



## Spring and the City



With temperatures barely dipping below freezing this year, New York City has experienced one of the warmest winters on record. Unseasonably mild weather means an unusually early spring season. Buds are growing on trees, flowers are almost in full bloom and even honeybees have begun pollination, well before the official start of spring on March 21.

This abnormal weather system may have an effect on your pet this spring. The mild temperatures this past winter combined with the early, gradual warming of spring may cause an increase in the population of fleas, mosquitos and ticks.

"As temperatures continue to rise and you and your pet spend more time outdoors, it may be a good idea to look at preparing your pet for the upcoming spring season," says Dr. Michael Farber, D.V.M., Owner and Co-Chief of Staff at West Chelsea Veterinary. "You can do this by ensuring your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date and that your pet is on an effective flea, tick and parasite prevention program."

### Vaccinations

Once springtime arrives and more dogs are outside more often, it is extremely important to make sure that all of their vaccinations are up-to-date. Depending on your dog's lifestyle, different vaccines may be suggested to provide your dog or cat with the best protection from viruses and a variety of diseases. Infections like Kennel Cough and Leptospirosis, for example, spread more easily from dog to dog in parks and dog runs once the weather warms up and more of our canine companions come out to play. If your dog is a frequent traveler to places like New York City parks, or to Long Island, upstate New York or Connecticut, you may want to consider vaccinating against Lyme disease. Each pet's needs are a little different, so please feel free to call us if you have any questions about what vaccinations your dog or cat should receive so that they are properly protected this spring and summer.

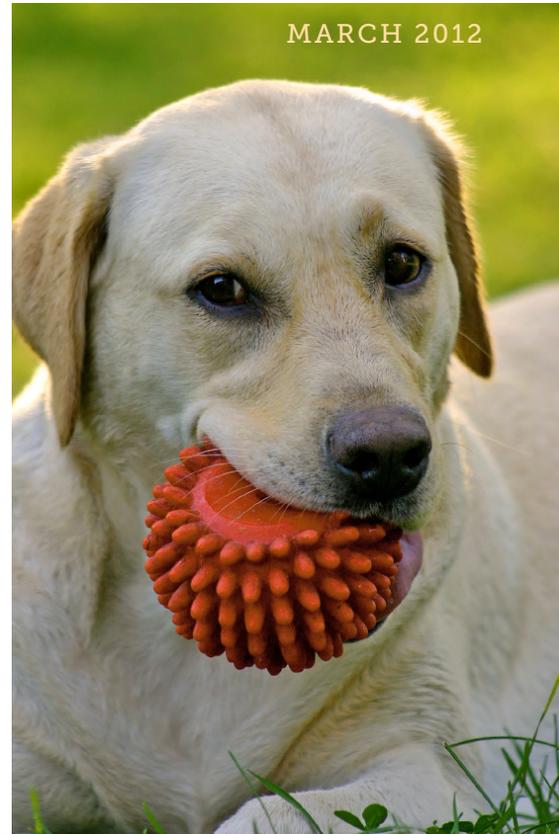
## Prepping your pets for the spring season

### Fleas, Ticks and Other Parasites

Parasite prevention may be more important than ever considering that this past winter was one of the warmest in a long time. Due to the mild temperatures, it is likely that many more parasites survived the winter season and will have a head start on multiplying as early spring continues to heat up the city. Unfortunately, parasites, including fleas, ticks, mosquitoes (of concern because they carry heartworm) and intestinal parasites like hookworm, whipworm, roundworms and tapeworms will have an easier time taking hold this spring season.

To make sure that your pet is adequately protected from external and internal parasites this summer, please feel free to speak to your veterinarian about a prevention program that fits your pet's unique needs. There are a variety of safe and effective products that can help keep your pet comfortable and parasite free this spring.

*Even your indoor apartment cat should be protected with a flea preventative. Unfortunately, common hallways in apartment buildings offer a perfect avenue for fleas to migrate from a passing, infested dog into your living space and onto your cat.*



## Introducing Dr. Caroline Magasweran, D.V.M.



A warm welcome to West Chelsea Veterinary's newest addition to the veterinary team – Dr. Caroline Magasweran, D.V.M. A seasoned globetrotter, Dr. Magasweran has lived in some of the world's most exotic locales, such as France, China and the Caribbean.

Fluent in French, she graduated college from SUNY

Binghamton before studying veterinary medicine at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Magasweran spent her clinical year at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater and completed an internship at New York's BluePearl, a community of hospitals that offers specialty and emergency veterinary medicine, before joining the West Chelsea team in October of 2011.

Today, she calls Manhattan home and lives with her rescued island dog, Optimus Prime, and sassy kitty, Iron Hide.

