



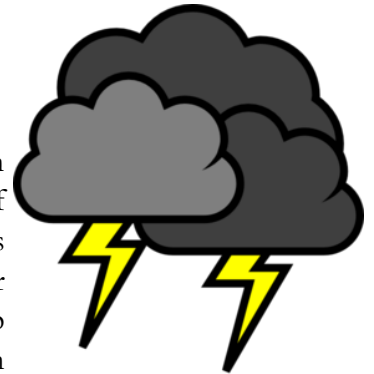
SUMMER 2015

Summer has arrived with warm temperatures and sunshine. Time to get outdoors and enjoy some time with your pets!

Thunderstorm Phobias in Dogs

Thunderstorm phobias

We have been having a lot of unsettled weather with afternoon thunderstorms in the north east lately. Unfortunately for many animals this brings with it a lot of anxiety. Dogs are the species most often affected by a phobia of thunderstorms and their reactions can be quite varied. Some dogs simply show evidence of fear and look for a place to hide, whereas others show signs of panic and often jump fences or dig their way out of the yard to try and escape the noise. This can unfortunately lead to accidents or injuries as they make their escape.



If your dog is affected by thunderstorms it is advisable to discuss this with your vet before the next storm arrives. If the phobic behaviour is not destructive or irrational then finding a safe place and comforting your dog is probably the best thing that an owner can do. In the past this was thought to reinforce the fearful behaviour and was discouraged. However, in practical terms comfort and safety is what most dogs are craving in a storm. Trying to predict storms is difficult but taking your pet to work with you (if possible) or dropping them off with a family member during the storm season is a good plan so they are not alone when storms strike.

If your dog shows irrational, destructive or escape behaviours then the use of an anti-anxiety medication may be useful. In most cases valium is prescribed after discussion with your veterinarian. It has variable success with phobic dogs, but is often useful. It does require dosing before the storm arrives so being with your pet, observing the weather outside and looking at weather radar to predict storms is necessary. In the past sedatives like acepromazine were used for phobic dogs, but evidence now suggests that although the dog may look calm on the outside they are still terrified in their mind, just unable to express this because of the sedative effect. Valium actually reduces anxiety whilst also providing some sedation. If valium is not successful then longer term anti-anxiety medications may be considered.

With a lot of work some storm phobias can be cured by playing a CD of storm noise at a low volume to your pet and rewarding them if they show normal behaviour. With time the volume can be gradually increased and reward for normal, non fearful behaviour continues. This type of desensitisation treatment requires a lot of commitment, but can ultimately be a long term solution.

If your pet is having a tough time with the storms at present it is a great time to get in and talk to your vet about their behaviour.

Tim Craig BVSc
Warby St Veterinary Hospital

Thunderstorm phobias	1
New logo for Warby St Vet Hospital	2
Newsletter Subscription	
Pink Eye in Cattle	3
Horses need dental care too!	4

New logo for Warby Street Veterinary Hospital

In early November we unveiled and began the use of our updated logo at Warby Street Veterinary Hospital. After many years under the watchful eye of the bandaged koala we have updated our branding to provide a fresh look. You may have noticed the new logo on our signage, letterhead and advertising over the last month. We are always trying to improve our presentation and service and feel that the new logo is just one part of representing the modern, technologically advanced and highly skilled veterinary hospital that we are. We hope that you like the change.

In conjunction with the change in logo we also launched a new website that amongst other things has been designed to be more mobile friendly. Please head along to www.warbyvet.com.au to have a look. There is lots of information to help with pet ownership, especially of new pets, as well as back issues of our newsletter and other information about what we have been up to and the services we provide. If you haven't you can also like us on facebook where we keep our followers updated with information and cute pictures of all our wonderful patients.



Our new look logo!

Don't forget to check out the new website as well at:

www.warbyvet.com.au

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST

We produce a 4 page newsletter every season to keep our clients informed about the goings on at Warby St Veterinary Hospital and the Wangaratta Equine Hospital. We send the newsletter out with our statements each time it is printed, but also deliver it electronically by email. If you would like to receive the newsletter in your email inbox you can either email me your address at tim@warbyvet.com.au or fill out the slip below and return it to Warby St Vet Hospital or Wangaratta Equine Hospital in person or by snail mail.

YES! I'D LIKE TO RECEIVE THE QUARTERLY WARBY ST VET HOSPITAL NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!

NAME:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

“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

Pink Eye in Cattle

Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis (Pinkeye) in cattle Dr Kirri Solly-Slade

There are a lot of things to enjoy about this time of year as the days get longer and the weather gets warmer. However, for most of us the return of the pesky fly is not one of them! Additionally, when it comes to our livestock flies can be even more of a nuisance than what we bargained for as they can be carriers of infection and disease.

One such example is the condition commonly referred to as 'pink eye' which often results from infection by a bacterial agent *moraxella bovis*, due to transmission between stock by flies. Pink eye can result in significant economic losses and welfare issues as it is a highly contagious condition that will cause significant outbreaks and often knock on effects including poor productivity amongst herds. Any age or breed can be affected however prevalence does seem to be higher in calves than adult cows and *bos taurus* breeds over *Bos indicus* breeds.



Pink Eye from mild to severe

Risk factors:

Anything that causes damage to the surface of the eye can predispose to infection and the development of pinkeye. This includes things such as UV light, dust, long grasses or prickles, plants, pollens and as mentioned previously; flies.

Clinical signs:

- Discharge from the eyes
- Sensitivity to light
- Excessive blinking
- Painful eyes
- Lack of appetite, weight loss
- Ulceration of the eye (can range from small lesion that is difficult to see to large ruptured ulcers (see pic 4) or ulcers with pussy material in the centre.
- Ruptured ulcers can lead to eyeball collapse and blindness

Prevention

- Control of flies
- Avoid calves grazing on long pastures
- Avoid overcrowding of animals
- Remove affected and treated calves/cattle from the rest of the mob

Treatment

- Antibiotic treatment usually topically to the eye either in the form of creams or powders. Injections of antibiotics under the eyelids can also be administered by your veterinarian.
- If only one eye is showing signs both eyes should be treated regardless.
- In severe cases a patch can be used to cover the eye or the eye can be stitched closed. This provides protection to the eye while it is healing.

Horses need Dental Care too!

Horses need dental care too!

Kirri Solly-Slade DVM

Like us horses need regular dental care throughout their life, particularly as they get older! If you were unaware of this than the information may come as a surprise to you! The following article aims to outline the reasons why regular dental care in horses is important.

Bad dental health can be an underlying issue for many problems in horses, particularly in older horses. This can range anywhere from behavioural issues such as head shaking or resenting the bit to seemingly unrelated issues such as colic and diarrhoea.

Other problems to which poor dental health may contribute are:

Poor appetite or slow difficult eating, pocketing of food in the cheeks* or dropping food on the ground (especially balls of food spat out- this behaviour is called 'quidding!')

*Note: The behaviour of pocketing food is done as an attempt to protect the delicate skin of the cheek from sharp edges on teeth and hence stop pain!

Difficulty swallowing or obstructions in the oesophagus ("choke")

Increased salivation and bad breath

Discharges from the eyes or nose

Swellings of areas of the face, abscess on the face

Ulcers in the stomach

Tiredness/lethargy

Behavioural issues

Colic, diarrhoea or impactions in the gut



In order to keep the teeth healthy regular dental check should be performed. This involves the vet or dentist applying a gag onto the head and mouth which allows safe examination. Corrective procedures can then be performed using rasps (or in some cases a power tool!) to grind the teeth.

Contact your local veterinarian or horse dentist today to arrange a check up on your horses!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

As the year draws to a close we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your pets all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are extremely grateful for your continued support and look forward to another year of helping keep your animals healthy or patching them up after they have been in mischief.

2016 is shaping up as an exciting year for both Warby St Veterinary Hospital and Wangaratta Equine Hospital. We are continuing to improve our equipment, facilities and expertise so as to provide top class veterinary care in the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Thankyou once again. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

