

Our Staff...



Patrick McKee, DVM

Dr. Patrick McKee received his DVM from Oklahoma State University. He practiced in Charlotte for a year before moving to Hendersonville where he practiced emergency medicine prior to purchasing AVAH in 2010. The McKee's family includes a son, two daughters, three dogs & three horses.

Away from work, Doctor McKee enjoys exploring the mountains of North Carolina with his family as well as biking, camping, horseback riding, rafting, fishing, and photography.



Jennifer McKee, DVM

Dr. Jennifer McKee received her DVM from Oklahoma State University. Dr. McKee is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, and the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society. Dr. McKee is also the owner of Apple Valley Equine Mobile Veterinary Services.

In her free time she enjoys camping, kayaking, swimming and spending time with her husband, Patrick McKee, DVM, and their three children, three horses and three dogs.

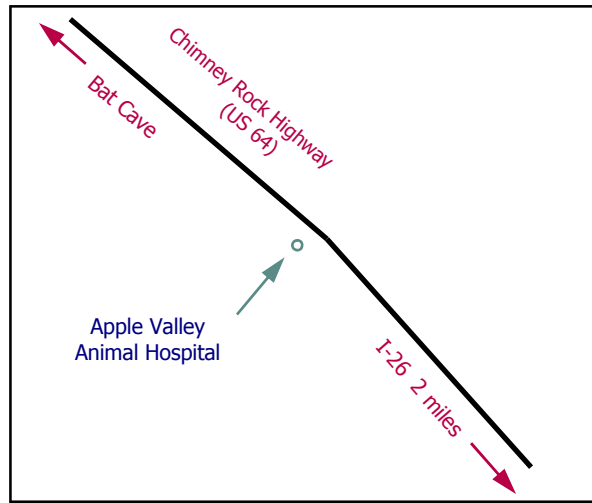
Reception Staff

Our reception staff assures the smooth flow of patients, records and information through the hospital. Teresa and Jane are very knowledgeable and always happy to help you with appointments and product information. Our staff look forward to taking your calls and answering, or getting an answer, to your pet care questions.

Nursing Staff

Dawn and Taylor, our Registered Veterinary Technicians, are responsible for administering the veterinarian's medical orders, maintaining medical histories and the care and comfort of our patients while they are with us. Our nursing staff are required to attend continuing education annually. They are a great source of information and are always happy to help with any pet care questions. They are also quick with a treat and scratch behind the ear to make sure our patient's visits are a good experience.

Directions



Apple Valley Animal Hospital

YOUR OTHER FAMILY DOCTOR



3015 Chimney Rock Road
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Phone: (828) 685-1650

Fax: (828) 685-9774

Email: info@AVvets.com

Website: www.AVvets.com

Hours of operation:

Monday through Friday 7:30a to 5:30p

Saturday 8:00a to 1:00p

Please call 685-1650 to schedule appointments.

Preventing Heartworm Disease



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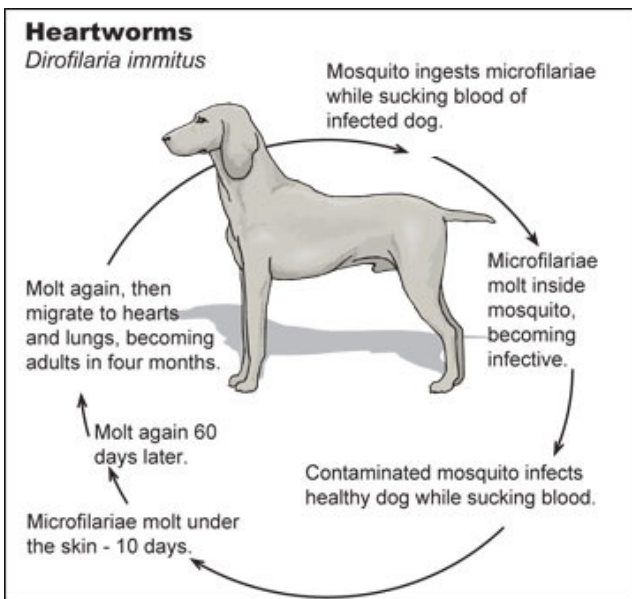
What's the deal with heartworm disease...

The Facts: Heartworm disease is a serious, and potentially fatal disease, transmitted to dogs by mosquitoes and can even be transmitted by infected wild animals such as foxes and coyotes. Three months after being infected with heartworm larvae from an infected mosquito, the larvae mature into worms and enter the bloodstream, and travel to the heart. This causes severe damage to the heart, lungs, and other organs, as well as lung disease, and heart failure in later stages.

In the early stages, heartworm disease generally does not show any symptoms. As the disease progresses, and the worms grow and multiply, signs can include: coughing, a swollen abdomen, and in some severe cases, a blockage may develop in the vessels leading into their heart, which requires immediate surgical removal.

Diagnosis is made by a blood test (usually in office), with confirmation by an outsource lab, followed by a radiograph, to determine the stage of the disease. Heartworm disease can be treated, but it is a very costly and difficult disease to treat.

The best treatment is prevention!



Dr. McKee's Recommendations

After reviewing the safety and efficacy information, Dr. McKee recommends:

Heartgard Plus, from Merial, is a heartworm preventative hidden inside a soft, moist, beef chew. Disguised as a treat, most dogs are happy to take this once a month preventative. Heartgard Plus kills larvae before they can develop into adult heartworms and enter the bloodstream, causing damage to the heart and lungs.

In addition to preventing heartworm disease, Heartgard Plus also contains Pyrantel, which treats and controls Roundworm and Hookworm infections. As with other Merial products, Heartgard Plus comes with their Satisfaction Plus Guarantee.



Trifexis, from Elanco, combines two active ingredients, spinosad and milbemycin oxime to create an "all in one" monthly tablet.

Trifexis prevents heartworm disease, as well as treating and controlling fleas, hookworm, roundworm, and whipworm infections. Trifexis is fast acting, killing fleas in as little as 30 minutes.



Heartworm State of North Carolina



It only takes one mosquito bite to contract heartworm disease.

All dogs should be tested annually for heartworm disease, this is usually done as part of the annual wellness exam. Puppies should be started on heartworm prevention as soon as they are old enough, then tested at 6 months and 1 year old, then annually thereafter. If a dose of prevention is given late, or missed, a dog does need to be re-tested to ensure they have not been infected due to the lapse in preventative.

In the United States, 1 out of 76 dogs test positive for heartworm disease. This rate is even higher in the state of North Carolina at 1 out of 43, due to our warm climate, and mild winters. This translates to 8.25% of all heartworm positive cases in the United States being in North Carolina.

As severe as heartworm disease is, it can only be transmitted by a bite from an infected mosquito. Heartworm disease cannot be transmitted from dog to dog, or from dog to humans.