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Newsletter- Autumn 2011



- **Clinic News**
- **With drinking, when is enough, enough**
- **Misha forever!**
- **Land of Flooding Plains**
- **Pesky Mosquitos**
- **Self Medication**

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter! As part of our ongoing care for your pets, we like to keep you informed of staff news, new services we are now offering and problems which could affect your pets, particularly at this time of year. Our seasonal newsletters will be accessible on our website, from the clinic and via mail out. Let us know if you would like to receive our quarterly publication and we can add you to our mail or email list.

Clinic News

The silly season has come and gone and we are back to start a fresh new year with enthusiasm.

We bid a temporary goodbye to Lee who is doing a great job in Samoa educating a culture that has a completely different outlook on animal welfare and care. Some challenges she has faced are daily flooding and evacuation, plagues of biting insects, pet malnutrition, parasite infestation and lack of population control. So, much credit to her stamina and devotion she is holding in there!

We are thrilled to announce Alex's engagement to her long time boyfriend Leigh and are dazzled by the gorgeous engagement ring.

Alice has finally got her drivers licence after many years of waiting at bus stops, transferring between buses and depending on lifts, she can finally make the trip to work leisurely herself. Natasha our cattery manager is on her well deserved long service leave we hope she treats her self to some good R & R.

With Drinking, when is enough, enough?

We often fill our pets water bowl daily without a second thought as to how much they have drunken in a day. Did you know that your pet should not drink any more than about 50-60ml/kg/day. So that would be about 250ml for a 5kg dog. Any more than this figure may indicate a medical problem such as diabetes, kidney disease, hormonal and electrolyte imbalances.

Sometimes monitoring water levels can be difficult if you have a multi-pet household or have a pond or pool outside which can act as a secondary source of water. Noting your pets excessive urinary habits can give you an idea which pet maybe drinking more and therefore who needs to be assessed.

The initial assessment can be as easy as testing a urine sample. So please consult us if you have any concerns about your pets thirst.



Misha forever!

We all want our pets to live forever. Well one such client and regular patron at our cattery is proving that maybe some cats do have more than 9 lives. Misha is due to have her 23rd birthday later this year. She has lived a gracious life with all the creature comforts both at home and in her normal suite at the cattery. Having said that she has also been in a few feline battles and overcome many ailments life has thrown at her but she still battles on.

This photo was taken of Misha 3 years ago when she was 20, lets hope she makes a quarter century!



Land of Flooding Plains

We have all heard about the devastation caused by the floods and cyclones that have ravaged our beautiful country. The homelessness, the grief and despair that all affected people are dealing with is heartbreaking. Affected too are large numbers of domestic and wild animals. There have been many accounts of animals being trapped and drowned but also of terrible injuries sustained by the floating debris that has been swept up in the torrents. The pounds in Brisbane and Ipswich have been inundated with lost animals and have done the right thing by waiving recollection fees and extending holding periods. For some evacuees, visiting evacuation shelters with a ban on pets, made the decision whether to stay or leave their home all the more difficult.

We at Elgar Road have helped where we can by donating goods to the animal flood relief appeal and offering to assist with medical care and dressing wounds of horses affected by the Victorian floods. There is so much more to do in the aftermath of the clean up but like all true Aussies we will get through these tough times with determination and mateship.

To donate to the equine flood relief effort visit

<http://www.eqflood2011.com.au/>

Pesky Mosquitos

With all the rain we have had this Summer it has been a perfect breeding ground for mosquitos to increase in numbers and attack us, as well as our pets. Pets are particularly at risk because of their often outdoor lifestyle and the lack of effective and safe insect control. It is important to note however that mosquitos can spread some nasty diseases to animals and lead to severe skin irritation. In dogs and less often cats, mosquitos are responsible for spreading heartworm. Once infected with heartworm, treatment can be difficult. In cats we see a nasty skin irritation that causes most of the skin to come off the nose and also other parts of the body due to irritation from mosquito

bites. In rabbits the fatal conditions of myxomatosis and Calici Virus are also spread via mosquitos. Diseases such as Ross River Virus and other viruses can be transmitted from animals to people via mosquitos. The first line of defence is removing your pets from mosquito heavy areas ie shady parts of your garden and to bring them inside during dawn and dusk. For rabbits, ensure the cages have mosquito proof netting. Remove any pools of water that settle in buckets etc after rain to remove the mosquito breeding grounds. For dogs the product Advantix which is applied topically between the shoulder blades, has an 85% reduction in mosquitos tendency to land on your dog. There are also fly and mosquito repellent sprays and creams for use in Dogs. Unfortunately these products are not registered for use in cats who are sensitive to a lot of insecticides so for cats avoidance is the best solution.



Self Medication

Did you know that many human medicines are extremely toxic for animals.

Not only is the dosage completely different but some medications cannot be tolerated at all by dogs and cats. Medicating your pets at home without seeking veterinary care can not only be dangerous but in some cases fatal. Some common medicines that are mistakenly used and dangerous are:- panadol, aspirin/neurofen/ibuprofen, teatree oil, human cortisone creams, dettol, human hair products and wool wash. There have even been cases of problems in pets after owners have used hormone replacement creams on themselves and then patted and stroked their pets! So don't risk it, always consult a vet if your pet has a problem, it could cause more worry if you attempt to fix the problems yourself.



Clinic Hours (By Appointment)

8am-7pm Weekdays

9am-5pm Saturday

10am-12 noon Sunday

HOME VISITING SERVICE AVAILABLE