

WINGHAM & VALLEY VETS

Newsletter

February 2019

Volume 12

Give your furry Valentine something other than chocolates this Valentine's Day!

We often see a spike in cases of chocolate toxicity in dogs around Valentine's Day and Easter. Just like us, dogs absolutely love chocolate and will quickly demolish an entire box in seconds. Milk and dark chocolate contain theobromine which is toxic to dogs. Mild cases of toxicity develop vomiting and diarrhoea and this can progress to tremors, heart arrhythmia, collapse and even death if the consumption is high enough. Dark chocolate, dark cocoa powder and cacao beans are the most dangerous as they have the highest theobromine content. White chocolate usually does not contain any theobromine, but **only 50gm of dark chocolate can cause death in a 5kg dog**. If your dog uncovers your chocolate stash it is very important to contact us ASAP so we can advise on likelihood of illness occurring and induce emesis (make them vomit) if necessary.



Relief is at hand for owners and their chronically itchy dogs

It isn't every day that an amazing, potentially life-changing new treatment becomes available, but this year we have access to a new drug for the treatment of allergic skin disease in dogs. Seasonal allergies or 'atopic dermatitis' have a major impact on pets' welfare and without effective treatment, many of them spend most of their lives with red, itchy skin. We see countless numbers of itchy dogs, particularly in Spring and Summer. Previously we have managed this condition with oral tablets to relieve the itching, some of which (the class of drugs called steroids) have undesirable side effects such as immunosuppression, increased thirst and lethargy. The new treatment, Cytopoint, is a 'monoclonal antibody' that specifically targets the cytokine that the chronically allergic dog's body creates. This cytokine sends a signal to the brain resulting in redness, hair loss and itching. Turning this signalling system off relieves the redness and the itch with virtually no side effects. Some of our patients that were previously itchy and balding for much of Spring and Summer year after year, are showing dramatic improvement and their owners are ecstatic.

The treatment is a once monthly injection and it does not suppress the immune system like some conventional treatments for allergies do. If you are wondering if this could help your dog, either email or call us to enquire about Cytopoint and we can advise you if this treatment would be suitable for your dog.



Cases of the Month

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Corneal Ulcer (Horse)
Laminitis
Pinkeye
Salmonellosis
Vaginal prolapse
Sciatic nerve paralysis (calving paralysis)
Tick paralysis
Meningitis

Run Dates

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Krambach: every
Tuesday

Comboyne: second
Thursday of every
month
Thurs 14th February
Thurs 14th March

Oxley Island: fourth
Thursday of every
month
Thurs 28th February
Thurs 28th March

Cooperbrook,
Lansdowne & Hannam
Vale: third Wednesday
of every month
Wed 20th February
Wed 20th March

To book a job, please
call by 5pm the day
before a run.

Emergencies will be
accommodated.

Subsidised travel fees.

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Exciting News:



He loves animals, he cooks, is bilingual and plays the guitar and violin. It's not Wingham's most eligible bachelor... it's our new vet!!

Wingham & Valley Vets have had a very busy two years and so we felt it was time to expand our team of veterinarians so we can continue to offer the very best service we can. We were so pleased to welcome a wonderful new vet this January – Dr. Arjuna Govindasamy (we all call him AJ for short). After completing a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts Degree at UNSW, AJ went on to complete a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Sydney University, fulfilling his dream of becoming a veterinarian. Originally from Murwillumbah, AJ loves the beach and the great outdoors and so the beautiful Manning Valley is the perfect place to begin what we are certain will be a fantastic career. AJ brings with him his lovely partner Em and we hope they are both very happy here. Outside of work AJ has recently joined his local Soccer team. He is fitting in with the team here so well. We are really pleased he decided to join us, and we are sure all our valued clients will be very happy also when they see how much he cares about their beloved pets. Welcome AJ!!



Figure 1: A little unorthodox, but even Michael at over 6 feet tall needed a boost to preg test this big girl!

Ultrasound pregnancy testing in beef cattle

Early pregnancy testing is a powerful tool to increase the efficiency of your beef herd and it is a worthwhile investment in your agribusiness. We recommend a herd pregnancy test 6 weeks after the bulls are locked up at the end of the joining season. Using our state-of-the-art cattle, ultrasound, pregnancies can be detected as early as 30 days. **Pregnancy testing 6 weeks after joining enables you to identify the empty cows early and sell them sooner in the year, when more feed is available, they are in good condition and prices are better.** In drought conditions, selling your empty stock is crucial to ensure efficient use of available feed as it leaves more feed for the pregnant cattle you are keeping, avoiding waste of fodder heading into Winter. Herd pregnancy testing also identifies repro problems in your herd such as low conception rates or abortions. If you are achieving poor pregnancy rates the vet can advise you on where losses are likely to be occurring – this could be due to subfertile bulls, infection (e.g. vibriosis, pestivirus) or trace element deficiencies. We use a BCF cattle ultrasound in conjunction with manual pregnancy testing to ensure fast and accurate results and Michael is an ACV accredited pregnancy tester so can apply tail tags for cattle going to sale. For more information call us on 65570000.

Preventing Dental Disease

Hills Science Diet are currently offering vouchers for \$20 off Hills t/d dental diet for dogs and \$10 off Hills t/d for cats. If your pet is regularly on Hills t/d it would be a good idea to take advantage of this offer. If your pet isn't on a dental diet, Hills t/d is well worth considering (especially for small breed dogs as most are very prone to periodontal disease). Hills t/d is proven to help prevent dental disease and feeding a dental diet instead of standard dry food can mean your pet requires fewer dental procedures performed by the vet in their lifetime.

Staff Training Updates

Two of our wonderful nurses Amber and Rachel are heading up to Brisbane this April for the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia (VNCA) annual conference. They were very keen to attend as the conference is a great opportunity to learn new treatments and skills and our experience is that vets and nurses come back from these events excited, energised and inspired. Regular staff continuing education is essential for any veterinary hospital that wishes to practice at the highest standard and to offer the best, most up to date treatments to their patients. Topics that will be covered at the conference include special care of the brachycephalic dog (Pugs, Bulldogs, Boston Terriers etc.), anaesthesia of the critical patient, dental radiography and strategies to relieve anxiety in hospitalised patients. We can't wait to for Amber and Rachel to come back and pass onto all the other staff everything they have learned!

Our hospital is moving towards 'fear free' accreditation

Several of our staff members (so far Donna, Pete and Amber) have already completed their 'fear free' accreditation course. The program is aimed at providing veterinarians and nurses with the knowledge and tools to not only look after a pet's physical wellbeing, but their emotional wellbeing as well. 'Fear free' accreditation has the following benefits:

- Reduces or removes anxiety triggers that can cause pets to become fearful at home, in transport and in the veterinary hospital
- Helps owners to deliver calm pets to our veterinary hospital
- Enhances the quality of medicine and patient care in the practice
- Increased patient and owner compliance with treatments and medication administration
- Improves safety for everyone

Many of our most loyal clients travel a long way with their pets to our hospital, because of our strong emphasis on behavior and managing anxiety. We firmly believe that making your pets' visits to our hospital as comfortable and stress free as possible is truly in their best interests and we are looking forward to implementing all the strategies our staff have learned through this excellent course.



"Bedtime, Leroy. Here comes your animal blanket."

Figure 2: It isn't always easy to recognise what might provoke fear and anxiety in our pets!

Companion Animal, Equine & Cattle Services

Fully Equipped A-Class Hospital
Digital Radiography & Ultrasonography
Qualified Trainers & Veterinary Behavioural Services
Dairy Herd Health Programmes
ACV Accredited Pregnancy Testing
Infertility Investigation & Bull Breeding Soundness Exams
Lameness & Mastitis Management
Equine Dentistry & Pre-purchase Exams
Grooming Services

Over 100 years combined experience
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