

590 ELGAR ROAD, BOX HILL, 3129

PHONE 9899 9518

Email: mail@elgarvet.com.au

www.elgarvet.com.au

Newsletter- Summer 2009-2010



- [Clinic News](#)
- [Festive Follies](#)
- [Deadly Heat](#)
- [Adoptions](#)
- [Irritating Insects](#)
- [Staff Profiles](#)

Welcome to our Summer 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

Several staff members have recently returned from holidays: Devon sailed the Whitsundays and toured Tassy, Lee dived in beautiful Fiji and Alex is back from China where she volunteered to work with the Moon bears for three months. Over summer, Emma will be visiting Malaysia to attend a Vet conference, Mich will be visiting family and friends in New Zealand, Lee will be embarking on a 3 week road trip of New Zealand too and Kristen is having a family Christmas in Perth.

Welcome to Sarah our new cattery attendant and all the best to our groomer Libby who is leaving to pursue other interests.

Festive Follies

With the festive season upon us it is important to consider some dietary disasters that can befall our pets during our Christmas dinners, New Year celebrations and summer BBQs.

- **Pancreatitis:** The pancreas is an organ that produces digestive enzymes that are released into the small intestine. If particularly rich or fatty foods are ingested, the pancreas can become inflamed causing abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea. It is usually a serious and occasionally fatal condition that requires intensive hospital management and fluid therapy.
- **Gastroenteritis:** Feeding rich and different foods to your pet or overfeeding can often cause vomiting and/or diarrhoea.
- **Chocolate:** Is toxic to dogs. It can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, seizures and even death.
- **BBQs & Bones:** It's important to avoid feeding fatty off cuts or sausages and NEVER feed cooked bones. Cooked bones can lead to gastrointestinal disease and constipation.
- **Weight problems:** Just like us, many of our pets need to watch their waistline, particularly around this time of year. Avoid overfeeding with left overs and treats.



Heat Stroke

With summer here, it's important to avoid exposure to the sun and keep our pets cool. Whilst humans sweat to keep cool, dogs and cats do this by panting, but they can still easily become overheated on hot days. Overweight, brachycephalic, young, elderly, long haired pets, animals with underlying disease and pocket pets are often the first to suffer. Some of the signs of mild heat stroke are a dry mouth, panting, lethargy and a lack of appetite. In more severe cases they can collapse, seizure and die. Here are a few tips to aid in the prevention of heat stroke:

- Always provide shade and access to a cool area
- Always provide several bowls of water
- NEVER leave your pet in the car unattended
- On warm days only exercise you dog early in the morning or late in the evening
- If your pet has a heavy coat, consider having it clipped for the summer months
- Fans, cool water baths or spraying your pet with a water bottle can help keep them cool

Heat stroke is a serious condition that can even result in death so please contact the clinic immediately if you suspect your animal may be suffering from heat stroke.



Who's Up For Adoption?

We currently we have a very special cat up for adoption. Nimbus is a 12 year old, male neutered, blue Burmese who has been boarding with us for the past two years, since the death of his elderly owner. He needs a quiet, caring home without other animals. Please contact us if you can help to find him a new loving home and free him from his caged existence.



Irritating Insects

Spring and summer are a favourite time for insects, some of which can cause problems for your pet.

Wasp & bee stings can cause painful swellings and occasionally even serious allergic reactions. Bones are a wasp magnet in summer! Contact the clinic immediately if you think your pet has been stung.

In warm weather, **fly strike** can occur in rabbits, older more sedentary pets and dogs with very thick coats. Fur that is wet from a bath, urine or faecal soiling is a favourite place for flies to lay eggs which then hatch into maggots. If your pet is at risk of fly strike you must check them for fly strike daily and keep both them and their bedding clean and dry.

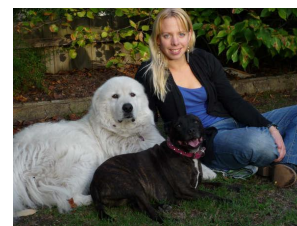
Fly bites to the ears cause painful, irritating, crusty wounds and is a common problem in summer. To avoid fly worry, animal fly repellents such as Musca-ban spray or Troy fly repellent cream can be applied to the area.

Staff Profiles

Dr Fiona Anderson grew up on a farm in the outer suburbs of Melbourne and by the age of 5, knew she wanted to work in the veterinary world. She graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1989 with honours and started working in a country practice. She soon returned to Melbourne and worked with small animals in private practice and doing welfare work. She has 3 dogs, Lil, Jasper and Fraser, all which she rescued from the shelter after repairing their broken bones. When she isn't working Fiona enjoys photographing and painting animals, particularly wildlife. She is passionate about conservation and animal welfare and has an interest in alternative therapies.



Natalie Loughron started working as a Vet Nurse at Elgar Road in 2005. She has completed a Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing and is also a qualified Dental Nurse. Nat has recently started studying to become a Paramedic, but we're lucky to still have her working at ERVC part-time and teaching Puppy Preschool. When not working, Nat loves keeping fit and spending time with her 3 pets: Sebastian the Meremba, Jessie the Staffy and her horse Spider.



Clinic Hours (By Appointment)

8am-7pm Weekdays

9am-5pm Saturday

10am-12 noon Sunday

HOME VISITING SERVICE AVAILABLE