



MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!

HOSPITAL TOURS

If you have time during your holiday break feel free to drop in for a tour of the hospital.

The staff will be happy to show you around the inner workings of the hospital so you can view the accommodation and some of the daily activities performed 'out back'.

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

ROUTINE VACCINATIONS.

ARE THEY IMPORTANT ???

Traditionally the Southern Highlands have experienced a low incidence of contagious diseases.

Over recent years we have noticed a gradual decline in response to vaccination reminders.

In light of the recent parvovirus outbreaks and bouts of canine cough, it is prudent clients check their pets vaccination status.

In areas of lower incidence of routine vaccination parvovirus has become endemic; meaning large numbers of young and unvaccinated dogs will contract the disease. Parvovirus can be deadly.

We would not like to see an increase in the incidence of disease in this area due to a decline in vaccinations. Please phone the hospital to check your pet's vaccination is current if you are unsure.

HOLIDAY SEASON

May we take this opportunity to wish all our clients, their families and furred & feathered friends a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

The hospital is open between ten and eleven am on all public holidays except Christmas Day. The On Call duty vet can be contacted throughout the holiday period for emergencies by telephoning the hospital for the emergency mobile number.

Don't forget if your pets are leaving the district to holiday with you they should be started on preventative treatment a few days before leaving home. Ticks are best prevented with Frontline, Advantix, Proban or tick collars. These products will help minimize the risk of ticks but are not 100% effective and thorough daily searches should be performed during your holiday and for several days after you return.

Heartworm can be prevented with an annual injection or monthly chews and as heartworm is transmitted by mosquitoes your pet is at risk even if isolated from others.

HOMEOPATHY FOR PETS

Homeopet, makers of Homeopet Anxiety, a homeopathic medicine for the management of fear of fireworks, thunderstorms and travel sickness, have enlisted the Sydney Animal Behavioural Service and Daniel Mills, the UK Specialist in Veterinary Behavioural Medicine, to conduct a multicentric study to trial their product. The triple blinded trial meets the criteria for efficiency evaluation applied to pharmaceutical veterinary medicines and treatments and is the first trial of its kind for natural medicines in Australia.

They are looking for willing clients for the trial to begin in December 07 and January 08.

If you are interested in participating you can register directly at their website by clicking on 'Anxiety Trial' or by phoning Jenny at Sydney Animal Behavioural Services on 02 9949 8511.

We look forward to hearing the outcome of this important trial.

PANCREATITIS

Intestinal upsets are not uncommon around the Christmas period. It often occurs because animals are fed or find fattier or richer food than they are accustomed. Sometimes even a change in diet is enough to cause vomiting and diarrhoea.

A simple upset can settle within twenty fours if the pet is fasted and small amounts of water given. However protracted or ongoing vomiting and/or diarrhoea are cause for concern. Pancreatitis can be a severe condition where inflammation of the pancreas, often in response to being fed left over ham etc, can cause protracted vomiting and dehydration, abdominal pain and jaundice. While rare, haemorrhagic pancreatitis can result in death. So please, even if they beg for it be careful not to indulge your pets this Christmas. A raw bone trimmed of fat or a new toy to play with will be equally appreciated and much safer.

PETS FOR CHRISTMAS

'A pet is for life not just for Christmas'

While often it would seem a great idea to give a pet as a Christmas gift, it often results in unhappiness.

Many puppies, kittens, mice and birds given as Christmas gifts are dumped soon after. This is not usually because people are mean and uncaring but often because circumstances mean the pet is inappropriate.

A lot of thought should go into the purchasing of a pet. Do you have time? Is it the most appropriate pet for your family and lifestyle?

Can you afford boarding or have someone appropriate to care for your pet when you go on holidays? Do you have time to train it when this time of year is notoriously busy?

Only the pet owner can honestly answer these questions and therefore pets should not be gifts without consultation with the new owner.

This is probably a good opportunity to highlight some of the considerations when acquiring a new pet.

Do you have the time and space to adequately care for your pet both physically and emotionally. Dogs require a lot more of your time with physical exercise than say a bird or cat but all these species need plenty of your time for mental stimulation and general health care.

Unfortunately, pets do cost money. Everyone should consider the financial commitments of a pet. Food, vaccinations, desexing, training, boarding and possible unexpected veterinary visits can add up during the life of your pet. This increases if you have multiple pets.

Obviously keeping your pet out of harms way in a safe protected environment can reduce the chances of physical injury but illness can strike at any time. While there is pet health insurance most pet owners will have some unexpected bills and need to be in a position to afford them.

We do not want to discourage pet ownership. Pets are wonderful company, teach responsibility & improve our health but owning one is not a decision to be made lightly.