



What a year it has been, from major floods to sudden hot temperatures. Hopefully it will settle down and allow us to enjoy a beautiful Coffs Summer! We hope you are all able to enjoy a refreshing time over the Christmas period with your family, friends and wonderful furry/feathery friends. Don't forget that even though we enjoy indulging on some festive foods and drink, some of the things we enjoy are very harmful to our pets. So please avoid sharing your chocolate, alcohol, sultanas (puddings, minced tarts etc) onion, garlic, old seafood, ham, turkey and day old leftovers with them. Hope you enjoy reading our newsletter with plenty of varied and interesting topics and we wish everyone a safe and happy New Year.



Jack Russell Terrier



The Jack Russell Terrier is a small, principally white-bodied (with black or tan markings, smooth or rough-coated) terrier that has its origins in fox hunting. Jack Russells are sturdy and tough. Their body length must be in proportion to the height, presenting a compact, balanced image. Their eyes are almond shaped, dark coloured, full of life and intelligence. Jack Russells are first and foremost a working terrier. Originally bred to bolt foxes from their dens during hunts, they tend to be extremely intelligent, athletic, fearless, and vocal dogs. It is not uncommon for these dogs to become moody or destructive. If they are not properly stimulated and exercised they have a tendency to bore easily and will often create their own fun when left alone to entertain themselves. Obedience classes are also recommended to potential owners as they can be stubborn at times and aggressive if not properly socialised. Despite some of these negative traits Jack Russells are exceptionally loving and intelligent dogs who have the ability to entertain their owners for hours with their comical antics.

Snake Bites In Our Pets



With the warmer weather having arrived it is not only the ticks that we need to worry about with our pets. There are many types of snakes in our local area which are capable of killing cats, dogs and other species with envenomation.

One of the main problems with snake bites is that the amount of venom injected into the "victim" may vary widely and they may have been bitten several times. Hence the final amount of venom injected will quite frequently never be exactly the same. The animal may be fine after being bitten on one occasion, then the next time it may not be so lucky. Most dogs and cats take multiple strikes causing the snake poisoning to be worse than those encountered in human bite victims.

The main aim of any snake is to immobilise its prey. Generally speaking the toxin which will affect the nervous system of the victim will be the most potent. Other toxins which affect the animal include toxins which affect their muscles, clotting system and red blood cells.

When a cat or dog is bitten by a snake and then collapses, vomits, begins to salivate or becomes lethargic but then seemingly recovers it is essential that the animal be seen by a vet **as soon as possible**. Note: Calling ahead is essential to allow for prompt treatment of your pet. The occurrence of the above signs will indicate that the victim has received a lethal dose and requires urgent treatment. Other signs once the animal has been bitten may include:

- Swelling or bleeding from the bite site (most commonly seen in red bellied black snake bites);
- Flaccid paralysis (very similar to signs of tick paralysis), or trembling;
- Vomiting or regurgitation.

If you think your pet has been bitten by a snake you need to contact a vet immediately.



Milo Mackay



Milo the cat presented with severe pain in his hind leg after being attacked by a dog. Sedation and pain relief were needed immediately. Several puncture wounds and severe bruising were found on the hind leg, as well as the hip joint appearing to be out of place. X-rays were taken which confirmed a coxofemoral luxation (dislocated hip joint). Generally if the hip can easily be reduced (popped) into its socket it means that the ligaments have stretched and the hip will constantly re-luxate (pop back out). However if the reduction is difficult there can be a better chance (50%) that the hip will stay in place, but the patient needs to wear a modified sling and be rested for 1-2 weeks.

In Milo's case the hip failed to go back in under general anaesthetic and so surgery was required. In cats and small dogs, a Femoral Head Ostectomy (FHO) is often performed where the head and neck portion of the femur is removed. This is a salvage procedure which is very well tolerated in the smaller patients. The muscles take over the job of support as the hip joint does not exist after removal of the ball part of the femur. The procedure is not suitable for medium to large sized dogs.

Milo was also prescribed two types of antibiotics (due to the severity of the bite wounds) and pain relief. Thus far Milo is reportedly recovering well, although he is now trying to leap off the washing machine and back to hunting outside.

Helpful Hints

Cancer Prevention for Pets

Simple methods to prevent cancer occurring in our pets
Courtesy of Rod Straw Veterinary Oncologist, Brisbane Veterinary Specialist Centre.



1. **Early desexing:** eliminates testicular cancer in males and breast cancer in females (if done before the first heat).
2. **Selecting the right breed:** although no breeds are cancer free, there are increased cancer risks in animals that lack pigment on the nose, ears, eye lids and lips. High risk breeds are Dalmatians, White Bull Terriers and white haired cats. These pets should have limited sun exposure.
3. **Smoke free household:** second hand smoke can increase the risk of lung cancer in both humans and pets.
4. **Timely investigation of any lumps:** staffies and boxers have a higher risk of mast cell tumours.

Puppy Skool Graduates

Congratulations to graduates of our Puppy Skool: Missy Currall, Billy Barby, Bruiser Boston, Chelsea Nolan, Socks Wiebenga, Jafa Lord-Smith, Smokey Smart, Po Wouters, Petals Gibbs, Milo Batty, Lolli Essex, Ava Fernance, Diesel Beh, Halli Corsi, Block Boettiger, Sonny Rae and Mo Bro.



Bruiser

Wonderful Wildlife

Bandicoot

Often confused with rodents, bandicoots are small, omnivorous marsupials. They are found throughout Australia, and are common along the NSW coast. Three species of bandicoot can be found in NSW: long-nosed, southern brown and



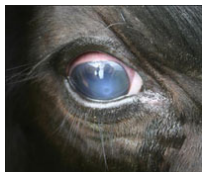
northern brown bandicoots.

The bandicoot averages in length from about 30 to 40cm and weighs 800g depending on the species. Its fur is coarse and may be orange, greyish or brown in colour with soft fur underneath. In some species the fur is striped. Its head is long and narrow with a long

snout, and they have sharp teeth.

Bandicoots can live in a wide variety of habitats. All species are nocturnal and hide during the day in their nest (a hollow log or crevice). Their nests are not permanent and have no defined entrance. Their diet consists mainly of insects, worms, plants, but they also eat lizards and some small mammals, such as mice.

FaKT: Bandicoots are a host animal for **paralysis ticks**.



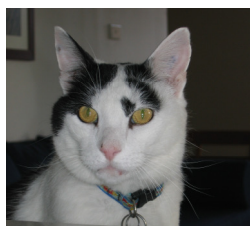
Pinkeye is the most common eye disease seen in cattle. The disease is caused by a bacterial infection of the conjunctiva and cornea with rapid spread between animals with the aid of flies, dust and long grass. Pinkeye is mostly seen during the warm weather of Summer and Autumn and is more severe in younger

Pinkeye in cattle

cattle, particularly those without pigmented eyelids. Brahmans and other tropical breeds of cattle are much less likely to be affected due to genetic and conformational differences. Prevention of pinkeye involves addressing the breed of cattle, controlling fly numbers and reducing the need to yard stock during hot and dusty weather. A vaccine has recently become available and has been well received in the southern states where pinkeye tends to be more severe and cause more economic losses. Severe outbreaks of pinkeye really need to be addressed by consultation with a vet as every situation differs. There is a very effective topical antibiotic available, which is a schedule 4 prescription animal remedy and therefore must be prescribed by a vet.

Staff News

In case you ever wondered if the pets owned by veterinary staff ever get sick or injured, we thought we would let you know of some of our recent events. Fiona's dog broke a leg after being run over. Rob's dog Basil, while waiting for a long overdue haircut went down with tick paralysis. Rob's other dog Middy got run over by a delivery van while minding her own business and sound asleep. Lastly, Julia's cat decided to play upside down on a fence, accidentally getting his leg stuck and dislocating his ankle/hock. All are recovering well, owners included.



With Middy Mills



Hydatids

Hydatids are a species of tapeworm which infest the intestinal tract of dogs, dingoes and foxes. The tapeworm themselves cause no harm to the dog as a host but the intermediate stages are capable of forming cysts in intermediate hosts (such as sheep and humans). The parasite is most common in sheep grazing regions and is probably widespread in wild dog populations throughout the great dividing range. The reason to be aware of this parasite is that the human health implications are potentially very serious. People who are unfortunate enough to be diagnosed with hydatid disease usually require major surgery to remove the parasitic cysts, which often form in the liver or other internal organs. Control and prevention of hydatid tapeworm infestation relies on regular worming of all dogs with appropriate products and preventing dogs access to offal (especially offal of sheep or wallaby origin). As with all zoonotic diseases (those transferred to humans from animals), the single most important preventative step is to always wash hands with warm, soapy water after handling animals and especially prior to eating.

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Moonee Beach Veterinary Surgery
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