

Summer Newsletter



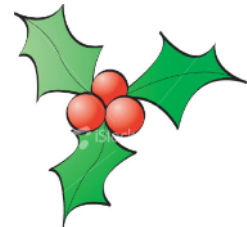
December 2007 - February 2008.



All The Staff at Warby Street Veterinary Hospital
would like to wish you and your family,

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR IN 2008!

We look forward to seeing you and your pets in the
New Year!



Equine influenza Update

Since the outbreak of Equine Influenza in August this year there have been over 15,000 horses affected in NSW and QLD. Victoria remains free of EI and there are encouraging signs in NSW and QLD that the disease is receding. It is important that horse owners continue to be vigilant with hygiene and be on the lookout for possible signs of equine flu.

Movement Restrictions: Movement of horses into Victoria from red, purple and amber zones in QLD and NSW is still prohibited. Procedures are being put into place to assist non-racing Victorian horses that are currently stranded in the green zone. Movement of horse products including reproductive material, vehicles and equipment into Victoria from NSW or QLD is still prohibited unless under permit.

Vaccination protocol: All vaccinations are being used for the eradication campaign only, there is currently no proposal for general vaccination of the horse population. Vaccination without the approval of the Chief Veterinary Officer remains illegal. Owners must remember that vaccinated horses can still be infected, carry the virus and may infect other horses or be a source of contamination. The vaccine simply acts to reduce the severity of infection and excretion of the virus thus limiting the spread of the disease.

It is important to note that although the risk of contamination from the infected population has diminished considerably, there is an increased possibility for transfer of the virus out of infected zones through movement of people over the Christmas/New Year period. Vigilance need to be maintained! For more information regarding the current EI situation, go to www.dpi.vic.gov.au and click on Equine Influenza.

Pinkeye and the New Vaccination!

Hallelujah! There is now a vaccine available to reduce the incidence and severity of pinkeye in cattle. Below is some brief information on pinkeye and the new vaccination.

Pinkeye Overview

The primary infectious agent of pink eye is *Moraxella bovis* which attaches to the surface of the eye and damages it by producing toxins that erode the cornea and cause ulceration and severe inflammation.

Predisposing Factors

- Flies- responsible for the spread of bacteria between animals.
- UV light- sensitises and damages the cornea.
- Long grass- physical damage to the eye and can cause transmission.
- Dust- irritates eyes and assists spread.
- Overcrowding- yard weaning and congregating for drought feeding aids transmission.

The clinical signs of pinkeye are a watery eye that progresses to a cloudy, sometimes pink, sometimes yellow eye with corneal ulceration. Some cases will resolve without any damage, other cases cause permanent blindness.

Prevention is centred on management factors, to limit flies and the exposure of susceptible cattle to dusty conditions and infected animals. There is now a vaccine available from your vet that will aid in the prevention and minimise clinical signs.

Pinkeye Vaccination

The new vaccine is the only commercially available vaccine against *Moraxella bovis* causing pink-eye. It blocks the attachment of the bacteria to the cornea and prevents infection. The vaccine is a single dose injection given subcutaneously or into the muscle. Animals should be vaccinated 3-6 weeks before the expected pinkeye season begins. Annual vaccination is recommended and calves as young as 1 week of age can be vaccinated. Below is some guidelines regarding timing of vaccination;

Type of Herd	When to Vaccinate
Spring Calving	Vaccinate calves 3-6 weeks before pinkeye onset. Around the North East this should coincide with calf marking.
Autumn Calving	Vaccinate calves 3-6 weeks before pinkeye onset. If yard weaning is practised, calves should be vaccinated 2-6 weeks before weaning to prevent pinkeye.
Heifers	3-6 weeks before the onset of pinkeye season.
Naïve Herd	All adult cattle and young stock should be vaccinated. 3-6 weeks before the onset of pinkeye season.

Advantages of the vaccine

- Incidence and severity reduced, therefore reducing suffering and production losses.
- Reduces use of antibiotics, therefore reducing bacterial resistance or antibiotic residue.
- Can be administered at convenient times, so you don't need to yard cattle during hot dusty conditions to treat cases. Reduces the risk of transmission.
- There is a nil withholding period for meat and milk with the vaccine.

For further information on the pinkeye vaccination, please contact us at Warby Street Veterinary Hospital. More information can be found at the following websites;
www.pinkeye.com.au, www.coopersanimalhealth.com.au

Newsletters online

Would you like to receive our quarterly newsletters via Email?

If so, fill out the form below and drop it in to us at Warby Street.

Name:
(first name) (surname)

Postal Address:

Email Address:



Heat Stress

The hot weather has started around the region and will only continue to get hotter as we head into Summer. This means you need to be thinking about heat stress in your pets. Heat stress occurs when animals are unable to maintain the normal body temperature in hot weather. Unless treated quickly, heat stress can cause permanent injury to vital organs and possible death.

All animals can be affected with heat stress, but short nosed breeds, such as Bull Dogs, Pugs and Boxers are more susceptible due to their respiratory tract structure. Heat stress is also more likely in animals with a pre-existing disease, such as cardiovascular disease, fever from infection, obesity and upper airway disease.

What signs will I see?

Initially you will see an increase in activity associated with panting and barking as your dog becomes agitated. As the heat stress progresses, panting becomes excessive and laboured and your dog will not be able to breathe properly. Dogs will also drool excessively and may vomit or have bloody diarrhoea. If this is allowed to continue, your dog will suffer collapse of the circulatory system, its gums will go blue and it may lose consciousness or die.

Cats achieve heat loss on hot days by licking their paws and spreading the saliva over their extremities. In hot weather a cat may not be able to produce enough saliva to provide heat loss and this is when they become affected. Cats will also pant and become agitated when affected by heat stress.

Avoiding Heat Stress.

- Never leave a dog or cat confined in a hot house or shed. NEVER leave animals unattended in cars!
- Provide copious quantities of cool, clean drinking water and ensure the container cannot be knocked over easily. Don't leave containers in the sun.
- Trim or clip the coat of long-haired dogs and cats, particularly if they are middle-aged or older.
- Only exercise dogs in the cool of the morning or evening.
- Use the hose regularly to keep your dog cool, gentle hosing on the neck is the most effective way of alleviating heat stress.

What do I do if my pet is suffering from heat stress?

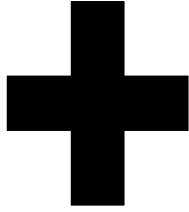
- Place your pet in a cool bath or hose it down.
- Place ice packs over large blood vessels, over the inside of the upper hind leg and over the neck.
- Cover the body with a wet towel and place in the path of a fan.
- Contact and transport your pet to the vet covered in soaking towels and ice packs,

Microchipping

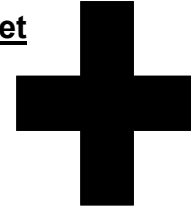
Microchipping is now compulsory for all new council registrations. It's also a great idea, your pet can't lose a microchip!!

Warby Street has a discount for microchips at the moment,

\$31.50 that's \$25 off!!



Emergency and First Aid for your Pet



What are the significant signs to look for?

- Airway- is the airway open?
- Breathing- depth and speed of breaths?
- Circulation- any bleeding? What colour are the gums?
- Check heart rate if you can- hand over base of chest or on inside of hindleg.
- Limping? Broken bones?

These are important facts that a vet will want to know, if you can give the vet this information straight away, it will save vital time.

Certain Common Problems

a) Fight: If your pet is stable, clean wounds and apply pressure to any that are bleeding significantly. Call the vet, bite wounds are often much deeper and damaging than they seem. Cat fight wounds will often cause abscesses.

b) Bleeding: Cold compress, e.g. rag or towel and apply enough pressure for long enough to stop bleeding. If bleeding continues despite pressure, veterinary attention is required immediately.

c) Grass Seed Abscesses: Nasty things that can penetrate any part of the body! Common places they are seen are feet, ears, under skin and nose. They cause infection which needs to be treated by a vet who will drain the abscess and remove the seed. If your pet walks often in long grass, check them regularly for grass seeds and remove them.

d) Burns: Any major burns need immediate veterinary attention as animals often go into shock. For minor burns, apply cool running water to the area. Burns become infected easily so it is a good idea to have them checked by a vet. Sunburn is easily prevented using 30+ sunscreen on susceptible areas such as the stomach, nose and ears.

e) Stings: Your pet may either be stung or swallow an insect which can cause an allergic reaction. Allergic reactions show as swelling of the area and maybe face and ears as well, watering of the eyes and nose and possible respiratory distress. Seek veterinary advice immediately and in the meantime, keep your pet cool and the airway clear.

f) Snakebite: Common signs include shaking, vomiting, dilated (large) pupils. All snakebites require veterinary attention immediately. 99% of dogs will die without anti-venom.

g) Sunstroke: Common here in the warmer months of the year. Excessive panting, dehydration, dizziness and collapse are all signs. You need to passively cool your pet down. Place in the shade and apply cool wet cloths, small sips of cool water. A fan will also help.

h) Seizuring: Don't panic, keep the airway clear. Clear objects out of the way so they don't hurt themselves. Seizuring can be caused by poisons, snakebite and epilepsy. Call the vet and give them as much information as possible.

“King Valley Run”

A service provided every **Tuesday** charging **TRAVEL fees** from Glenrowan, Greta, Moyhu or Milawa.

“Beechworth & Myrtleford Valley Run”

A service provided every **Thursday** charging **TRAVEL fees** from Markwood, Everton, Beechworth and Myrtleford