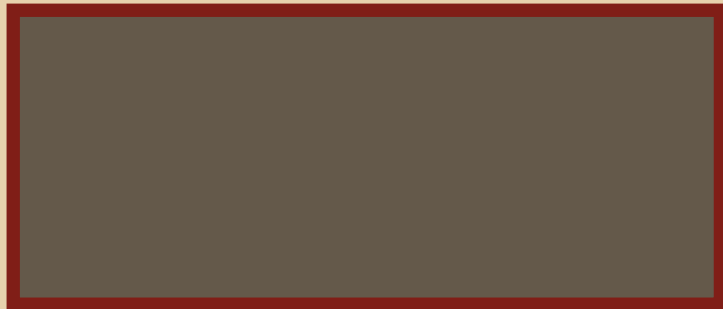


Newton Falls Animal Hospital is proud to offer a wide variety of services, including:

- Preventative Care
- Dental Care
- Geriatric Care
- Grooming
- Radiology
- Digital X-Ray
- Ultrasound
- Alternative Therapies
- and more!*



greetings from **NEWTON FALLS ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

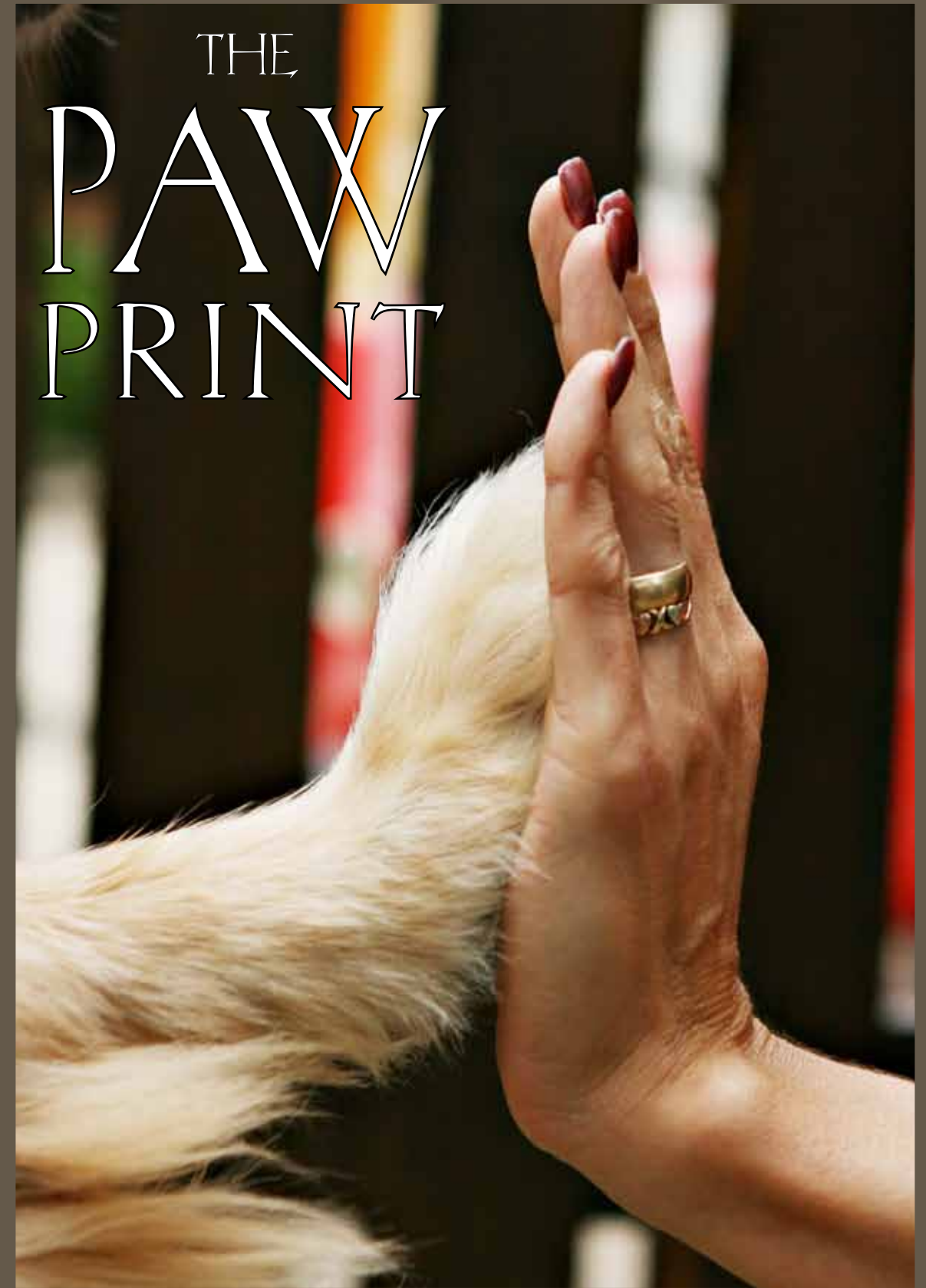


NEWTON FALLS ANIMAL HOSPITAL
333 N. Canal St.
Newton Falls, OH 44444

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2009

THE PAW PRINT



Newton Falls Animal Hospital's Quarterly Newsletter

333 N. Canal St. 330-872-1965



www.newtonfallsanimalhospital.com

The Truth About Feline Heartworm

What Every Cat Owner Needs to Know

Recent studies have shown that cats are at equal risk with dogs for contracting heartworm diseases. Heartworm infection occurs when a mosquito carrying heartworm larvae bites a cat, allowing the larvae to transfer into their new host's body. They migrate further into the cat's system and usually settle in the arteries of the lungs after about three months, where they develop into adults and reproduce.

Cats are more resistant hosts than dogs, and some cats can even rid themselves of the infection without treatment, thanks to a strong immune system. Cats also usually have fewer worms than dogs, and the life span of the worms is shorter in cats, about two to three years, as compared to five to seven years in dogs.

However, heartworms can still cause significant damage in cats. The clinical signs of the disease tend to be generic and can often be misdiagnosed. These generic signs of illness include vomiting, lethargy, loss of appetite, coughing, difficulty breathing, gagging, or rapid breathing. Some cats exhibit acute clinical signs, usually related to the organs where the adult heartworms are thriving. These more serious symptoms include collapse, convulsions, blindness, tachycardia, and sometimes sudden death.

Diagnosis of heartworm infection in cats is more difficult than with dogs. Diagnostic tests have limitations, but there are many options available, including x-rays, ultrasounds of the heart, and blood tests. Blood tests are becoming more specific as veterinarians learn more about the disease.

Treatment is dangerous, and there are no approved medications for the treatment of heartworms in cats yet in the United States. If a disease of the lungs is detected, they can be monitored with chest x-rays and treated with small doses of prednisone. Cats with more severe infestations may need further therapy, which can include intravenous fluids, oxygen therapy, cardiovascular drugs, and antibiotics. Some heartworm extraction surgeries have also been performed. Treatment decisions should always be made carefully, as some cats may not be able to tolerate such harsh treatments.

Fortunately, preventative treatment is available. There are four different FDA-approved products for preventing heartworm disease in cats: Heartguard for Cats, Interceptor, Revolution, and Advantage Multi for Cats. Ask your veterinarian about your options and which preventative plan is best for your feline friend.



Feline Heartworm in one of our patients at NFAH

How Much Is That Doggy in the Window?

Tips for Adding a New Dog or Cat to Your Family

Before bringing home any new pets, use the following guidelines as a checklist to make sure everything runs smoothly and everyone stays happy!

- 🐾 Think about what you want from a pet before choosing a breed. If you already have pets, think about what they would be most compatible with.
- 🐾 Decide on training methods and goals in advance to ensure the training process goes smoothly.
- 🐾 Dog-proof or cat-proof the house as needed. Put breakable items out of reach, use baby gates to restrict access to rooms, etc.
- 🐾 Make sure you have everything you'll need: food, treats, bowls, collars, leashes, brushes, toys, pooper scooper, etc.
- 🐾 Schedule an appointment with us soon after your pet arrives home to make sure it is healthy and up to date on vaccinations.
- 🐾 Remember to give your new pet plenty of time to adjust to you and its new environment. Don't force them into something until they're more comfortable with their new situation.
- 🐾 Finally, never forget to enjoy your new friend! Pets are a joy to have around and are a great source of fun and relaxation!



Resources for Pet Owners:

Youngstown All Breed Training Club
4449 Burkey Rd, Youngstown, OH 44515
330-538-2907

Grooming Services
Available at Newton Falls Animal Hospital

Blue Moon Kennels
4250 Herr Fieldhouse, Southington, OH 44470
330-898-5253; 330-898-2208

www.dogtraininghq.com

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

And a Convenient Way to Keep Your Pet Healthy

Routine preventative care is one of the most important things you can do for your pet. Annual screenings and vaccinations will keep your pet(s) healthy and happy while assisting with early detection of possible health issues, when treatment is often more effective and less traumatic.

To help you remember which routine preventative measures are due, we now offer a free online service through our Pet Portal. Pet Portal is a free online service that allows you to keep track of your pet's veterinary records and needs online.

To get your own Pet Portal page, simply provide us with your e-mail address by phone, e-mail, or in person

and we'll send you a temporary password. Your page will be secured through a firewall, and your information cannot be released to anyone else.

You can use the Pet Portal system to set up vaccination reminders, refill prescriptions, and set up appointments. It also keeps records of your pet's vaccinations that you can print out and which many boarding facilities accept as proof of vaccination. If you have more than one furry friend, you can manage all of their information through a single Pet Portal page.

If you have questions or want more information about the Pet Portal service, please give us a call at (330) 872-1965

HELLO
My Name Is...

Dr. Kelly Johnston

Education: BS in Zoology and DVM from OSU
Interests: Boating, walking, and reading
Pets: A Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Rudy, 4 inside cats, 4 outside cats, and 4 horses
What I Like Best About My Job: Problem solving to help sick animals get well, the people I work with, and the animals themselves
Personal Philosophy: "The only thing you can control is yourself"



HELLO
My Name Is...

Dr. Luke Lukasko

Education: BS in Agriculture and DVM from OSU; Acupuncture from IVAS
Interests: Swimming, golf, and travelling
Pets: Two Bullmastiffs named Merlin and Rosie, and a cat named Cotton
What I Like Best About My Job: Puppies!
Personal Philosophy: "There is good in everyone; may the Force be with you!"