

JERRABOMBERRA 
Vet HOSPITAL



QUEANBEYAN 
Vet HOSPITAL

Autumn/Winter Newsletter



Welcome to our new look newsletter!

We hope you enjoy our new layout and if you have any stories or issues you would like us to address, just let us know!

We would like to celebrate the joining forces of Queanbeyan Vet Hospital and Jerrabomberra Vet Hospital who will now be operating under common management.

May is not only Seniors Month, but it's Arthritis Month too. So if you notice any struggling or changes in movement in your pet, give us a call and make an appointment with a Vet today.

Dates to remember:

Eye Clinic
23rd May 2012
Call us for the clinic locations for Dr Whittaker, Eye Clinic

May - Arthritis
May 2012
Think about coming in for a Seniors Check. Call today

Puppy classes
10th & 28th May
New Classes will be started on these dates. Are you booked in?

What's news?

A few of our vets have been out to Utopia, a remote indigenous community in the Northern Territory. They are involved in the Indigenous Dog Health Program. What could they have possibly achieved up there?

Brrrrr it's getting colder...no kidding.

Why should I consider Pet Insurance?

Pet Ambulance – in the ACT

Local News from my Vet

Cooking my pet



Winter...brrrrrr

Month of May - Arthritis

Winter is fast approaching and there's a chill in the air on a frosty Canberra morning...the temptation to say tucked up warm in bed is getting stronger. But spare a thought for our 4-legged counterparts who might not be coping with beginning of winter so well.



different.

For many of our furry friends, winter spells the onset of sore joints and aching bones thanks to arthritis. Sufferers would know the pain that comes from this condition and would be grateful for any relief they can get – our pets are no

There are lots of ways to treat arthritis, many of which you can do at home. Keep your pets indoors over winter or if they must be outside then provide them with a well-padded, insulated kennel in a wind-free sheltered position. Raised beds are great in a sunny spot for that daytime nap. For cats, heated beds are a brilliant idea.

Try to take your dog for a gentle daily walk – constant steady exercise is essential to keep joints mobile. Dietary supplements can help, or even full diet changes. There are now foods made specifically for arthritic animals with high levels of fatty acids and glucosamine to reduce inflammation and pain. If your pet is over weight, a diet will help – a small loss in weight makes a huge difference to the force through a joint.

There are also injections given weekly for 4 weeks that can reduce the signs of arthritis by up to 80%, anti-inflammatory tablets, acupuncture and even stem cell therapy using fat cells!

Cats are very good at hiding the signs that they may be suffering from arthritis or inflamed joints. They will often sit around and sleep more and are less active. A very importance sign to notice, is that if your cat normally jumps off the table straight to the ground but you now seeing them jumping onto a chair first, it is its way of reducing the impact and any subsequent pain.



If your pet is feeling the effects of winter, bring them in and we can look at medical treatments to ease their discomfort and have them finding the joys of life again!



Heat Stress

The warmer months may be behind us, but we must always be aware of the dangers.

Can occur anytime...

Heat stress in dogs is more common over summer, but can occur at any time throughout the year. Heat stress can occur when dogs have been left outside in hot or humid conditions without adequate shade, when they have been exercised on a hot day or when they have been left sitting in a hot car. Leaving a dog in the car, even with the window a little bit down, can be very dangerous. Even on a relatively cool day, cars may heat up to temperatures beyond what your dog can cope with.

Heat stress is rapidly fatal...

Laryngeal paralysis is a common disease of older large-breed dogs and a common manifestation of this disease on a hot day is heat stress.

Heat stress is a rapidly fatal condition that requires urgent treatment.

What to do if you suspect your dog has heat stress:

1. Seek immediate assistance by calling **QVH on 6299 2509** or **JVH on 6299 9066**
2. Move your pet to a cooler environment if possible
3. Actively cool your pet with cool water and wet towels (avoid using cold water or ice packs)
4. Apply a fan if available for further evaporative cooling
5. Transport your pet to the Queanbeyan or Jerrabomberra Vet Hospital in an air-conditioned car

Signs of heat stress (also known as heat stroke) are excessive panting, salivating, vomiting and diarrhoea, which can progress to collapse, seizures and death.

Panting is the main form of heat loss and temperature regulation in dogs. Any condition that impairs panting and proper ventilation can become fatal.

Some dogs are more predisposed than others to heat stress. Dogs that are obese or have very short noses (such as Pugs, Boston Terriers or Bulldogs) are particularly susceptible to heat stroke.





**Worried
about the cost
of vet bills?**



Pet Insurance...Have you considered it?

I was recently chatting to some clients and was taken by their stories and thought I'd share them with you.

Both these clients have young dogs, less than 18mths of age, and both these clients took out pet insurance when their pets were pups, thinking that it would cover them should something dramatic happen when their dogs got older.

Wayne owns a golden retriever and organised insurance for her prior to even picking her up. A few months after we first examined Jasi we became concerned about her hips. Wanting to do the right thing, Wayne agreed to let us radiograph Jasi's hips and we found she was suffering from quite dramatic hip dysplasia affecting both her hips. Faced with the options of conservative care and ongoing lifelong pain and arthritis versus specialist corrective surgery, Wayne was able to make a decision to opt for surgery based on it being the best option for Jasi rather than having to worry about where to come up with the \$6000 required for the surgery.

A few days later, I was consulting with a young couple and their 12 month old Labrador cross pup. The unlucky pup has developed a terrible allergy, and came in scratching and chewing at himself, with red

inflamed skin and patches of fur loss. With great trepidation, I talked to the owners about the best treatment to solve his problems, knowing that for a dog of his size, it would cost up to \$600 a month to get under control, a huge expense for any family budget. Much to my delight, the owners informed me he was insured at 10 weeks of age when they first got him. As a result, they can now treat him with the best available medications without having to worry about how to afford it.

These are two relatively dramatic examples of why we so strongly recommend pet insurance. Not every dog is going to need major surgery or lifelong medication, but most pets will need treatment during their lives for various accidents and illnesses. The security and comfort in knowing that should you be placed in a similar position, you could make a choice based on your family pets needs rather than finances is surely well and truly justified.

So please, for your 4-legged family members, consider taking out pet insurance.

News from your QVH

Utopia – Northern Territory

This time Dr Alison from Kippax Vet Hospital and myself (Dr Michael Archinal) were joined by Dr Fiona from Kippax and Nurses Leah from Canberra Veterinary Hospital and Geraldine, Dr Kate from Hall along with 3 other vets and 4 helpers from around the country.

We met some fantastic people and as usual, had an amazing experience. The 12 hours it takes from Canberra and the logistics to get to this remote community were well worth the effort. This time, Dr Alison was able to attend the local High School and spend some time with the children discussing appropriate dog health care.

It was very reassuring to see many of the dogs we treated last time for skin parasites (Sarcoptes) and worms, as well as being desexed, look so happy and healthy. It was great to hear a number of indigenous people who were very thankful for our efforts last time. We managed to desex 184 dogs this visit, as well as examine 1 very brave cat!

We were greatly helped financially by a fantastic fundraising night organised by Dr Kate and Geraldine, but as always, the next trip (planned for September) will rely on generous donations. If you would like to help us continue this good work or know more about the programme, just call Canberra or Kippax veterinary Hospitals and we would be happy to discuss this with you.



Happenings at QVH & JVH

Dr Bill successfully completed his first marathon with an impressive time of 3 hours and 39 minutes at the recent Canberra Running Festival. We are all so proud of his achievement.

All our Veterinarians will be back and forth from the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Conference in Canberra this week. Should be fun and informative.

At the end of May the whole team at will be going on a team-building Horse Back ride. Should get some great photos from that!

Puppy classes are starting again 10th and 28th May.



Pet Ambulance Service in Canberra

The Pet Ambulance Service provides companion animal transport services for private clients and all clinics across the ACT and local district, including Yass, Queanbeyan and Bungendore.



Patients with a high risk of seizure during the transit can be transported, however, the service operator would request that a means to control the seizure (under direction) be provided first. This is handed over to the receiving clinic and noted on their records.

The owner/operator, Jarrod Male, holds an Advanced Certificate in Veterinary Nursing and has 15 years experience in practice as a Veterinary Nurse in surgeries around Canberra and the region. The business has been operating for 3 years and performed hundreds of criticare transfers with an excellent completion record.

The Pet Ambulance can also provide in-home services, such as nail-clipping, bandage changes, removal of sutures and administering medications. The service can also transport animals to clinics for routine consultations and represent the client.

The Pet Ambulance is fitted with two closed circuit TV cameras and a receiver; two large secure cages, two small secure cages and a GPS. It is well stocked, with a comprehensive first aid kit, muzzles, stretcher, oxygen, small oxygen tent, selection of ET tubes, pulse oximeter and an ambo bag.

Please note: the Pet Ambulance is not licensed to transport human clients and therefore only transports animals.

The service can transport small dogs and cats in an oxygen tent. Larger dogs will need to have an intra-nasal tube fitted prior to transport if required.

The Pet Ambulance generally operates 24/7 however there may be some exceptions. Transits during normal working hours within the ACT generally cost \$80 but if the transit is after hours, beyond the ACT borders or requires extra staff then further charges can apply. A quote can be given at time of enquiry.

Extra notice is required for intubated patients requiring IPPV so an additional nurse can be employed to assist. Small to medium sized animals can be transported this way however, larger breed dogs should be discussed with the service operator as the vehicle is not fitted with chairs or seatbelts to secure the assistant in the rear of the vehicle.

Jarrod can be contacted on: [0448 789 039](tel:0448789039)

