



TWO THIRTY, TIME TO SEE THE DENTIST!

Does your pet have foul smelling breath? Do you turn your head when he pants in your face? Are her teeth brown and yellow instead of pearly white? Your pet probably has dental disease. Dental disease is the most common disease, in both dogs and cats, seen by veterinarians and often the most neglected by owners.

Bacteria from food and other sources builds up on teeth and under the gums. This causes gingivitis, which is seen as reddened and inflamed gums. Gingivitis and tartar, the brown discolouration on their teeth, leads to periodontitis (dental disease).

Giving your pet bones, dental chew toys and brushing their teeth can help to prevent dental disease but once the tartar and plaque is there the only way to remove it is by giving them a "dental" where we remove the tartar with an ultrasonic scaler and polish their teeth. This is similar to dental clean we would receive from our dentists.

A lot of owners ignore their four legged friends dirty teeth but it can be a serious problem leading to tooth root abscesses, destruction and fracture of the tooth roots, and can cause teeth to fall out (not to mention the chronic bad breath). Dental disease is often painful and we see much brighter and happier pets following a dental procedure.



Some owners worry about their animal being too old and don't want to risk an "unnecessary" anaesthetic but with pre-anaesthetic blood screening and IV fluid therapy we can help increase the safety of the procedure.

[If you are worried your dog is suffering from dental disease call the clinic for a free dental check with our lovely nurses or trainee vets.](#)

FOR AUGUST
ONLY WE ARE
OFFERING TO
CLEAN AND
SCALE YOUR
PETS TEETH
FOR JUST
\$150!

THAT'S ALMOST
50% OFF!

ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES
WILL BE BILLED AT
NORMAL PRICES

TRAINEE VETERINARIANS

Over the next 6 months you will see trainee vets from Melbourne University completing their final year placements at the clinic. These 3 week placements comprise their final supervised practical work before being let loose on the world! This experience is an essential part of creating competent new graduate veterinarians.

Trainees take a very active part in the care and treatment of your pets, and at all times are supervised by our qualified veterinary staff.

Both Dr Sally and Dr Jackie spent time as trainee vets here before beginning their careers at Mansfield Vet Clinic.

If you do not wish a trainee to be involved with your pets' care, please let our staff know.

HORSE MASSAGE

We recently have been lucky enough to have Equine Myotherapist Cassandra Moxey from Horseflow show us her skills. She gave Jackie's horse Cayden a massage and he appeared to thoroughly enjoy the process! A few days later, Jackie rode him and found a big improvement in the freedom of his trot and he also seemed to find cantering on the correct lead much easier than he had before. As Jackie has been very pleased with the results, she is going to have Cassandra massage Cayden again to maintain muscle suppleness and optimum horse happiness! If you too think your horse might benefit from a sports, remedial or deep tissue massage from Cassandra, then you can contact us for her details. So far we are all very pleased with the results!



FEEDING HORSES IN WINTER

Horses expend more energy in winter simply keeping warm. In addition, many paddocks may look green, but don't contain much grass, or the grass is full of water with low digestible energy content. Horses also tend to spend less time grazing when the weather turns cold. Some horses, particularly ponies do just fine in winter and need no real change in management. If you do need to avoid winter weight loss you need to start before the weight has really fallen off.



Increasing the amount of supplementary hay is the first priority. Horses digest hay relatively inefficiently and digestion produces waste heat which helps the horse to stay warm. A biscuit of hay or an extra few kilos of chaff is much more useful than a warm bran.

Buy quality hay. Clover or lucerne blends contain more energy than grass hay. Look for plenty of leaf, and soft wispy stems. Chaff is more expensive and you need to feed a big 20 litre bucket to supply the same amount as a good biscuit of hay. Hay is a far more natural feed for horses than grain and you'll get better results, with less risk of colic if you use it as the first choice supplement in winter.

Some horses can't maintain condition or work on hay alone. Oats are a relatively safe grain to feed and are very well digested in their natural state. Barley needs to be heat processed to extract the full nutritive value and should be boiled, steam flaked, micronized or extruded.

Fat contains 2.5 - 3 times the energy of grain so you don't have to feed much to get results. Good sources are vegetable oils, sunflower seeds (25-30% fat) and rice pollard (15-20% fat). KER Equi-Jewel is a commercial high energy supplement made from a stabilised rice bran product that contains 18% fat from rice oil and is an excellent supplement for the winter to increase the energy density of the diet.

In some horses it is important to avoid problems associated with overfeeding. If your horse is stabled and poor weather or lack of daylight stops you riding, cut the hard feed in half and give the horse extra hay. This will prevent some problems caused by over feeding such as behaviour changes, laminitis, tying up and colic.

A Biotin/Zinc/Methionine supplement can help keep your horses feet strong and healthy and will also help maintain skin and coat health and condition. For working horses, a salt block in the paddock or loose salt in the feed is important.

Giving the horse adequate shelter is important in both summer and winter, and some horses may require rugging. Remember to review your worm control program and check teeth.

This article is a modified version from Kentucky Equine Research's 'Equi-notes' written by Dr. Peter Huntington and Sonja Vandermark. For the complete article, please visit the clinic.