



SUMMER NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2020

Bowral Veterinary Hospital

Christmas Conundrums!!

Some common questions at Christmas time!

Can I feed my dog leftovers from Christmas lunch?

There are always tasty treats left over after celebrations around Christmas time. Unfortunately, these are not appropriate treats to share with your pets.

Meats, gravy and other heavy foods are often very rich and high in fats – feeding these to pets can cause vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain. In severe cases, ingestion of these foods can cause a painful inflammatory condition called *pancreatitis*, which can cause significant gastrointestinal signs and require lengthy hospital stays to correct. Similarly, feeding animals left over bones, especially cooked bones can pose a significant risk to pets, risking gastrointestinal obstructions, which requires surgery to correct, or severe inflammatory disorders.



Though tempting to share, it is important to ensure that your pet stays away from table scraps over the holiday period to avoid these problems.

We have guests coming to stay over Christmas and my pet becomes very stressed – how can I manage this?

Christmas is always a busy time for visitors – while we find it exciting having people over, some pets can find it very stressful having new people, noises and smells in the household. Here are some simple ideas for making this time more manageable for our pets

- (1) Make sure your pets have their own space. It is very important to make sure that there is a quiet familiar place that your pet can retreat to if they need some downtime. It is helpful to have a room that they are familiar with, where things like water bowls, food bowls and litter trays can be accessed.
- (2) Educate your guests on how to interact with your pet. Not everyone has experience in how to behave around animals. Introduce your guests to your pet in a calm, controlled environment to reduce anxiety. It is also important to ensure that young children have supervision when around pets that they are unfamiliar with.
- (3) Try and keep feeding / toileting routines normal – this will help to reduce stress and anxiety in your pets
- (4) Be aware of noises and triggers that may upset your animal – and try to minimise them where possible.
- (5) if required, anti-anxiety products like FELIWAY or ADAPTIL, which diffuse natural canine / feline appeasing pheromones, can assist in creating a calm environment for your pet.

Bowral Veterinary Hospital

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Opening Hours:

Monday—Friday 8:30am-5:30pm

Saturday: 9am-1pm

Sunday: 10am-12pm

After hours service:

Veterinary assistance is available 24/7 at Bowral Vets. To contact the on call veterinarian simply phone the clinic and a message will provide you with the on call veterinarians mobile number.

Our Vets:

- Dr Grant Poolman BVSc, MVSc
- Dr Angus Hayes BVSc, MVSc
- Dr Kate Eppleston BVSc (Hons 1)
- Dr Lucy Parker BVSc (merit)
- Dr Sophie May BVetBiol, BVetSc
- Dr Eliza D'Arcy-Moskwa BVSc, B Equine Sc (Hons 1)
- Dr Jodie Donovan BVetBiol, BVetSc

Our Support staff:

- Practice manager—Angela Ireland
- Reception—Emma D'Arcy
- Nurses—Renee Masters-Gilroy, Shanay Toth, Madison Porter, Teresa Harvey, Jasmin Cristian, Margerita Pietilainen, Melissa Rees



My pets are travelling to the coast with me over the Christmas break, what parasite prevention do I need?

If travelling to coastal areas over the Christmas and New Year period, pets are at higher risk of coming into contact with paralysis ticks. There are some simple steps we can take to reduce this risk, including ensuring that your pet is on an effective flea / tick prevention prior to any travel, and carrying out regular tick searches on them to detect any abnormalities.

How to perform a tick search

The best way to perform a tick search is to gently massage through your pet's fur, moving from the head towards the tail in a methodical fashion. Ticks most commonly (though not always) attach to the front half of the body, and can be hiding in skin folds and crevices such as in the ears, and under the lips, so a thorough look is recommended. A tick will usually feel like a small, firm irregularity on the skin's surface. They can be confused with nipples, warts, small lumps and skin tags, so parting the fur when you feel something abnormal to allow a visual assessment is important.

Clinical signs of tick paralysis

Common signs that your pet has come into contact with a tick include: in-coordination, weakness, collapse, vomiting / retching, change of bark or meow, and difficulty breathing.

Prevention is the best cure – tick preventatives

To reduce the likelihood of dealing with tick paralysis over the summer months, ensuring that your pet is up to date with tick prevention is crucial. There are many different forms of tick prevention, some include

- (1) Bravecto® (chewable tablet or spot on)
- (2) Nexgard® / Nexgard Spectra®

Note: when purchasing a product, ALWAYS double check the efficacy against ticks, as not all spot ons, sprays or tableted products will protect against ticks.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Rueben Griggs, Certificate III Animal Studies

Rueben has recently joined our team after spending 20 years in the Australian army. During this time, he completed 2 tours of Afghanistan, and spent 15 of those years as an Explosive Detection Dog Handler.

With the skills and experience he gained in the Army, and his love of dogs, Rueben decided to start a new career as a Vet Nurse, and is currently working towards doing his Certificate III in animal studies, and is then planning on moving on to his Veterinary Nursing Certificate IV studies.



**Margerita Pietilainen
Certificate IV Qualified Veterinary Nurse**

Margerita has been a part-time Veterinary Nurse and Part-time research assistant at Sydney University for the past 10 years.

Margerita has recently joined the team after moving to the area, having previously worked at Colyton Vets. Animals have always been her passion, and she lives happily with her four cats and a German Shepherd.





SPEY DAY AT BOWRAL VET

Desexing female animals (also known as 'speying') is a veterinary surgical procedure commonly performed from 3-6 months of age.

If you aren't planning to breed, speying offers a few benefits

- Preventing unwanted litters
- Reduced risk of pyometra (uterus infection) and mammary cancers
- Prevention of transmitting inherited genetic defects
- Reduced reproductive-related behaviour
- Decreased costs of council registration/permits*

*As of July 2020, cats that have not been desexed by 4 months of age are required to pay an additional annual permit on top of registration in NSW

Ever wondered what happens when you drop your pet off to get desexed?

Despite being considered a "routine" procedure, we always ensure patients receive the highest standard of care.

When your fur baby goes out the back to the treatment room, they get a health check by a vet to assess that they are fit for the procedure. An individualised anaesthetic protocol is then created to ensure adequate sedation and pain relief.

The part of the belly where the incision is made, is then clipped and cleaned to reduce risks of infection. They are moved to a surgical theatre and the procedure is performed using sterile instrument sets and suture material.

They are placed on IV fluids to support the body's system during the procedure.

They are also closely monitored by a nurse using our advanced monitoring equipment to ensure that the heart and lungs are functioning appropriately whilst under the anaesthetic.

After the surgery is over, your pet is given some extra pain-relief and plenty of blankets and cuddles as they wake up from the anaesthetic. We take good care of them until they are standing upright and good to go back home to you!

However, if you do spey your dog, it means we won't be able to see this on ultrasound...

Can you spot the little paw waving at you?

