

Winter Newsletter



June - August 2008.



As the season has started to change again and the cold weather is starting to bite it is time for another Warby St Vet Hospital Newsletter.

It is a good time to get your pets in out of the weather to help them escape the winter chill and problems like arthritis that come along with it. If your pet is suffering from aches and pains why not bring them in for a check-up.

Flea Prevention in Winter

Many people believe that fleas are not a problem over the winter months and therefore stop their flea prevention treatments. Sadly this is not the case with fleas being a year round risk. This is especially true if your pets are allowed into your warm home over the colder months. The warmth of your house provides a perfect environment for fleas to live and breed in. Fleas cause itchiness in your pets and can also affect humans in the home.

It has been shown that 95% of the flea population is found in the environment rather than on the dog. If pets are not treated for fleas during the winter months this population of flea eggs and larvae in your home can grow significantly and produce a great problem for you and your pets.

We recommend that all dogs and cats are treated once every month with a spot-on treatment such as Advantage or Frontline. These treatments work in three ways. Firstly they begin to kill fleas on the animal almost immediately. Secondly they continue to kill fleas on the animal for 1 month after the application. And, finally they kill fleas in the dog or cat's environment as the active agent is shed in their fur and dead skin cells. This triple action is what makes these products the most effective for controlling the flea population in your home.

To restart flea prevention you should start by treating all animals with Frontline or Advantage and continue to do this every month, all year. You should then wash thoroughly or replace all your animal's bedding and vacuum your house and furniture thoroughly. Finally if you have a significant flea problem in your home it is a good idea to "flea bomb" the house to kill off the eggs, larvae and fleas in the environment.

These strategies should help to keep your pets and your home flea free all year round.

MICROCHIPPING

Microchipping is now mandatory for all new registrations in Wangaratta
Microchipping is on special for **\$31.50** at present, a saving of **45%**

Understanding Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV)

BVDV, also known as bovine pestivirus is now recognized as an insidious cause of production losses in the beef and dairy industries in Australia. It is estimated that one can expect losses between 20-50% in recently infected herds. It is also estimated that in Australian feedlots 53% of losses are caused by a combination of infection with BVDV and Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) complex.

Although infection is widespread, with 90% of Australian herds showing evidence of past exposure, it may not always be apparent to veterinarians and producers that it is the actual cause of the underlying losses. This is because the virus can manifest with a wide spectrum of clinical presentations with the majority resulting from the reproductive and immunosuppressive effects. Other presentations include diarrhoea, which despite the name of the virus, is a much rarer presentation and mucosal disease which is also a relatively uncommon consequence. The main significance of mucosal disease however is its distinction from Foot and Mouth, as it can be clinically identical. The greatest impact on the beef and dairy herds are a result of poor reproductive performance and decreased growth rates.

Cattle acquire the virus most effectively through direct contact with an infected individual. Once infected, the expression of disease is varied depending on the reproductive and immunological status of the cattle. The reproductive impact differs greatly depending on the stage of pregnancy that the female is infected and includes abortion with delayed return to service, congenital defects or even poorly doing calves. A cow infected in the first trimester is quite significant as the calf may become immunologically tolerant to the virus and shed a high number of virus particles within your herd persistently. These calves are called PI's or persistently infected calves which may succumb to mucosal disease and die within the first 18 months or survive as 'hidden transmitters'.

It is possible to test the BVDV status of your herd with serum testing for the presence of antibodies or testing whole blood for the presence of the virus itself. If you wish to have your herd tested it is recommended that you have at least 24 animals sampled with 8 from heifers at the time of mating, 8 cows without calves and 8 calves. It is also a good idea to test the bulls. This will give you a good idea of your herd status. There is a vaccination available and this is the most effective way to ensure that your herd has the best possible protection by reducing the chance of persistently infected animals remaining in the herd. The vaccine is called pestiguard and is available for use in Australia.



“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



1080 Poisoning close to Wangaratta township

On a Sunday in June we received a call to the vet hospital afterhours, from a very distressed dog owner. Their dog had just died after going for a walk along 15 mile creek at the back of Wangaratta behind Phillipson Street. The dog had done its usual fossicking whilst on the walk, and then after returning home, had proceeded to be extremely agitated, started frothing at the mouth, had some uncontrollable running, then fitted and died before they had a chance to phone us at the vet clinic. The symptoms described of the death are typical of “1080” poisoning. “1080” or “sodium monoflouracetate” is an odourless, tasteless fluffy white powder which is extremely poisonous.

“1080” is still used on farms to kill rabbits, and its use is sanctioned even in the Warby State Park from time to time to help control vermin. Usually farmers have used “1080” to kill rabbits by laying free carrots out for a few days, and then once the rabbits are trained to their free feed of carrot, they lace the carrots with “1080”. This helps target the rabbits and not other wildlife. The problem is that “1080” is so potent a poison, it only takes a “pin head” of “1080” to kill a dog. In fact, dogs are twice as susceptible as rabbits to the poison. The active ingredient is ingested, and then metabolised inside the animal to the toxic poison. Hence death is not immediate, but takes an hour or so. All mammals are susceptible and horses died 3 years ago near Springhurst.

Possibly our dog that died so close to Wangaratta may have ingested part of a dead rabbit. Maybe a dog or a fox dragged the rabbit carcass into town along the creek. We will never know the full story.

However all dog owners should be vigilant when walking dogs and try and avoid dogs chewing pieces of dead carcasses.

Many people believe any use of “1080” is causing inhumane death. Recently licensing has become much more controlled and users of the poison need a users certificate.

Why Not Get Your Pet Desexed Now?!

The RSPCA is currently subsidising our routine desexing!

\$25 off male desexing

\$30 off female desexing

Please call the clinic on 5721 7177 to book you pet in!

Thankyou to the RSPCA for their wonderful support.

Equine Update.

Mares in Late Pregnancy :



FEEDING: Nutritional requirements of the mare increase by 20-30% during the last 3 months of pregnancy. As the mare approaches the end of her pregnancy she should be in good body condition, but not too fat. An overweight mare may have trouble foaling and may also be slow to come into season after the foal is born.

RUGGING: The brood mare should be rugged over winter. Keeping warm will help her to maintain body condition.

VACCINATIONS: The pregnant mare should be vaccinated for Tetanus and Strangles about a month prior to foaling. Most studs will actually require brood mares to be vaccinated and may even ask for additional Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) 1 and 4 vaccinations. Mares should also be wormed one month prior to foaling to help prevent infection of the foal.

CASLICKS: If your mare has had a Caslick (Stitching the top of the vulval lips together to prevent uterine infections) it will need to be removed by a veterinarian before foaling.

PREMATURE FOAL LOSS: Abortion can have many causes and seems to be more prevalent as the mare gets older. Various bacteria can cause endometritis (uterine infections) that can lead to embryo mortality or abortion. Apart from bacterial endometritis, abortion can also be caused by viruses, fungal infections or twinning. Some mares will show signs of abortion before it occurs, such as dripping of milk prematurely or a vulval discharge. Other mares may abort without warning. If you are worried about abnormal signs in your mare during pregnancy please contact us for advice.

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: