

Blue Ravine News

YOUR PET'S HEALTH IS OUR CONCERN

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Welcome to Dr. Nicole Fitzgerald

Nicole Fitzgerald grew up in the Roseville area before living abroad for a year in Belgium, then attending undergraduate school at UC Santa Barbara. Between then and veterinary school, she married her wonderful husband and high school sweetheart, Brandon.

She attended veterinary school at UC Davis, graduating in 2009. Since then she has practiced at various small animal practices in the Sacramento area. Dr. Fitzgerald enjoys preventative medicine, dermatology, and internal medicine.



On her days off, Dr. Fitzgerald spends time with Brandon and their beautiful children, Colton and Frankie Mae. They keep her busy with their various activities/sports and adventures. Together, they love to travel and camp.

The Fitzgerald family has two silly, lazy kitties — Captain Ron and Princess Waffles; a mischievous dog — Teddy Spaghetti; and well-behaved fish.

Regular Health Examinations Are Necessary

"Your pet can't always tell you where it hurts..."

Your pet can't always tell you where it hurts, or pets may mask their pain (a survival behavior in the wild). A comprehensive physical exam allows our doctors to compile a list of clues that can help uncover disease. Early detection and treatment are essential to avoid undue suffering and to prolong the quality and longevity of your pet's life. Watch for subtle changes in your pet's body weight, appetite, water



intake, urination and bowel habits, as well as general attitude and activity level. These changes may signal liver, kidney or heart problems. Lumps and bumps under the skin may seem harmless, but can be cancerous. Ear infections, abscessed teeth and gum

disease are common, painful conditions that may not become obvious until seriously advanced. A comprehensive physical exam is the basic tool our doctors use to evaluate your pet's health status and to help you make informed decisions about the care of your special companion.

The history...

If your pet is new to us, the veterinarian will ask you questions its health history. Be sure to discuss any unusual behavior with your veterinarian.

Medical records will be consulted if the pet has been a regular patient. Notes will be made on your pet's diet, water consumption, and on a variety of daily behavior patterns that relate to your pet's health.

Temperature, pulse, respiration rate and body weight may be noted, and then your veterinarian will begin the physical examination from nose to tail.

A wet or dry nose doesn't mean good health...

The nose is not the health barometer that some people think it is, but it is a good place to start. Your veterinarian will check your pet's nose for abnormal discharges, and changes in color, texture, moisture or shape.

Pet's ears invite infection...

You'll probably be asked if your dog or cat has been shaking its head or scratching at its ears. Have you noticed any odor from the ears? Your pet's deep, curved ear canals provide

protection for the inner ear, but these canals also provide a snug home for parasites, infections and foreign objects. A visual check will be made.

Eyes: the windows to your pet's state of health...

Many conditions, such as anemia and jaundice, often are discovered through eye examinations. Often, cataracts are some of the first noticeable symptoms of diabetes. Your veterinarian also may observe the inner structures of the eye. Problems such as glaucoma, retinal defects or local inflammation may be detected. Injuries, ulcers and lacerations of the eye can also be detected.

Your pet will receive an oral exam...

Oral hygiene is extremely important. Your veterinarian will check your pet's gums, teeth, tongue and palate for abnormalities, tumors and infections. A dental examination is important for detecting gingivitis, periodontal disease and infected teeth. Teeth cleaning and polishing may be recommended at this time.



Listening to the heart and lungs...

Your veterinarian will use a stethoscope to listen to your pet's heart and lungs. If any irregularities are noted, additional tests may be necessary. Early heart disease and respiratory problems are often recognized during a routine health exam.

Reproduction

Your pet's reproductive system will be examined. Your veterinarian will probably explain that spaying or neutering provides many benefits beyond birth control.

Health is sometimes skin deep...

The skin is the body's largest organ and a good indicator of your pet's health. Your veterinarian will examine the condition of the skin and hair as a means of detecting other health problems.

Your pet will be checked for fleas, ticks, other external parasites, tumors and wounds.

(Continued on page 3)

Regular Health Examinations (cont'd.)

Sense of touch...

Your veterinarian will use hands and fingers to feel the abdomen. This sense of touch will help to assess the condition of internal organs and to detect tumors or other irregularities. The legs and feet of your pet will be checked. The condition of joints, muscles, skin, lymph nodes and hair also will be noted.



It's wise to immunize...

Immunizing your pet against disease is one of the best tools of preventive medicine. Dogs can be immunized against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza, parvovirus, bordetella, Rabies and Lyme disease.

Cats can be immunized against feline panleukopenia (distemper), Rabies, feline rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, chlamydia, and feline leukemia.

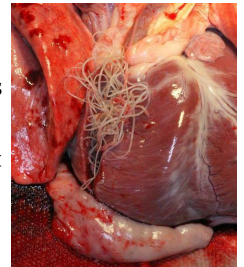
Health threats vary from city to city, and even in various sections of cities. We can tailor an immunization program specifically for your pet based on local conditions and keep your pet protected with the latest vaccines.

If you have any questions concerning your pet's health, please do not hesitate to contact us. Remember, we are your pet's best friends and the best source of information about your pet.

Heartworm Awareness

Pets and their people love being outside in the summertime, and so do mosquitoes. Because mosquitoes are the most common carriers of heartworm disease, keeping pets up to date on preventive heartworm treatments during mosquito season is especially important.

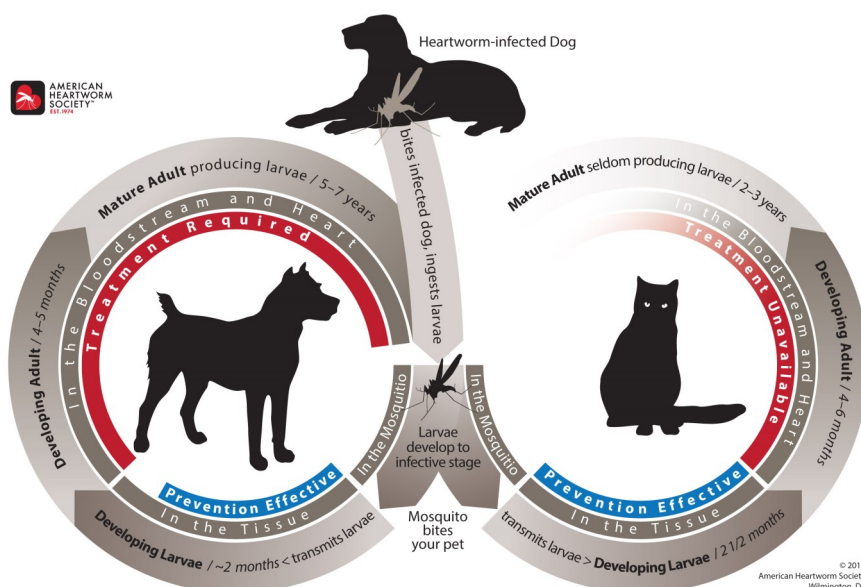
Heartworms are exactly that—large worms that live in the hearts of cats and dogs. Known as *Dirofilaria immitis*, heartworms are long, spaghetti-like worms that range in size from 6 to 10 inches. Heartworms are almost always transmitted by mosquitoes. A mosquito bites an infected dog or cat; that mosquito picks up microfilariae, a microscopic version of the heartworm. When that mosquito bites your pet, the heartworm microfilariae are transmitted to him/her. Within 70 to 90 days, the microfilariae make it to your pet's heart and, once mature, begin reproducing. The cycle then begins again.



Signs of heartworm disease in pets vary based on the age and species of the pet and the number of worms present. Because the worms are usually located on the right side of the heart and lung, coughing and shortness of breath are common signs in both dogs and cats. Dogs that have just acquired the disease may have no signs, while dogs with a moderate occurrence of the disease may cough and show an inability to exercise. In extreme cases, dogs may experience fainting, weight loss, fever, abdominal swelling and death. In cats, the symptoms of heartworm disease are similar to those of feline asthma, including coughing and shortness of breath. Some cats may exhibit no signs of the disease, while others may suddenly die.

When it comes to preventing heartworm disease, pet owners have a number of options. Before beginning preventive medication, pet owners should have their pets tested for heartworms. If heartworms are found, a treatment plan should be discussed with your veterinarian. Most heartworm prevention involves giving your pet a once-a-month heartworm medication, much like a chewable treat. Others are combined with other medications. Your veterinarian will recommend the product that is best suited for your pet.

To have your pet tested for heartworm or for additional information about the disease, please contact us: Blue Ravine Animal Hospital, 916-984-0990.





Blue Ravine Animal Hospital
1770 Prairie City Road
Folsom, CA 95630
Phone: 916 984-0990
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BLUE RAVINE OFFICE HOURS

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Saturday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday, closed.
For emergencies outside regular office hours, please call MarQueen Pet Emergency & Specialty, 916 757-6600
or Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center, 916 362-3111.

www.blueravineanimalhospital.com

SAVE ON 1-YEAR NEXGARD AND 1-YEAR HEARTGARD: \$80 OFF! (OR FRONTLINE)



Call
Blue Ravine Animal
Hospital:
916-984-0990

Coupon expires July 31, 2023

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1770 Prairie City Rd., Folsom, CA