



SPRING NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2021

# Bowral Veterinary Hospital

## Rat Bait Toxicity

Recently the Highlands has had increasing numbers of mice and rats invading people's homes. While it is not to the plague levels that western NSW is experiencing, there are huge numbers of rat baits being laid in the local area. Many pets are getting accidental exposure to this toxin with serious consequences.

Rat bait toxicity results in a coagulopathy, which means the body can't clot normally and animals bleed internally until they die. The good news is that there is a direct antidote to the toxin which can block its effect until it is out of the system. Many dogs have presented for exposure even when the baits have been hidden in the roof or in bait stations. We have seen the mice or rats pull some of the baits out of the roof, or the dog may even eat the dead rat including the toxin still in its stomach.

Signs to watch out for will vary depending on the dose ingested, size of the pet and type of toxin but may include:

- Pale gum colour in the pet's mouth
- Weakness and collapse
- Swollen abdomen
- Trouble breathing
- Blood in urine, faeces, vomit

As mentioned above, if we catch it early we can sometimes make your dog vomit and give some special powder to minimise the amount of toxin that absorbs into the blood stream. Then we can give the antidote tablet until a blood clotting test shows that your pet has cleared the toxin from its body.



## What's in this seasons newsletter?

1

Rat Bait Toxicity

2

Meet Tim  
Westwood

3

To Breed or  
not to breed

### Bowral Veterinary Hospital

78 Station Street Bowral NSW  
2576

Phone: 4861 1444

Email:

[info@bowralvethospital.com.au](mailto:info@bowralvethospital.com.au)

### 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 Tim Westwood BVSc

### Our Support staff:

- Practice manager—Angela Ireland
- Reception—Emma D'Arcy
- Nurses—Renee Masters-Gilroy, Shanay Toth, Madison Porter, Teresa Harvey, Margerita Pietilainen, Melissa Rees. Sarah Gillies-Klanecek, Erin Freaney

## **Meet our new staff member**

### **Dr Tim Westwood**

Some of our long standing clients would remember Tim from back in 2007. Tim has now returned to Bowral Vets after working in the United Kingdom for 10 years and then at a busy vet hospital in Sydney for 3 years.

Those of you who remember Tim would remember his caring, compassionate, quiet nature and extensive veterinary skill set.



Tim is a pleasure to work with and we are very pleased to have Tim back with us.

#### **Did you know?**

- The flamingo can only eat when its head is upside down
- Apple and pear seeds contain arsenic which may be deadly to dogs
- Alligators can live up to 100 years



## **TO BREED OR NOT TO BREED**

Frequently we are asked by clients who have recently purchased a beautiful new female puppy, “should we let her have a litter of puppies before she is desexed?”

The answer is simple: Only have puppies if you are doing it because you understand what is involved and really want puppies, not just because you think it would be “nice” for you and your dog.

Having puppies is a significant commitment of time and money.

Reasons to have puppies would be if you want to increase your dog numbers, or you have friends wanting puppies like yours. Do not end up with puppies you cannot find a home for.

If the puppies are to be sold and registered then you should become a registered breeder with Dogs NSW and find a registered male dog for your girl, otherwise you will have “unregistered puppies”.

Puppies are usually moved to their new homes at eight weeks of age and must be vaccinated and microchipped prior to rehoming.

Returning to your puppy, no, she does not have a desperate urge to be a mother. If she is not to be bred then she would usually be desexed at six months of age. However, there is a school of thought that larger breeds benefit from growing and developing a little more before desexing. Feel free to discuss this further with your vet at your next visit if you would like more information.

### **Staff Pet Profile**

**Name:** Toby

**Owner:** Kate

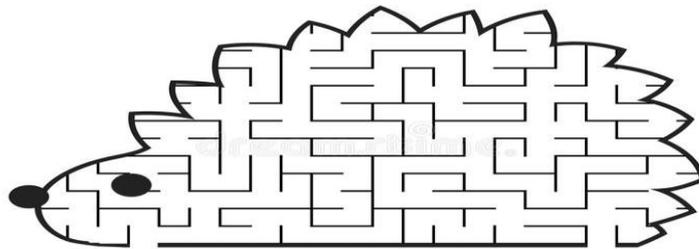
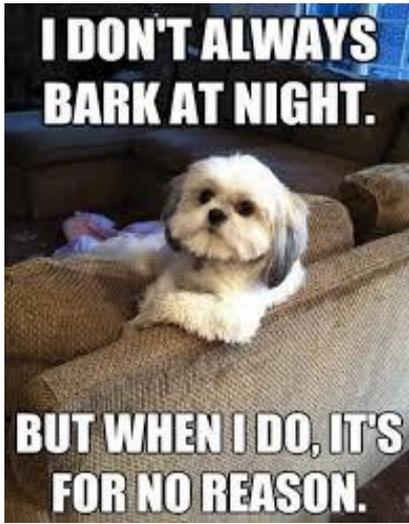
**Breed:** DSH

**Age:** 4 years

**Hobbies:** Eating

**Bad Habits:** Playing soccer under the bed at night





We're on the web!!  
[www.bowralvethospital.com.au](http://www.bowralvethospital.com.au)

