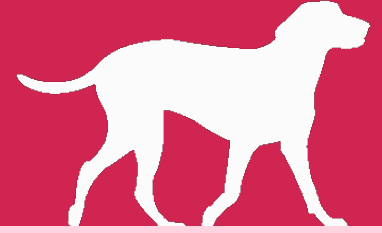


hillsdale veterinary group

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Do You Accept Pet Insurance?

With several companies now offering health insurance coverage for pets, we are often asked if Hillsdale Veterinary Group accepts pet insurance. The simple answer is yes, but pet owners should be aware that there are important differences between pet insurance and human medical insurance. The most obvious difference is that pet insurance companies such as VPI, Pets Best or ASPCA work directly with you (the policyholder) to process claims and benefits. While many human medical offices have an entire staff devoted to this purpose, in the world of veterinary pet insurance this responsibility falls to the pet owner. This means that pet insurance involves a little more work for you as a policyholder; however, this system gives you the freedom to take your pet to any clinic you choose.

What else is different about pet insurance? You do not need to carry an insurance card as you might with your own health insurance policy. Instead, your insurance company will provide you with claim forms which you should bring with you to your pet's appointments. Most claim forms have an area for the veterinarian to write your pet's diagnosis, and many forms require the doctor's signature as well. You will still pay for your pet's care at the time of service, and pet insurance companies require you to attach a copy of your itemized receipt to each claim form. You will then submit the completed claim form to the insurance company for reimbursement. The amount you get back will vary depending on what pet insurance policy you have. The doctors and staff at Hillsdale Veterinary Group are happy to assist you by signing your claim form and providing you with itemized receipts; however, if there are questions or problems with your claim after it is submitted, you should seek assistance from your insurance provider.

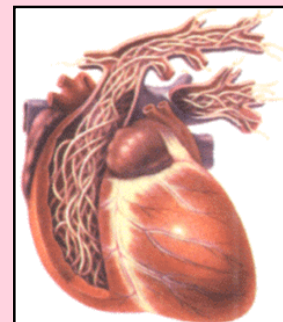
Heartworm:

Is Your Dog Protected?

Heartworm is a blood-borne parasite which infects the right ventricle of the heart and the pulmonary artery of dogs (and occasionally other animals including cats and even humans.) It is transmitted when a dog is bitten by a mosquito that is carrying heartworm larvae. Heartworm disease is a potentially fatal condition and can be difficult and costly to treat. On the other hand, heartworm prevention is safe and effective if carried out properly.

Monthly preventive medications such as Heartgard Plus and Interceptor work not only against heartworm but also against certain intestinal parasites that are transmittable to humans. These medications can be dangerous to dogs that are already infected with heartworm, so it is important to test for heartworm before beginning preventive medication or if there has been a lapse in medication.

Is your dog currently protected against heartworm? If you are unsure, Hillsdale Veterinary Group can help design a prevention program that is right for your canine companion.



Don't Forget!
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