

# Pawsitive Press

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### Related Webpages

[American Heartworm Society](#)

[Canine and Feline Intestinal Parasites](#)

[Small Animal Dentistry](#)

## Four Paw Resolutions

Christen Woodlev. DVM

### Happy New Year!

Hope the end to the holiday season finds you and your four paw family members happy and in good health. The days are starting to get longer and it will be springtime before we know it. Now, about those resolutions, you have made yours but have you considered how to include your pet? It is a good time to take an inventory of your heartworm and flea preventatives, have you been regular on them, is your pet up to date on advised vaccines and parasite checks, have they had a dental exam lately, could they stand to lose a little weight, etc.

Florida is one of the heartworm and parasite capitals of the country! Even if your cat is indoors or if your dog "only goes outside to go to the bathroom," he or she needs to be on heartworm prevention every month of the year.



All it takes is missing two consecutive months of preventative for a pet to be at risk for infection. Cats do not have to be tested to safely be put on preventative, but dogs do. Therefore, if you have a dog and have missed two or more months consecutively, we need to do a heartworm test before getting your pet back on a preventative. If you restart a heartworm product without testing and the dog is unknowingly heartworm positive, it can cause serious adverse reactions, in some cases even death! Heartworm preventatives also carry intestinal parasite prevention. They are not a treatment if your pet has a parasite, but the preventative does make it less likely for your pet to contract one. A fecal parasite

check is advised annually for every pet, but especially those that have been off heartworm preventative because they are at a higher risk. Even if you do not have a flea problem, many pets have allergies to fleas, fleas and ticks can transmit diseases, and they are simply not nice to have in the house! Therefore, even if you do not think you need it, I still advise flea, if not flea and tick prevention, monthly for pets in Florida. Contact us to discuss which of the many preventatives on the market would be best for you and your pet.

For the majority of pets a routine vaccine schedule is recommended; however, a full exam every 6-12 months is advised regardless of if your pet is in need of preventative vaccines or not. Even in those pets with medical conditions where vaccines are not advised, it is still very important for us to evaluate your pet and discuss other forms of preventative care, such as lab work, dental care, etc.

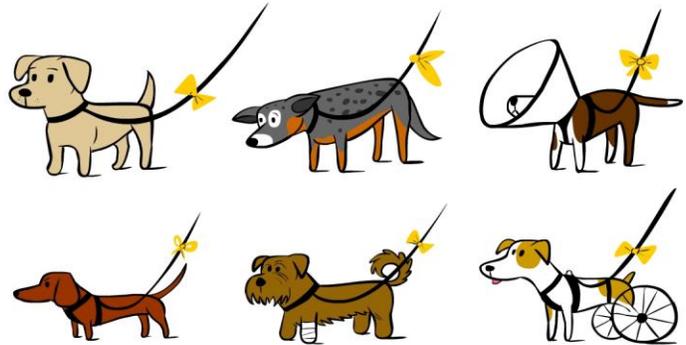
**Four Paw Continued**

We try to tailor our vaccine protocol to each individual patient and I would be more than happy to discuss it with you at the time of exam. I also advise annual, if not biannual, dental exams for every pet to help in early detection and treatment of dental disease. That bad breath does not have to be that way! Usually the odor is from bacteria build up in the tartar in the mouth. We can help you with that.☺

Let us help you ring in a New Year with a healthy pet. Contact us to see if your pet is up to date on routine care, if you have questions about preventatives, if you would like your pet to have a dental exam, etc. We are at your service to try to keep your pet happy and healthy for as long as we can.



If you see a dog with a **YELLOW RIBBON** or something yellow on the leash, **this is a dog who needs some space.** Please do not approach this dog with your dog. Please maintain distance or give this dog and his/her person time to move out of your way.



There are many reasons why a dog may need space:  
HEALTH ISSUES  
IN TRAINING  
BEING REHABILITATED  
SCARED OR REACTIVE AROUND OTHER DOGS

**THANK YOU!**

Those of us who own these dogs appreciate your help and respect!



Illustrated by Lili Chim www.doggedrawings.net

**The Whole Kitten Kaboodle**

A Life Saving Organization of Abandoned Kittens



These 12 week old, female kittens have had their first round of vaccinations, are dewormed, and FIV/Feleuk Negative. They were hand raised around other cats and dogs, so they get along with both! They are litter trained and are already eating hard food. Please call Julie if you have any questions or are interested in adopting one or both of them!

727-733-9351

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**\$5 Off**

## \$5 off Bath with Annual Exam

Call to schedule an annual exam appointment and leave your pet for a bath and receive \$5 off the cost of the bathing services. The bath will include shampooing, ear cleaning, pedicure, warm air drying, and brush out.  
Expires: 2/15/13

NL



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## \$12 Mail in Rebate

Any Size Heartgard

Purchase 12 months of any size Heartgard Plus and receive a \$12 mail-in rebate. The rebate form will be filled out and mailed in by our staff and Merial will mail a check directly to your home. By law, pets must have been seen in our office within the last 12 months and should have a negative heartworm test.  
Expires: 2/15/13

NL



**Animal Hospital**  
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**\$10 Off**

## \$200 Retail Mix and Match

*Shampoo	*Heartworm Prevention	*Flea and Tick Control
*Food	*Prescription Medication	*Dietary Supplements

Expires 2/15/13

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