

# hillsdale veterinary group

may 2008



## The Importance of the Annual Fecal

We perform fecal exams to screen for internal parasites that may be infecting your pet. These parasites not only threaten the health of your pet, but some can also be transmitted to other pets and humans. Often pets with internal parasites don't produce obvious signs of illness until later in the disease process, which is why we recommend that each pet has a routine yearly fecal exam.

**Giardia** is a single-celled organism that infects the intestinal tract, and is very common in Portland. Dogs and cats become exposed when they ingest contaminated water, and the resulting infection causes diarrhea. However, many pets carry the disease without showing any symptoms. Chronic infection may cause weight loss and poor condition. Our fecal exams include a Giardia ELISA test which definitively identifies Giardia infection. Pets that test positive are treated with prescription medication. After treating pets for Giardia, we recommend a follow-up fecal exam to ensure that the infection has been completely eliminated.

**Roundworms** are the most common parasitic worms found in cats and dogs, and are common in young animals because of transplacental and milk-borne infection. Eggs are resistant and long-lasting in the environment, are easily acquired by oral-fecal transmission and can be contracted by eating infected rodents. Roundworms can be transmitted to humans, and cause potentially serious eye and intestinal problems. A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 14 percent of the U.S. population is infection with roundworms contracted from dogs and cats. This is yet another reason we recommend yearly fecal exams for all pets.

## Pet Photo Contest Reminder

There's still time to enter our pet photo contest! Eligible photos submitted by June 1<sup>st</sup> may appear on our new website, and will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 credit towards your next visit and a bag of treats for your pet. All photos require a release form on file. To submit photos or request a release form, contact [hillsdalepetphotos@gmail.com](mailto:hillsdalepetphotos@gmail.com).



6359 SW Capitol Highway Portland, OR 97035  
(503) 246-4660 [www.hillsdalevet.com](http://www.hillsdalevet.com)