



# PAH Quarterly

## New Vet at PAH

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Pembroke Animal Hospital now has four enthusiastic, compassionate, and devoted veterinarians to treat your small or large animals. Dr. Fiona Reeve has recently joined our staff and looks forward to meeting you and your pets. Dr. Reeve grew up in Ontario Canada, and then moved to Massachusetts. She graduated from Tufts College of Veterinary Medicine in 2003, and has since focused on small animal medicine and surgery. When she is not at work, Dr. Reeve enjoys playing hockey, and working with her two horses, Derby and Pete, and spending time with her son. Her four-legged family includes two dogs, 3 cats, 2 horses, and 1 turtle.



## Healthy Hydration

As the temperature rises, be sure that you have adequate water available for all of your pets. Don't be surprised if their water intake increases as the weather becomes more hot and humid. A few ways to tell if your animal is hydrated sufficiently are: feel up under their lips, on their gums, and make sure the gums are not sticky and dry, the gums should be moist; gently pinch a small section of skin in an area where there is loose skin, after you let go of the pinch, the skin should go back to laying flat, if it stays pinched up for a delayed period of time, your animal may be dehydrated.

If you take your dog to the beach, remember that salt water is ok for them to drink, but it may only make them more dehydrated with the high salt content. Be sure to bring some fresh water to offer your animal throughout the day.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT SUMMER TIP:** do not, do not, do not, leave your animal in your car that is closed up for any amount of time! Even if you open your windows slightly, that is not enough to keep the car cool enough for a dog. Every summer we treat multiple animals for heat stroke that have been left in a car, even for short periods of time! If you are going somewhere that your animal will not be able to get out of the car, leave them home. They will be happier and safer there!

## Swimmer's Ear

As many of you know, chronic ear issues is often a problem for many dogs. A dog's ear is a dark, moist, warm place which is the perfect environment for bacteria and fungus to inhabit. If your dog swims a lot, or likes to play in the sprinkler, you should try to dry their ears off afterward. A towel rub down, or even a dry cotton ball, can be used to dry off their head area and ears. **DO NOT USE A Q-TIP** in your dog's ears. Their ear drums are very superficial and can be ruptured easily.

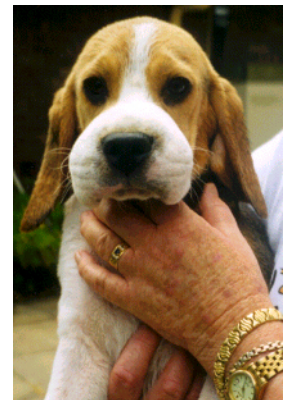
We do carry a new product at PAH called "Swimmer's Ear Astringent" which can be used daily after swimming to aide in drying of the ear canal. If you are concerned that your dog has an ear infection, please set up an appointment with your veterinarian.



## Porcupines & Bees

Two common summer companions to dogs and cats are porcupines and bees. As pictured to the right, porcupine quills are often evident in the muzzle of a dog. This is a common area for a dog to get "quilled" because they are usually sniffing through the woods when they accidentally come across the prickly critters. Or, sometimes the dog may chase the porcupine and try to bite at it, which often means that the dog can get quills in their mouths. With the aide of a set of pliers, owners can often remove the exterior quills with gently pressure. Although many dogs require sedation to remove the quills, as the quills are painful and the dog is nervous. If there are quills in the mouth of your animal, usually they require sedation to be removed.

If your dog or cat comes home with a swollen muzzle or head, like the dog pictured to the right, it may be that your dog encountered a bee sting, or some other insect bite. It is wise to consult your veterinarian regarding any swelling of the head, as we worry about breathing problems. Often the swelling is reduced quickly with over-the-counter Benedryl®, but always contact your vet prior to administering any medication. If you own a large dog, it is helpful to have normal adult size Benedryl® at home, and small dogs usually only need to have the children's Benedryl® at home.



## Lyme Disease & Leptosporosis

Lyme disease is ever present in New Hampshire. The symptoms in dog's include lethargy, swollen joints, swollen lymph nodes, fever, and lameness. There is a blood test we can run in the hospital to determine if your animal has been exposed to the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, which is *Borrelia burgdorferi*. This bacteria can be injected into the dog if bitten by a tick that is carrying the bacteria. The disease in dogs, unlike humans, usually can be treated with a course of antibiotics. There is a vaccine available now that will help protect your dog against the bacteria if exposed. Also, we recommend using flea and tick products monthly from April through December. This double line of defense will give your dog the best protection against Lyme disease.

Leptosporosis is a long name for a bacteria that is shed in the urine of infected dogs and wildlife. The bacteria collects in rivers, ponds, puddles, and streams, so if your dog is a swimmer or drinks from rivers often, you may want to consider the "Lepto" vaccine. This vaccine protects against four strains of the bacteria, which is an improvement over the one strain that it protected against when it was combined in the DHLPP vaccine. Lepto can cause liver failure in an infected dog, and can be fatal. Also, if a dog is infected with the bacteria, this dog may shed the bacteria in it's urine, and any human exposed to the urine, may also develop the disease therefore Leptosporosis is a zoonotic disease. Consider vaccinating your dog to protect them and your family!



## Biosecurity on your Farm

Many farms have particular protocols for their farms, so prior to moving them anywhere, make sure that you check out what is required by that farm. By “requiring” horses to be vaccinated with particular things prior to arriving on a farm, the farm management will decrease the risk of any horses developing disease once on the farm. However, the only way to prevent disease from being brought onto a farm with the arrival of a new horse is quarantine. Every new horse that arrives on a property should be kept away from the current population of horses. By quarantine I mean – no nose-to-nose contact, no shared buckets, no shared air, no shared turn-out. It is ideal to have a separate person clean these stalls, and handle these horses (this is not always possible, but at least handle these horses after all your other chores, and clean your boots and hands thoroughly afterward).

It is recommended to keep a new animal in quarantine for three weeks. The horse may arrive and look perfectly healthy, but it sometimes takes 2-3 weeks after becoming infected with any disease to show symptoms. The horse may have been healthy at the prior location, but the stress of traveling alone can cause a latent infection to become active.

One thing you should **absolutely** require is a negative Coggin’s test, which was run within the last year. Coggin’s tests check for equine infectious anemia, a disease which is spread from animal to animal by any transfer of blood, including biting bugs. It is vital to the health of your horse not to let a positive horse on your farm. Many farms will want a copy of the negative Coggin’s test to keep for their own records.

Some farms will also want a negative fecal exam. This exam will check for parasitic eggs in the horse’s feces. Thus, you will know if you need to deworm the horse prior to turning them out in your paddocks. Many farms will automatically deworm a horse when it arrives on the farm, prior to turning them out on the common pasture.

Vaccine protocol should be discussed with your veterinarian, and will be based on each horse’s individual risk. As a farm owner, the one vaccine you should require is Rabies. This is from a liability standpoint, and all horses can be potentially exposed to a rabid animal while on any farm. Some farms will require a Strangle’s vaccine. Just remember this decreases that horse’s risk of developing the disease while on the farm, but does not necessarily decrease the risk of them bringing the disease onto your farm. Even vaccinated horses can carry diseases, which is why I recommend the quarantine protocol.



**Possible quarantine option**

# Feeding Your Horse

Many questions arise when the topic of what you should feed your horse. Most horse people have very strong opinions about horse feed, and would be happy to tell you about them. Every horse has different nutritional requirements, based on what the horse does for a living, the genetics, and how the horse is stabled. However, with every horse, the largest part of their diet should be roughage, either hay or pasture. Remember that in the wild, there is grain bin, the horse's survive on just grazing. We humans though have limited pasture available to our domesticated horses, and this is why we need to carefully balance their diet. There are many different qualities of hay available, so to be certain what you are feeding your horse, you may choose to have your hay tested for nutrient content. Many horses can live on a **good quality** roughage and not much concentrate (a.k.a.grain). However if your horse is fed grain, make sure you know what is in that grain, i.e. percentage fat, percentage protein, percentage fiber, etc. Again, different horses have different nutrient requirements, so please discuss your horse's diet with your veterinarian. Also, it is important to remember that an overweight horse may be faced with equally as many health issues as an underweight horse. Local seminars regarding horse nutrition, the local grain store, and your veterinarian are all available to offer you information regarding your horse's diet.



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“Meeting all your large and small animal medical and surgical needs”

Drs. Julian, Peck, Alizzeo, and Reeve are available for large and small animal needs. Our facility on Sheep Davis Road services our small animal patients, and Drs. Peck and Alizzeo are available to come to your farm for large animal patients. We do routine surgeries in-house, and are associated with many referral clinics to send our patients to if the necessity arises.

Pembroke Animal Hospital also has boarding and daycare facilities.

Please feel free to contact us at the clinic regarding any information that you may need to ensure your pets health and longevity.