

**3 Maroondah Highway
Lilydale Vet Centre
(03) 9735 4211**

Clinic Hours

Mon-Friday: 7:30 – 6:30 pm

Tuesday: 7:30 – 5.00 pm

Saturday: 8:30 – 3.00 pm

**Emergency Vet 24 hours
(03) 9735 4211**



Choose us as your family vet

February 2010

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Goodness gracious here we are already in February 2010 !

The holiday season is over, the schools have started and the year is marching on. We trust that everybody had a good rest and that we all will be blessed with good health during this year. The last of the summer heat is with us and the itch dogs itch, the light skinned animals get sunburnt and the old ones are really experiencing some heat stress. So lets talk about this....

SURVIVOR OF THE MONTH

Probably not a survivor as such because her owners saw the little skin changes on her belly long before they were giving little Winnie any trouble. On Winnie's belly there appeared small, raised reddish-brown nodules (little bumps) They were not painful and not bleeding but appeared in a matter of weeks and instead of going away they gradually got bigger. When we saw her they were about 3mm in diameter – still very small. Their colour made us suspicious and we removed them. The histiopathology report called them “Dermal hemangiosarcomas”. One of the causes is Chronic ultra-violet light exposure. Yes, Winnie likes to sunbake her belly. The excisions were complete but because this is the effect of radiation more of the bumps are likely to appear.

Please get lumps and bumps checked out and if necessary removed and examined by a pathologist.

WHAT LIES BEHIND EAR INFECTION

Some dogs have been suffering from ear infections since the weather got warmer. The ears in general are red, the ear canals are swollen and the dog has a real “doggy” smell to it. There also may be a discharge that can be from a yellow to a dark brown in colour

To get an ear infection there has to be the right environment

- Long, heavy ears, hairy or narrow ear canals
- High humidity and temperature
- Combine this with a dog that has some allergies or like to swim in stagnant water and the odd yeast or bacteria and voila! Sore ears

In these cases it does not help to only pour antibiotic drops down the canals because the infections in general return as soon as or shortly after treatment stops. We have to treat the underlying allergy.

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RED AND ITCHY FEET

Yes, this can be allergies that would have been boring to cover them again. Instead we are looking at grass seeds. After a nice long dry summer there are plenty of grass seeds around. Burdock seeds are the round, dry barbed little seeds that get stuck between a dogs paws after a walk. They may hurt and cause a limp but do not invade the tissue. There are how ever other seeds like Barley, which not only sticks but also invades the body.

The dog in general will chew or lick its feet. The constant wetness can cause a secondary skin infection that may hide the fact that there is foreign body between the dog's toes. Initially you may still be able to grasp the barb and pull it out but quickly burrows deeper into the tissue and disappear. All that is left is a red, soft swelling. This is in fact a little abscess and it eventually will burst discharging some pus and if one is lucky the offensive grass seed. In most cases the grass seed would have penetrate even deeper and will not be discharge causing more and more trouble as it goes. They can migrate from the skin into the chest or abdomen and enter the organs where they can cause very serious life-threatening abscesses.



- When returning from a walk, groom your dog immediately and remove any seeds. Check closely between the toes, in the ears, and in the "armpits" and groin areas, since these are common places to find seeds and awns. If you find a seed, try removing it with a pair of tweezers. If you cannot remove the seed, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible, since it will only become more deeply buried and harder to take out.

KEEP THEM COOL

We still may see some extreme temperatures in February. To keep animals comfortable in these conditions may require some forward planning. Keep an eye on the weather forecasts!

Always provide plenty of cool, clean water and shade for the animal. When away from home, carry a thermos filled with fresh, cool water. Leave pets at home as much as possible. They will be much more comfortable in a cool home than riding in a hot car. If a pet must be taken along for the ride, don't leave it alone in a parked vehicle.

Don't force the animal to exercise in hot, humid weather. Exercise pets in the cool of the early morning or evening.

Because a dog is much closer to the hot asphalt, its body can heat up quickly, and its paws can sustain burns or injuries.

Animals can get sunburnt too! Protect hairless and light-coated dogs and white cats with sunscreen when your animal will be outside in the sun for an extended period of time. Put sunscreen or zinc on exposed areas of pink skin. Animals with long coats can be clipped to increase comfort





in hot weather.

Small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs can become heat stressed when temperatures increase over 21 °C so it is important that their enclosures are in the shade and that they have plenty of clean cool water.

Remember: The most important things you can do for your animals in hot weather is to provide them with rest and shade in the hottest parts of the day, and plenty of clean cool water.

Unsubscribe, comments and remarks

We really invite feedback on any aspect of the newsletter, clinic & services we offer. Just click the address below and return to us

<mailto:admin@lilydalevetcentre.com.au>

Food for thought

But I tell you, a cat needs a name that's particular,
A name that's peculiar, and more dignified,
Else how can he keep up his tail perpendicular,
Or spread out his whiskers, or cherish his pride? **T.S Eliot**
