your regular veterinary hospital. They can also point you in the right direction of finding the prevention that best fits you and your pet.



Here at PVPC we offer Nexgard Plus for our canine patients and Nexgard Combo for our feline patients. Please call our office to get your pet started on one of our Nexgard products to protect them from tick borne diseases as well as flea infestations and heartworm disease. We offer free trial doses for first time users along with an instant rebate when you purchase larger quantities.

happy new year

Noodle's (and the PVPC staff) Notes

Although we are thrilled to introduce our patients and clients to Dr. Miranda Ciott-McClallen, it is with a heavy heart that we say our goodbyes to Dr. Maggie MacQueen as she ventures off to a new hospital closer to the area she has recently moved to. We want to wish her all of the luck in the world on her next endeavor and are looking forward to maintaining the wonderful relationship we've all built with her over the years. Good luck Dr. MacQueen!

