

Flystrike & Heartworm Pet Safety Guide



What you need to know to keep your pets safe while outdoors

WHAT IS FLYSTRIKE?

Fly Strike is a painful condition that most frequently affects outdoor animals in the summer and fall heat. It is an irritation caused by the biting of flies. These fly bites can be found anywhere on the body and are precipitated by moisture on the skin under thick hair. Painful sores will begin to show, appearing red, bloody and crusty.

Prevent fly strike by:

- Keeping your pet out of the summer heat as much as possible.
- Keeping pets' outdoor areas clean by picking up after your animals and remove feces and garbage from the yard.
- Applying ointments or sprays that contain pyrethrins or permethrins daily to repel flies. (SWAT, Fly's-off, Bronco "e" fly spray)

*Always read label and follow manufactures directions when applying to your pet.

HEARTWORM BASICS:

- Heartworms can infect both dogs **AND** cats.
- Heartworms are spread by mosquitos.
- There is **NO** treatment for cats!
 - Heartworm Prevention is available only from your veterinarian.
 - Heartworm Prevention also treats many other intestinal parasites.
 - Heartworm Prevention is much safer than treatment and prevents the severe damage from the heartworms.

The average cost of preventative heartworm treatment is \$5-\$15 per month.

The cost of treating a dog already diagnosed with heartworm ranges between \$400-\$1,000.

The only line of defense for cats against heartworms is prevention as **there is no life-saving treatment for heartworm infected cats.**

*Consult with your veterinarian about the best options for your pet and lifestyle needs.



Contact the Great Plains SPCA HERO Team at HERO@greatplainssPCA.org for assistance providing a pet with proper shelter or if you know of a pet in need. The HERO Team will provide crates and training information for bringing outdoor pets inside, especially during dangerously hot or cold weather.

IF YOU SEE AN ANIMAL IN DISTRESS CALL 911

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