Killing the Creeps

It’s Shelby again with Antrim Veterinary Hospital! In the past 2 articles we discussed ticks, the most common diseases they transmit, and how to remove a tick. Today we are going to discuss how to prevent ticks and how to test for those diseases.

Here at Antrim we carry Frontline Gold and Nexgard. They are both made by the same company called Boehringer Ingelheim formally known as Merial. This company we put our faith in and trust. They guarantee all their products if purchased through a veterinarian and their products are proven effective through trials and studies.

Frontline Gold you may have previously known as Frontline Plus. It is a topical product that you apply to your dog monthly starting at the base of their neck and extending to the base of the tail and to for our feline friends just to the back of their neck. It has 3 parasite killing ingredients. This product is not absorbed into the blood stream which makes it one of the safer products. Frontline Gold kills all stages of ticks and remains effective for the full 30 days. The best part about Frontline Gold is the tick does not have to bite your pet to become affected!

Nexgard is a beef flavored chew that you give to your dog monthly. This product is only for dogs and is not for cats. Same as the Frontline Gold, Nexgard is effective against the 4 main ticks and is effective for the full 30 days. Nexgard is great for those pets that get bathed a lot or swim.

The 3 most common diseases that ticks transmit in this area are Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis, and Ehrlichiosis. We recommend testing your pet for these tick-borne diseases annually or anytime there is a suspicion of a tick borne disease. It is possible that your pet may become infected with more than 1 organism and these co-infections tend to be more severe. Fortunately there is a combination test to detect all 3 with just a few drops of blood. The test takes about 10 minutes and can be done right in our hospital.

You cannot keep your pet from being exposed to ticks but you can keep your pet safe by using a monthly preventative. For more information give us a call at 410-751-0091.