

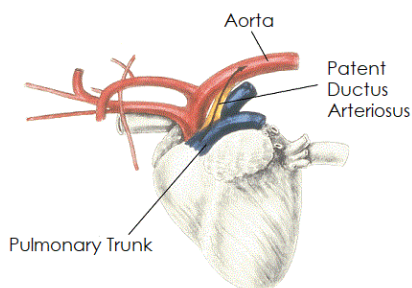
WINGHAM & VALLEY VETS

Newsletter

October 2019

Volume 15

Check out this little heart throb!



At only 8 weeks of age we diagnosed beautiful Anna with a patent ductus arteriosus on ultrasound. This is a vessel in her heart between the aorta and pulmonary artery, that normally closes over at birth. If the vessel does not close at birth, the result is a loud heart murmur and the condition will eventually result in heart failure if not surgically

repaired. Anna's owners decided they would like to proceed with a surgical repair and so Alissa and Pete performed a thoracotomy (open-heart surgery) to locate and tie off the ductus. They could easily feel the ductus throbbing under their fingers due to the very turbulent blood flow through the vessel. This is a very delicate procedure requiring extremely careful dissection to avoid rupturing either the ductus or the aorta. Our nurses needed to constantly ventilate (breathe for) Anna, as she was unable to breathe on her own with her chest open. Anna's heart murmur disappeared as soon as the ductus was ligated. The procedure went very well, and Anna is now back home with her owners, a very happy and playful little puppy! She is a beautiful little dog and we felt very privileged her owners entrusted her to our care.



Introducing our new vet Anna!



We are very excited to announce that Dr Anna Gourley started with us in September. Anna has 10 years mixed practice experience and we are very pleased that the practice can attract such high-quality applicants, when experienced vets are in such short supply. In addition to her wealth of practical experience, Anna is tackling postgraduate study, currently undertaking a Masters of Veterinary Medicine through Massey University. Anna has been working in Mount Gambier for the past 5 years and prior to that she was locuming in the UK. She is a keen Hockey

player and has had enough of cold and wet Mount Gambier, and so we are sure she will just love living in the Manning Valley! Anna's special interests include small animal medicine and cattle medicine. If you see Anna around the hospital or on farm, please introduce yourself and help to make her feel welcome.

Cases of the Month



Patent Ductus Arteriosus
Rat Bait Toxicity
Feline Panniculitis
Fractured Femur
Canine Pancreatitis
Colic
Fractured Tibia
Yersiniosis (cattle)
Salmonellosis (cattle)
Tick Paralysis

Run Dates



Krambach: every
Tuesday

Comboyne: second
Thursday of every
month
Thurs 10th October
Thurs 14th November

Oxley Island: fourth
Thursday of every
month
Thurs 24th October
Thurs 28th November

Cooperook,
Lansdowne & Hannam
Vale: third Wednesday
of every month
Wed 16th October
Wed 20th November

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

Emergencies will be
accommodated.
Subsidised travel fees.

6557 0000

In the spotlight:



Orthopaedic surgery

It is amazing how further study really broadens the services vets can offer their patients. Often, quite soon after completing a particular course, an animal requiring your expertise comes through the door. You will probably remember from our last newsletter that Michael attended 'Masterclass in Fracture Fixation' course in Brisbane where he had training in the use of locking orthopaedic plates as well as building on the knowledge he already had regarding the use of other bone plates. As a result, the clinic went ahead and purchased several plating kits of various sizes, to ensure we had the equipment to properly repair complex fractures. Then, within 2 weeks, we had three complex fracture repairs requiring locking plates.

Equine Dentistry

Equine dentistry has always been a big part of this practice, and all the vets are passionate about the importance of good dental care, because poor dental health has a major negative impact on your horse's health (e.g. colic). Our equine veterinarians have undergone extensive training on the proper diagnosis and treatment of equine dental problems. Vets have access to the correct drugs and equipment to perform dentals safely, effectively and importantly, in a way that is comfortable for your horse. **All horses should have their teeth checked annually by a vet** to ensure no corrective dentistry is required. Dentals can be performed on farm or at our equine facility.

November is Dental Month!

Take advantage of our free dental checks this November.

Dental disease is one of the commonest medical problems of pets. In a group of 10 dogs or cats, as many as 8 of them will have some degree of dental disease. The most common signs of dental disease as noticed by owners are bad breath, difficulty or pain when eating, an aversion to hard foods and weight loss. These signs usually occur once the dental disease is severe with some teeth requiring extraction. Once dental disease progresses beyond grade 1 or 2, the damage to the tooth structures is permanent.

What does dental disease look like?

Plaque (masses of bacteria) and tartar build up on the teeth causing inflammation, which then results in damage to the periodontal structure. The end result of this is pain, smelly breath and eventually tooth loss.

Why is dental health important?

Poor dental health has wide-ranging impacts on the overall health and comfort of pets. It is quite painful and can lead to high levels of bacteria in the blood stream that can damage the heart, liver and kidneys. The dog pictured below with Grade 4 disease would likely have severe difficulty eating and have chronic pain.



Figure 1: Grade 1 Dental Disease - plaque and gingivitis



Figure 2: Grade 2 Dental Disease - calculus, gingivitis and some attachment loss



Figure 3: Grade 3 Dental Disease - severe calculus, gum recession and bone loss



Figure 4: Grade 4 Dental Disease - severe attachment and bone loss, many teeth requiring extraction

How can you maintain your pet's dental health?

The good news is that dental disease can be both treated and prevented in its early stages with regular tooth brushing or dental foods specifically designed to prevent plaque buildup.

We currently have \$20 off the price of Hills t/d dental food.

Come in for a free dental check and dental grading this November and we would be happy to discuss ways to maintain your pet's dental health with you.

Increased Hendra vaccination uptake is encouraging

We have had a great response to the article in our last newsletter, with many clients contacting us and offering words of encouragement and support. This is greatly appreciated by all the clinic staff and it is heartening to know we have many clients who value not only our advice and expertise, but our safety. We have seen a dramatic upturn in the number of Hendra vaccinations we are administering, which is a great

result because it means more horses are now protected from this deadly virus, and by extension, their owners. It also makes it much safer and more practical for vets and owners to effectively treat sick horses. So, if you are on the fence, and considering Hendra vaccination but you are worried or unsure because of things you have read or heard, please contact us to discuss your concerns and we are more than happy to advise you.

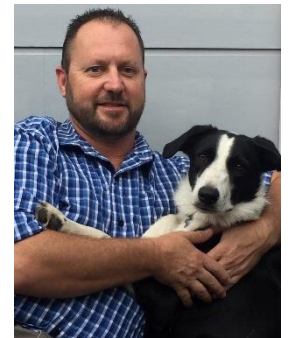
Spring is here... the birds are singing, the plants are budding and the dogs are itching

We are starting to see an increase in the number of itchy and allergic patients as we enter Spring and the weather warms up. Since its release last year, we have been seeing fantastic results with **Cytopoint injections** – to the extent that for some pets (and their owners) it is feeling like a miracle drug! We are finding that dogs are getting significant relief, without the less desirable side effects that can occur with older, more out of date treatments for allergic skin disease such as steroids. After a single Cytopoint injection, we have seen patients that were previously rated as 8 out of 10 itchy, have their itch score reduced to 0 or 1 out of 10. Although currently the manufacturer's recommendation is to administer Cytopoint monthly, some dogs are getting significant relief for as long as 6-8 weeks. Unfortunately, Cytopoint does not work for food allergic dogs, but we are seeing excellent results in dogs with seasonal allergies (atopic dermatitis). For more information please call us on 6557 0000.



Baby boom at Wingham & Valley Vets!!

You may have noticed a lot of pregnant ladies walking around the vet hospital recently. After a long time with no new babies, we were very excited when our receptionist announced her pregnancy. However, this turned out to be highly contagious... because one pregnancy soon became five!! We had a pregnant vet, shortly followed by a pregnant nurse and then another pregnant nurse and then another pregnant receptionist!! It is lovely to see our Wingham & Valley Vets family grow. All the babies are due from November through to April so you may start seeing some new faces around the hospital as staff go on maternity leave. Happily for us, they are all planning on returning to work after they have their beautiful babies. Due to all the staff members who will soon be going on maternity leave, we have two wonderful new staff members joining us in Mid-October. Amii and Troy Andrews are moving up from the Hunter Valley and will be performing both reception and nursing duties. They are both absolutely lovely and very experienced, with a real passion for Vet Nursing – so much so that they left careers as a human nurse and police detective, to pursue Veterinary Nursing. They are an amazing addition to our already fantastic team, so make sure you say hello if you see them around the clinic.

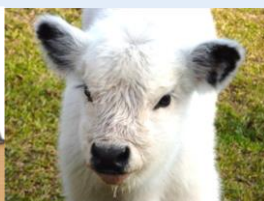


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Wingham and Valley Vets
82 Combined Street Wingham
6557 0000

Email: admin@winghamvets.com.au
www.winghamandvalleyvets.com.au



24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE – 6557 0000