



THE PET GAZETTE

Brought to You by FLOREAT VETERINARY CENTRE

Ph: **9383 7773**

Visit Our Web Page on:
www.floreatvet.com.au

HOURS OF BUSINESS

Mon-Fri.....8.00am -7.00pm
Saturday.....8.00am - 5.00pm
Sun & Pub. Holidays.....10.00am - 5.00pm

CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT

Dr. Don Stewart Dr. Rebecca Vaughan
Dr. Greg Gale Dr. Nicole Laing

438 CAMBRIDGE STREET
FLOREAT PARK W.A. 6014

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Summer Heat

We all long for summer weather, but for your pet sizzling summer days can be distressing. During summer, pet owners must take special precautions to ensure that their pets are adequately catered for when temperatures sour.

All domestic pets should have access to cool, shady areas. For dogs and cats this can be large, thick folliaged trees, or wide verandahs.

In the case of other pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs or birds, the cage must never be in direct sunlight. Be particularly careful with bird cages and aquariums near windows where the sun may stream in as this may become hot enough to be dangerous to the pets wellbeing. Be aware of shade movements throughout the day.

All animals must have an adequate supply of cool, clean water. During the summer, like humans, pets drink more water than in winter.

Never leave pets in a car as even in the shade temperatures within cars can cause death from heat exhaustion in a very short time. Just leaving windows down does NOT prevent the temperature from rising.

Animals suffering from heat exhaustion will pant, lie on their side, be listless and disoriented. In severe cases they may become unconscious. If you think your pet is suffering from heat exhaustion it must be cooled promptly. Put the animal in a cool and shady area. Damp it down with tepid water (never ice) and fan the animal. Contact us then bring the animal in, but not in a hot car, make sure the vehicle is air conditioned or is cool and airy. Keep the animal damp with cool air playing over its body during the car trip. If the animal is conscious offer cool, not cold, drinking water. Do not allow the animal to gulp large amounts of water.

Old animals and the very young are more susceptible to heat and should be provided with special care during hot weather.

All the staff wish all our clients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2005

JOY

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SUMMER ISSUE





Pet Viruses

Parvovirus Gastroenteritis

Parvovirus is a potentially fatal disease of dogs. The virus causes damage to the intestine resulting in bleeding from the intestine, bloody diarrhoea, vomiting and severe depression. The virus also affects the immune system, reducing the dog's ability to resist other infections.

Parvovirus is an extremely strong virus and can live off the dog for up to several months in the right conditions of warmth. The virus therefore does not need to be passed directly from a sick dog to a healthy one but can be passed without direct contact. Isolating dogs will not prevent them from getting parvovirus and in the right conditions infection can reach epidemic proportions.

Death occurs in dogs with parvovirus due to dehydration brought on by the vomiting and diarrhoea and sometimes due to other infections such as bacterial pneumonia.

Treatment involves preventing dehydration by administering fluids

intravenously, with antibiotics and vitamins. Some dogs need medication to stop the vomiting, as well as painkillers. The above treatment is intensive care and must be given in hospital and in severe cases is the only treatment option. Affected dogs can be in hospital for up to 10-14 days although the average is 5-7 days.

Because of the highly contagious nature of parvovirus, every effort must be made to disinfect the areas in the home where the dog has been. The virus has an incubation period (the time from infection to illness) of 5-7 days. All dogs in contact with the infected dog should be observed for signs of illness for 5 days and if they do not fall ill they should be given a vaccination booster.

Puppies should be vaccinated as per recommendations and regular boosters are needed to maintain protection, especially in the summer. Even dogs which have recovered from parvovirus must receive regular boosters.

Feline Infectious Enteritis

This virus is very similar to the Parvovirus in dogs. The virus is very resistant in the environment and resists most disinfectants.

The virus attacks the rapidly dividing cells in the cats intestines and sometimes in the bone marrow. It causes vomiting, diarrhoea, depression and death if untreated.

Mortality rates are high in the younger cats due to low levels of immunity.

Pregnant cats if infected can transmit the virus into the unborn kitten causing brain damage, abortion or foetal abnormalities.

Treatment is required urgently as dehydration and shock will cause death quickly.

There is no specific treatment, so supportive care in the form of intravenous fluids and antibiotics with good nursing is required.

Vaccination is safe and easy, providing nearly 100 % protection to the young cat. Yearly vaccinations ensure continued protection against the disease.

Microchipping Your Pet

GIVE YOUR PET AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT THAT COULD SAVE HIS LIFE

As the holiday season is fast approaching, it's a good time of year to microchip your pet. Whether you take your pet with you on holidays, or organise a trustworthy pet sitter, it will give you great peace of mind to know that your pet has a form of identification that he can't slip over his head (like a collar or tag) and lose. The first question we ask clients when they ring to report a missing pet is 'did your pet have any identification on?' And the most common answer is yes he had a collar and tag but we removed it last week just before we gave him a bath. Or yes, but he slipped out of it when he escaped under the fence.

Another common answer is that the tag has worn out and is no longer readable. So our advice to all pet owners is to microchip your pet before a situation like that arises.

Implanting your pet with a microchip only takes about 10 minutes and is a procedure that only needs to be done once. The rice-sized chip is implanted between your pet's shoulder blades under loose skin and will remain there for the rest of your pet's life. The chip contains all of your personal details on it, all of your pet's details, an alternative contact (like your neighbour or friend, and all of the Floreat Vet Centre details to ensure someone can be contacted at all times. All this information goes into an international database, which can be

accessed 24 hours a day. If you move, all we do is inform the register of the new information and change it on the database. The chip never has to be removed.

As an added bonus to the benefits of microchipping your pet we are running a competition for all pet owners. If you microchip your cat or dog before 24th December, you will be placed into a draw to win a pet hamper worth over \$300.00 right in time for Christmas. The hamper includes a Vaccination voucher, a 3kg bag of premium pet food, 6 months of flea control, shampoo, a year's supply of worming tablets and lots more.

Please contact us on 9383 7773 to book your microchip appointment.

A New Christmas Puppy



The excitement of receiving a new puppy for Christmas is often dampened by the morning after when the family have suffered disturbed sleep.

Puppies usually go to new homes at the age of eight weeks when they have had their first vaccinations, and until this age have had the company of brothers and sisters to snuggle up to for company and warmth.

The first day in the new home the puppy is cuddled, played with and made the centre of attention. Life is wonderful. At some point during the evening the family will put the puppy to bed, usually in a shed, garage or laundry, turn off the lights and go to bed themselves. The house becomes quiet. Imagine how the puppy feels, alone and with no warm brother or sister next to it. It is a natural reaction for the puppy to cry and whine to register a protest and the usual result is that of the human family will stagger out of bed to console it for a few minutes and then shut the door and go back to bed. The pup will continue to cry, often louder and again someone will come to console or even to chastise it.

The pup has learnt its first lesson - cry and you are rewarded with

company, if only momentarily. Dogs learn fastest by rewarding them for certain actions and continuing to go to the crying puppy will reinforce the lesson that crying brings company.

Hearts must be hardened for the pups first night home. The decision must be made as to where the pup is going to sleep and the area made ready for it. The area must not be too large, remember that the pup is used to having other bodies close to it. The area must be warm and cosy (in the cooler climates) and bedding must be provided.

A radio may be left playing out of the pup's reach to provide some comforting noises during the silence of the household. An old soft toy serves as a soft body to snuggle, but remember to remove any parts such as plastic eyes and nose which the pup may chew.

Supper should be given and the pup taken outside to relieve itself and then it should be put to bed with a kind word.

The crying will commence softly at first but may build up to a crescendo as the pup calls louder. With a bit of luck it may cease after a short time, but some pups will continue for the first night. Remember that if at anytime you go to the pup, you have rewarded the behaviour and you will have to start all

over again. Naturally you must be sure that the pup is not stuck or hurt, but you will recognise the difference in the crying.

It is natural that the pup will wake early in the morning and you should be ready to be greeted with exuberance and to respond with love and cuddles.

First thing, put the pup out to relieve itself, lavish it with praise for "performing" and then serve puppy breakfast after which, outside for toilet opportunities again, and then you are ready to spend the second day with your new best friend.



THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU INTRODUCE A PET INTO YOUR FAMILY AND REMEMBER A PET IS FOR LIFE NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS

Spraying in Cats

Male cats that are not desexed will spray to mark territory. If a desexed cat starts spraying or urinating other than in the litter box, bring him in for a checkup to determine if there are any medical problems. If there are no underlying medical problems some solutions are:

- Prevent other cats from coming around the house.
- Make sure the litter box is immaculate but do not clean it with disinfectants.
- Prevent overcrowding in multi cat households and provide more than one litter box.

• Catch the cat 'in the act' and squirt with a water pistol.

Cats will be likely to return to previously soiled areas, so you will need to remove the odour.

Never use cleansers containing ammonia as this will attract the cat to the spot. Carpets should be cleaned with carpet shampoo, then soaked with club soda for ten minutes and blotted dry. ☹

Concrete and timber floors will be more difficult to clean, and you should seek advice from cleaning services.

Enzyme products are available which help remove the odour. Please ask one of

our staff members for further information.



Cat spraying can be a problem with house-bound cats, but there are some solutions.



Colour-in Competition

**A HEALTHY PET IS
A HAPPY PET**



NAME: _____ AGE: _____ PH: _____ PET: _____

After Hours Emergencies

Our pets don't always get sick or injured during business hours and it is important that you know whom you can call when we are closed.

For after hours services we recommend you contact the **Northern Suburbs Emergency Centre** (Erindale road, Balcatta) on 9344 2341 or the **Mosman Park After Hours Service**

(Stirling Hwy, Mosman Park) on 9383 2285

Currently the Northern Suburbs Clinic runs 24 hours, while Mosman Park runs only until midnight.

Murdoch University Emergency on 9360 2494 also provides all night after hours service and Mosman Park refers all calls after midnight to Murdoch University.

COMPETITION DETAILS

Colour in the picture and bring it into the clinic before 31st January 2005 to go into the draw to win some great prizes for your pet!!