

Creepy, Crawly Things

Ticks, fleas, flies, mosquitos and mites are just a few of the nasty little creepy creatures that can pass parasites and cause serious viral and bacterial diseases in our companion animals. Vaccines are available to prevent some viral diseases before an animal is exposed, such as various forms of flu, parvo, distemper, rabies, and respiratory diseases in dogs and cats. Many parasites can only be treated after the animal has been bitten and infected by the vector (nasty critter) carrying bacteria that attack blood cells, or inject larvae of heartworm, tapeworm, roundworm, and burrowing mites and flies. YUCK!

Mosquitoes carry heartworm larvae and can inject them into the blood stream of dogs and cats. Heartworm preventative kills the larvae before it can grow into an adult and cause damage to the heart and lungs of the animal. Ticks carry a huge number of different diseases that infect dogs, cats and people. The best treatment is prevention. There are lots of oral and topical tick and mosquito repellants on the market; the safest products are available through your veterinarian.

If you live in or visit areas that have mosquitoes testing for heartworm and giving heartworm preventative is a must. Increasing numbers of dogs have been testing positive for ehrlichia in Valencia County. If you have a problem with ticks on your property, or use your dog for hunting in the fields or the bosque, you should consider screening for it and its counterpart, anaplasmosis on an annual basis.

Our pets are subject to diseases caused by old age, poor diet, lack of exercise, hereditary weaknesses and their environment. Preventative care is the first line of defense. Annual exams and testing is second. If symptoms appear it is necessary to attack the enemies that would kill your pet. Don't wait until it is too late, make an appointment with your vet.

The animals pictured below are only available for three days, but there are plenty of other choices! Visit the Valencia County Shelter, 1209 NM 314, one mile south of Main Street in Los Lunas. Open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Tues - Sat. 866-2479



JJ became part of the family about five years ago when my daughter asked if I would be a hero and give this puppy a home. She has had a great life swimming, walking and being loved. Recently JJ started losing weight, becoming very fatigued. She had bloody noses that wouldn't stop. I took her to the vet thinking it was the end for my pal. Dr. T suggested a simple test and discovered she had Ehrlichia, a tick disease. With medication to kill the infection JJ has begun to gain weight and is active again. My dog will live and she thinks I am her hero again.

Testing and preventative medication can make the difference between a healthy and happy companion and the heartbreaking loss of your pet.

"My name is Debra. My husband Bill and I lost our beloved Purdy in April of this year to heartworm. It was very devastating to us because our animals are like our children and we love them very much. Please have your animals tested for Heartworm; don't let them suffer through something that can be prevented. Purdy was only 8 years old she still had a long life ahead of her but we didn't have her tested in time so her outcome was death. She couldn't be saved. We urge each and everyone of you to heartworm test and put your animals on preventive med's for this disease that can and will take your buddy from you if not caught in time. We have to care for our animals they can't tell us when something is wrong and the signs can sneak up on you. Our heart goes out to all who have lost a loved one to this disease."

Screening Clinic - Sat, Oct 23, 1-4 pm.

The Bosque Animal Clinic is pleased to offer a clinic on October 23rd from 1pm until 4pm for 100 dogs of Valencia County residents to screen for several tick and mosquito born diseases which appear to be on the rise in our area. Our goal is to increase public awareness and to encourage use of readily available preventative measures.

A blood test will be performed on your dog to detect the presence of ehrlichia, anaplasmosis, lyme and heartworm disease in your pet. If your dog has a history of mosquito exposure or tick infestation, and has NOT been tested and is NOT on preventative medicine, your dog is eligible.

Cost for the test will be \$27. If heartworm test results are negative, you will receive a two month supply of free heartworm preventative. Doctors and staff will be available to answer any relevant questions.

One hundred dogs will be tested on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please have your dog in a crate or on a leash and be prepared to wait as some dogs will need more time.

Bosque Animal Clinic, 655 Country Lane, Bosque Farms