

WINGHAM & VALLEY VETS

Small Animal Newsletter

May 2017

Volume 1

Health Alert: imported treats are poisoning dogs

We have recently seen a case of acquired Fanconi syndrome, most likely caused by dog treats purchased at the local supermarket. A large Australian outbreak of Fanconi syndrome occurred 10 years ago, associated with the feeding of Kramar brand chicken treats made in China. These were subsequently taken off the market and the incidence of cases drastically declined. However, vets are still seeing cases in dogs that are fed treats made in

early in the disease course so that exposure to the toxin can stop before the kidneys are damaged irreparably and renal failure results. In our patient, we could see evidence of kidney injury on ultrasound (see Figure 1)

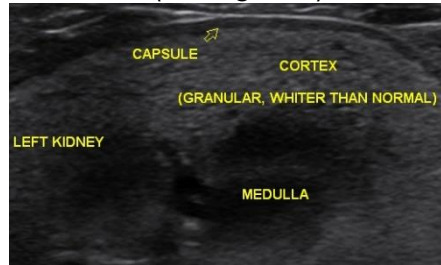


Figure 1: Ultrasound image of Fanconi-affected kidney

Vets recommend not feeding any dog treats that are made in China or South East Asia.

Thailand, Taiwan or China, with a spike in cases recently that could indicate the start of another outbreak.

What is Fanconi Syndrome?

It is a kidney disease (acquired renal tubulopathy) and is caused by injury to the kidney resulting in glucose in the urine and symptoms of kidney damage including excessive thirst and urination, lethargy and vomiting. Although many dogs will go on to recover after owners stop feeding the offending treats, some dogs will unfortunately have lifelong renal impairment. It is very important that it is diagnosed

What causes Fanconi?

All cases of acquired Fanconi have one thing in common: exposure to chicken treats sourced from Asia. It is suspected that this is due to contamination with melamine, but this hasn't been proven.

How will you know a specific dog treat is safe?

Only feed treats made in Australia and specifically avoid those manufactured in Asia. If you are unsure whether your treats are safe, please bring the packaging in to us and a vet will look at it for you, or purchase treats from your vet that are known to be safe.

Cases of the Month

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Fanconi Syndrome

Haemorrhagic Gastro (dogs)

Tick Paralysis

Grass seed problems

Granulomatous Meningoencephalitis

Leptospirosis

Rat Bait Toxicity

Feline AIDS

Puppy Preschool

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*In the spotlight:
Haemorrhagic
Gastroenteritis (HGE)*



We have seen an unusually large number of HGE cases this month. This is a severe gut disorder, caused by the overgrowth of Clostridia bacteria in the intestines. The symptoms are bloody diarrhea (may be profuse), bloody vomit, inappetence, pale gums and lethargy.

HGE is extremely serious, and dogs can lose so much blood into the gut they collapse from blood loss. This can happen in less than 24 hours so if your dog develops bloody diarrhoea and vomiting, they should see a vet ASAP. Although similar to parvo, there is no vaccine for HGE so it is suspected in any unvaccinated dog presenting with the above symptoms. Unlike parvo, most cases of HGE respond very well to intravenous fluids and antibiotics, and usually leave hospital within 24 hours.

Tick Prevention is important year-round in the Manning Valley

We have recently seen a spike in tick cases in April and early May, probably due to both the wet weather in March and a reduction in compliance with tick preventative products, as owners often expect less tick activity as the weather cools down. Unfortunately, the paralysis tick *Ixodes holocyclus* tends to be active year-round in the Manning Valley and so it is essential that owners continue to have their cats and dogs on tick prevention year-round and we also recommend checking them daily for ticks. Signs of tick paralysis include: weakness or inability to rise on the hindlegs, coughing or regurgitation, voice change or difficulty breathing. If you find a paralysis tick on your pet, we recommend immediate



removal and if your pet is showing signs of tick paralysis they should be seen by a vet ASAP since any delay in administration of the tick antiserum can worsen the prognosis for recovery considerably. To remove a tick, pull it off quickly in one motion, then place it in a jar and bring it into us for identification.

Vet Student of the Month

Wingham and Valley Vets are proud to be considered Partners in Veterinary Education by the University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science. Every month we have a final year Veterinary Student with us, gaining some practical experience prior to graduation. This month's student is Joe Herbert, who comes all the way from Brighton in the UK. Joe would love to be a mixed practice vet when he graduates and we are enjoying hosting him this month. Having worked for several years as a Veterinary Nurse at North Shore Specialist Hospital, he has made a fantastic contribution to several complicated medical cases. If you see Joe around and about the clinic, be sure to say hello!



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