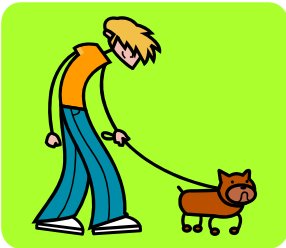


Mansfield Veterinary Clinic

April News



Behaviour a Problem?

Many of you will know Jan Edwards from attending Obedience Training or having your dog groomed. Jan has been with the Mansfield Veterinary Clinic for several years and is now expanding her repertoire to include behavioural consultations. Jan has extensive experience in all aspects of dog behaviour, having seen many of the problems that can occur, and has now completed a Canine Behaviour Specialist Course with the National Dog Trainers Federation of Australia.

Jan can assist you with behavioural problems such as: Aggression, Fear, Anxiety and Disobedience (not responding to owners commands).

Consultations can be arranged via the vet clinic, or are sometimes requested on veterinary referral.

COUNCIL REGISTRATION

Don't forget to register your pets this month.

All cats and dogs in the Mansfield Shire need to be registered from 3 months of age.

THIS YEAR ALL NEW REGISTRATIONS MUST HAVE A MICROCHIP.

The microchip assists in fast reunion of lost pets with their owners and is recognised Australia-wide.

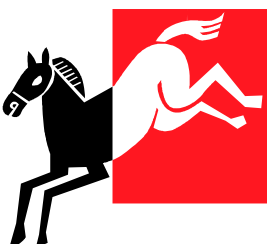
Take it on the chin

Veterinary nurse Georgia Shaw suffered some bad luck last month by being kicked in the jaw by a horse. Unfortunately she fractured the end of her jaw bone, dislocating it from the joint, and the piece was too small for doctors to perform surgery. Despite working with horses in both her jobs (also at a trail riding business) Georgia sustained the injury at home! This will see her off work for a couple of months. We all hope she gets well soon.

Not to be outdone, Dr. Sally Cullen also had a trip to hospital only two days later. While playing with her 'extremely quiet' foal, Leeroy, she managed to cop a foot to the jaw herself. Luckily there were no fractures just a few sutures in the chin. Thank you to Dr. Ganesh Naidoo for stitching up both Georgia and Sally.

We know these things always happen in threes, so it was no surprise when local Australian Pony breeder, Katherine Carrington had to cancel an appointment with us. Her mother rang to say Katherine had been kicked in the jaw by one of her horses after one of our vet nurses suggested taking a photo of a wound on her horses leg. *Great idea Peta.* Fortunately, Katherine's black eye is going down and her jaw is feeling much better.

It goes to show, you should never be too blasé.



More Amazing Stories of Survival

With the bizarre weather patterns we have experienced this year, we have also seen a change in the usual course of snake envenomation. This year we have had an unusually large number of snakebites in March. Remember the story of Kong last month? This month we have had another two dogs make it back from the brink of death, Meg, a 12 year old Blue Heeler, and Minnie, a 6 year old Jack Russel. Both were brought in soon after being bitten and ceased breathing. A tube was placed in both cases and they were artificially respirationed for several hours before beginning to breathe again on their own. It is amazing to see a dog with only a heart beat keeping her going, getting almost back to her normal self within 24 hours.

Well done Minnie and Meg.

Another presentation of snake envenomation is the 'sub-lethal' bite. 18 month old, large crossbreed, Frank, suffered one of these. Frank was brought into the clinic 'not quite right' and it took 24 hours to realise he had actually been bitten by a snake. The sub-lethal bite occurs when a smaller dose of venom is injected into the victim. Unlike in a lethal bite where signs are immediate and dramatic, in these cases the onset is much slower, usually involving muscle pain and weakness (due to muscle breakdown). As diagnosis is often delayed, much of the venom is already bound when treatment commences and so antivenene, while very useful, is not immediately effective. Treatment mostly involves supportive therapy.

“The sub-lethal bite can be just as deadly as the classical lethal bite”

Frank was with us at the clinic for almost 2 weeks, during which time he was given constant intravenous fluids (to flush through muscle breakdown products and maintain hydration) and pain relief. He was force fed for much of this time to maintain his strength. Finally, he was eating alone and allowed to go home and is making a fantastic recovery.



Strange Stuff Falling From the Sky

And it's about time!! While we are all rejoicing the little bit of moisture we have seen in the last week of March, we also need to be aware of the potential dangers rainfall can bring.

In horses, keep an eye on those ponies that often founder. Some ponies appear to just look at green grass and get sore feet. Introducing them slowly to green pasture or keeping them in a confined area with less green growth can help. Most importantly, at risk horses should be trimmed regularly. Colic can also be a problem, as with any change of diet. It is important to wean horses off their current diet while putting them onto new pastures.

Changes in diet can also affect sheep and cattle. Care must be taken in releasing stock from containment paddocks onto fresh pastures. Feeding out prior to release can reduce risk of gorging on fresh pasture and consideration should be given to feeding out for a few days after release to allow the rumen to adjust.

Toxicities such as Ryegrass Stagers may be seen during times of short grass and slow pasture growth. After the prolonged dry period, plants may uptake excess nitrates from the soil causing nitrate poisoning and there may also be an increased concentration of toxic weeds in paddocks.

After a long period of poor feed intake, it is likely that we may also see some problems associated with cold, wet weather, such as pneumonia and poor resistance to disease.

Despite this, I am sure we are all looking forward to more of that strange wet stuff.