

BEWARE OF COUNTERFEIT HEARTWORM AND FLEA PRODUCTS!

To our valued clients,

One of the most important things we do for our dogs and cats in Florida is to provide a heartworm preventive. Heartworm prevention is simple, however, the threat of counterfeit heartworm preventatives, even flea and tick preventives, has become an increasing problem. The following are some facts that you may not be aware of:

- The only authorized vendors of these products are veterinarians. Unauthorized retailers, including pet stores, catalogs, and internet pharmacies are not obtaining their products from the manufacturer, as these companies maintain a strict policy of selling products exclusively through practicing licensed veterinarians.
- Only the heartworm preventive you buy from your vet is 100% guaranteed from the manufacturer. This means if there is any product failure, they will pay for the treatment of your pet.
- Internet and catalog goods are second, third or even fourth hand products. During the process of reselling they may have been stored under improper conditions. There is no temperature control and there is no regulatory agency to inspect how these products have been handled. Extreme temperature changes during shipping can dramatically impact the effectiveness of these products.
- Some of the medications being sold from these unauthorized sources are made for foreign markets; these foreign medicines are not approved by the FDA for sale in the United States. They may be materially different from the US products in a number of ways, including their purity and potency. These are not the same products. These counterfeit products are packaged in retail cartons and are designed to look similar to the legitimate preventive. The manufacturers are currently fighting to stop the import of these potentially dangerous and ineffective products.
- We assure you that any prescription, as well as any flea and tick products, at our practice have been inspected and approved by the FDA and have been manufactured and packaged in the United States according to government regulations and have been purchased directly from the manufacturer.

In addition, we want to make caring for your pet as convenient and economical as possible. We pass on manufacturer's promotions, rebates and coupons, which can mean more savings, and if you prefer, we will gladly mail your pet's medication to you at no extra charge.

Your pet's health is of the utmost importance to us. Please feel free to call our office at (727) 822-8501 if you have any questions or concerns.

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