

BOWRAL VETERINARY HOSPITAL

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2009

BUCKLE UP

In the event of a car accident or even a sudden stop an unrestrained pet can be badly injured or cause serious injury to other passengers. Pets feel safer & travel better if restrained. A dog, unless quite small, is best restrained by a car harness that is secured to the seat belt. Alternatively, dogs travelling on the back of vehicles are restrained via two leads to a secure point so they cannot fall from the vehicle. The leads are attached to a snug collar not a check chain. Small dogs and cats travel best in a carry cage that is adequately secured.

Hospital Hours

8.30 – 5.30
Mon – Fri
8.30 – 12noon
Saturday

Consultations

8.30-5.30
Mon – Fri
9.00-12 noon
Saturday
10.00-11.00 am
Sunday

Phone 48611 444

WILD BABY BIRDS

Many young birds found out of the nest are actually better left to be fed and cared for by their parents which are usually close at hand. This applies to altricial birds. These are birds born near naked with their eyes closed and include honeyeaters, parrots, pigeons, insectivores, carnivores and the majority of raptors. The parent birds teach their young how to fly, where to hunt, who to be afraid of, what to eat and where to migrate and therefore it is important where ever possible that these young are kept with the parents. Obviously some birds do need rescuing. Those attacked by dogs or cats, injured by cars or suffer broken limbs need to see a vet. However, if altricial species found on the ground have considerable down or feathers it is likely the parents are watching and a temporary nest can be constructed to keep them safe and protected. This can be easily made from a deep (40-50cm) bucket. Several holes are drilled in the bottom to allow drainage and then leaves and sticks are placed in the bucket. One long stick is left protruding from the top & anchored in one of the drain holes. This gives the baby bird a perch and an ability to crawl out. The bucket is then suspended in a sheltered area as close to possible to where the bird was found and out of reach

of predators and protected from the elements. Observe from a distance to see if the parents return for the bird before dark. If not the fledgling will need to go into care and WIRES can be contacted for this. Remember nocturnal birds like the tawny frogmouth will only return to feed the baby birds in the early hours of the morning. Also note that this system does not apply to precocial species like ducks and plovers as they are born with their eyes open and are able to feed themselves soon after hatching. Check out the example in the waiting room.

DOES YOUR PET NEED A DENTAL ?

Dental disease is a common problem for cats, dogs, rabbits guinea pigs and rodents. Healthy teeth are important for an animal's general well being. Aside from the pain of tooth root disease, damaged teeth and gingivitis(gum infections), the bacteria and toxins associated with dental disease cause bad breath and can have a detrimental effect on the heart and kidneys in particular.

While generally a more common condition of older pets, dental disease can affect the very young (eg gingivitis especially in pure bred cats and retained deciduous or baby teeth) and any age when there is trauma and damage to the tooth.