



**32 Warby Street
Wangaratta**

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Consult Hours

Monday/Friday
9:00am—6:00pm

Saturday
8:00am—12:00pm

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Get to know Ellie

Dr Ellie Merritt commenced at Warby Street Veterinary Hospital in August 2019 after graduating as a Veterinary Surgeon from Charles Sturt University in Wagga this year.

Why did you choose to work in the veterinary industry? *I always loved working on the family farm and helping animals. When I bred my mare I knew being a Vet was the right choice for me.*

What is your favourite part of the job? *Definitely the people I get to meet and puppy cuddles.*

What do you like best about Wangaratta and North East Victoria? *The amazing wineries and eateries.*

What is your favourite way to unwind after a busy shift? *Playing fetch with my dogs Archie and Leah and spending time with my horses Bella and Dancer.*



Please make Ellie welcome when you see her in the Hospital.

Client Christmas Party

If you're as busy as we are then you'll agree getting to another Christmas party in December is a difficult task. That's why we've decided to hold a *Christmas in July Party* to celebrate and say thanks to our wonderful clients.

Watch this space for further details in the new year .

Requesting repeat prescription medication



We will soon be changing our policy at Warby Street Veterinary Hospital regarding dispensing repeat prescription medications. So that our vets can give their undivided attention to your pets and their problems, and not have to multitask as a pharmacist at the same time, we request that you phone ahead the day before you need to collect a prescription medication from us, or else in the morning for an afternoon collection.

We understand that sometimes you may be busy too, or run out of medication unexpectedly, and when this happens we will endeavor to have medication available for collection as soon as possible, but it would help us out a lot if you could phone ahead whenever possible. Thank you!

(Note: This does not refer to non-prescription over-the-counter medication, which you may drop in and purchase at any time during opening hours.)

Feline Urinary Problems

Problems with urination are one of the more common reasons that we see cats brought into the Hospital for. Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD) is a collection of conditions which show up with the same set of symptoms:

- Blood in the urine
- Straining to pass urine
- Painful urination
- Urinating small amounts frequently
- Urinating in odd places

If these symptoms occurred in a human (or a dog), we would be highly suspicious of a urinary tract infection. However, things are rarely so simple in cats.

In cats, these symptoms may be due to:

- Feline idiopathic cystitis – 50-60% of cases
- Bladder stones – about 20% of cases
- Urethral blockage (a potentially life threatening condition seen in male cats) – about 20% of cases
- Urinary tract infection – only 1-5% of cases, although infection is more common in elderly cats
- Cancer of the urinary tract – 1-5% of cases
- Trauma to the urinary tract (eg hit by car) – 1-5% of cases



Testing of the urine and sometimes x-rays or ultrasound may be used to work out which category a patient falls into.

Feline idiopathic cystitis (FIC), the most common diagnosis, is inflammation of the lining of the bladder due to an unknown cause. There appears to be a strong link between FIC and stress/anxiety. Cats who are overweight or confined exclusively indoors also seem to be more prone. Treatment for FIC is generally limited to providing pain relief while waiting for the episode to pass (generally 3-5 days) and attempting to increase the cat's water intake. This can be easier said than done, and generally involves placing multiple water bowls all around the home, and changing food from dry to wet. There are also prescription diets (eg Hills c/d) available which may help to decrease the incidence of FIC. Taking steps to decrease anxiety in cats can also be very helpful in reducing recurrence.

Signs of urinary tract disease in male cats should always be taken especially seriously, as they have a much thinner diameter urethra which is prone to becoming blocked when there is inflammation of the urinary tract. A blocked urethra can fairly quickly become fatal if not treated, so any male cat who is unable to urinate should be considered an emergency and veterinary treatment sought immediately.

Have you "Liked" our Facebook page?

Search 'Warby Street Veterinary Hospital' to follow us and keep updated on pictures of our staff, patients and other fun things every week.

<https://www.facebook.com/Warby-Street-Veterinary-Hospital-182160425299053/>



"KING VALLEY RUN"

A service for routine work provided most **TUESDAYS**, charging travel fees from:

Glenrowan, Greta, Moyhu or Milawa.

"BEECHWORTH AND MYRTLEFORD RUN"

For routine work most **THURSDAYS**, travel fees from:

Markwood, Everton, Beechworth, Myrtleford

Keeping your pet cool this summer!



The days are certainly starting to warm up here in NE Victoria (finally!). As the weather warms up, it is important to be aware of how the heat affects our pets. While our furry friends feel the heat just like us, they have fewer mechanisms to cool down. Heat stress in pets is a serious condition which requires immediate veterinary attention. To avoid having your pet develop heat stress, here's a few simple things you can try:

- Provide ready access to shade in your backyard
- Consider adding a small pool or pond to your backyard
- Keep your pet inside in the air conditioning if possible
- Exercise your pet in the cool of morning rather than evening
- Do not encourage exercise during the heat of the day

The initial signs of heat stress can include excessive panting, open mouth breathing, lethargy, weakness, vomiting and in extreme cases coma or seizures. If you think your pet is suffering from heat stress, you should:

- Give some fresh, clean, cool drinking water but do not force your pet to drink
- Use wet towels and rag (rather than a hose) to cool your pet. Using towels allows the cooling source to be removed as desired, so that the pet doesn't get too cold.
- Call your veterinarian ASAP— some internal organ damage in advanced heat stress cases can be irreversible, the earlier treatment is initiated, the better chance your pet has.

*If you think your pet is suffering from heat stress (excessive panting, increased or open-mouth breathing, confusion, vomiting, or collapsing) **please immediately move them to a cool shaded area, stay calm, gently apply cool water to their body followed by fanning, and then call us 5721 7177.***

Emergency Pet Kit — in the event of evacuation

In the event of evacuation here are some examples of what you could include in your Pet Emergency Kit:

- Food, water and bowls
- Medications
- Poo Bags or litter and litter trays for cats
- Toys
- Collars, harnesses, leads etc
- Cages or pet carriers
- Blankets and bedding



Welcome Dr Blinne



For the month of January 2020 you will see a new face at the hospital.

We welcome Dr Blinne Loughran to the team!

Blinne is a 2016 Dublin Veterinary graduate. Following graduation she worked in mixed practice for 3 years in Ireland and since coming out to Australia has been working in a small animal hospital in Melbourne.

We are excited to have Blinne join the team in January. Please join us in welcoming her to Warby Street and the North East :-)

Foals: Colostrum and Immunity

To a newborn foal, colostrum can mean the difference between life and death. When foals are born they don't have any natural immunity to diseases. The colostrum (or first milk) from the mare is special as it contains antibodies (type G immunoglobulins, or IgG) concentrated from the mare's blood stream. Antibodies are the body's way of fighting off infection. The foal is able to absorb these antibodies in the colostrum through their intestine directly into their blood stream.

Importantly, foals are only able to absorb the antibodies from colostrum for the first 12-24 hours of their life. After this time the foal's intestines are no longer porous enough to be able to absorb the large antibodies in colostrum into the bloodstream. This means it is vital the foal receives an adequate amount of good quality colostrum from the mare in the first day of life.

If the colostrum is of poor quality, or if the foal doesn't drink enough, or starts drinking too late, it may not receive adequate immunity, and will be susceptible to life threatening infections. This is called failure of passive transfer of immunity.

Horse breeders will often measure the quality of colostrum from their mares (using a colostrometer or similar instrument). If there is any doubt about the colostrum quality, or about the amount the foal has ingested in the first 12 hours of life, we recommend having the IgG (antibody) levels in the foal's bloodstream tested at 24 hours after birth. This is done via a simple blood test. Serum IgG levels should be over 800 mg/dl to ensure adequate immunity. If levels are under 800 mg/dl, and particularly if they are under 400 mg/dl, they need to be supplemented. By this stage it is usually too late for colostrum to be absorbed by the foal, so IgG must be provided intravenously. This is done via a plasma transfusion, which is repeated until levels are adequate.

If you have a newborn foal this season, and are concerned it may not have received adequate colostrum, or just want to check to be sure, call us on 5721 7177 and we can arrange a blood test to check its IgG levels.



Cattle Lice

Lice in cattle irritate the skin, causing them to scratch and rub. Cattle with lice may damage fences, yards and trees from rubbing against them, and their coats take on a rough appearance which reduces hide value at slaughter. They can also negatively affect on-farm quality assurance programs.

Lice are spread by direct contact between cattle. They spend their entire lifecycle on the beast. They can only survive for a few days off the animal. Cattle lice can't spread to other species. Lice populations are highest in winter and lowest in summer, and tend to increase with poorer cattle nutrition and poorer general health.

There are two main types of cattle lice: biting lice and sucking lice. This is important to remember when treating for lice, as some products only kill one of the two types.

There are a number of insecticides registered for control of cattle lice. They should always be used according to the manufacturers' directions, with particular attention paid to withholding periods and compatibility with other treatments such as worm drenches. Ensure that you do not underdose as this can contribute to resistance to the treatments.

Most of the insecticides aren't effective against louse eggs, which means the eggs will still hatch and re-infest the cattle. Therefore a follow-up treatment 2-3 weeks later is necessary with some of the insecticides as this allows time for the eggs to hatch, but not to mature into adults which will lay eggs themselves. Treatment methods include spray-on, pour-on, insecticidal ear tags and some of the injectable worm drenches.

If you are aiming for eradication, treat all cattle on the property at the same time, prior to calving. Then immediately after treatment move cattle to a fresh paddock that has not been stocked for at least a week. Ensure no physical contact with any neighbour's cattle is possible. Remember to give a second treatment 2-3 weeks later if indicated by the product you are using.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our lovely clients and their pets
Love from the team at Warby Street Veterinary Hospital*