

# OCTOBER

## Veterinary Medical and Surgical Hospital of Topeka Monthly Newsletter

[www.vmshoftopeka.com](http://www.vmshoftopeka.com)



### Trick-or-Treat: **Keep candy away from your pet**



Halloween is a fun time of year for kids and adults alike. Spooky costumes, haunted houses, fun decorations, and candy as far as the eye can see. This time of year is also a dangerous time for your pet though. Candy should never been given to your pet for many reasons and this time of year there is an increased risk of your pet ingesting it. Sugar-free candy can cause a state of low blood sugar that can cause lethargy, seizures, and even death. Chocolate can cause GI upset such as diarrhea and vomiting. Chocolate can also cause seizures if a large amount is ingested. The high sugar content in

candy is not healthy for your pet and can cause pancreatitis and GI upset such as vomiting and diarrhea. If your pet ingests any candy, please contact your Veterinarian or the emergency veterinary clinic for information on what needs to be done to help your pet.

### **Pumpkin Apple Dog Treats**

A great homemade dog treat recipe!

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 12 Minutes

#### **Ingredients**

4 - 4.5 CUPS of oatmeal, plus additional  
1 medium apple  
1 egg  
1 CUP of canned pumpkin

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Grind the oatmeal down in a food processor or blender. Transfer to mixing bowl.
3. Core apple, being sure to remove all of the seeds.

4. Grate apple, and add to bowl with oatmeal. Add egg and canned pumpkin to bowl and mix well to combine. The mixture will be thick and slightly sticky.
5. On a surface dusted with oatmeal (ground or not, your choice) roll the dough out to approximately 1/2" thick. Use a doggy bone cookie cutter to cut dough into shapes, and transfer to a lined baking sheet.
6. Bake for approximately 12-15 minutes, or until golden and crispy. Allow to cool to room temperature, then store in an airtight container for up to a week.

### **October Monthly Special!!**

#### *Parasite Prevention Month*

10% off of all parasite prevention and fecal parasite exams for this month! Please remember to protect your pet year round by keeping them on their monthly heartworm and parasite protection as well as having a fecal parasite test performed every six months.

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## Common Gastrointestinal Parasites in your Pets

**Roundworms:** This parasite inhabits the small intestine of animals and feeds on ingested food from the host. If there is a large amount of worms in an animal, they can be seen in the feces looking like small pieces of spaghetti. Animals can be infected with roundworms through their mother, ingesting the eggs, or eating a rodent infected with roundworms. Humans can be infected with roundworms as well and can cause a disease called *larva migrans* which is the migrations of young worms through organs of the body such as the liver, lungs, and nervous system. The young worms can also travel to the eye and can cause blindness.

**Hookworms:** This parasite inhabits the small intestine and attaches itself to the wall of the intestine and sucks blood from the host. This can lead to significant blood loss if there is a large amount of hookworms present. Animals can be infected with hookworms through their mother, ingestion of the infective larva that can be found in the soil, or through skin penetration by the infective larva. Humans can also be infected with hookworms and cause a condition called *cutaneous larval migrans* and people may experience itchy skin lesions with snakelike patterns on their skin.

**Tapeworms:** This parasite inhabits the small intestine of animals and feeds on ingested food from the host. Tapeworms break off segments and release them into the feces. Some of these segments can be seen with the naked eye and look like small grains of rice. Animals become infected with tapeworms if they eat tapeworm infected rodents or fleas. Humans can be inadvertently infected with tapeworms if they eat a flea or tapeworm segment.

**Whipworms:** This parasite inhabits the cecum and large intestine of animals and feed on ingested food from the host. The worms burrow their tails into the wall of the cecum or large intestine and leave their head free to feed. Animals are infected by ingesting infective eggs found in the soil. Eggs can last for years in the soil and are very hard to get rid of once they are present.

**Giardia:** This parasite attaches to the small intestine of animals and can cause severe diarrhea. Animals are infected with the parasite by ingesting the parasite from the environment, usually through fecal contaminated water or food. This parasite can infect humans and cause similar symptoms of severe diarrhea.

**Coccidia:** This parasite inhabits the lining of the small intestine of animals and destroys the cells lining the intestine. Coccidia can cause mild to severe diarrhea in young puppies and kittens as well as older animals. Animals become infected with Coccidia by ingestion of the parasite from their environment. Humans can be infected as well and cause similar symptoms of mild to severe diarrhea.

## How do I protect myself and my family from these parasites

The best way to protect yourself from these parasites is to practice good hygiene because not all of these parasites can be controlled with your monthly heartworm and parasite prevention.

Good hygiene means washing your hands thoroughly after picking up your pets feces or after bathing your pet that has loose stool or diarrhea.

Another key factor in protecting yourself and your family is to have a fecal parasite test every 6 months at your Veterinarian to look for the parasites that your pets monthly prevention does not cover.

Our two most commonly purchased monthly preventatives are *Heartguard Plus* and *Interceptor Plus*.

*Heartguard Plus* protects against heartworms, roundworms, and hookworms. *Interceptor Plus* protects against heartworms, roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, and tapeworms.



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