

DECEMBER NEWS

December 2008



MERRY CHRISTMAS

It's hard to believe another year has almost ended and Christmas is upon us again. Despite the public holidays, you will still be able to contact a vet 24 hours by calling the clinic on 5775 2055 and listening to the recorded message. Our opening hours over the Christmas—New Year period are:

- Christmas Eve (Wednesday 24th) - 8:30am—12pm
- Christmas Day (Thursday 25th) - Closed (Emergencies Only)
- Boxing Day (Friday 26th) - Closed (Emergencies Only)
- New Years Eve (Wednesday 31st) - 8:30am—12pm
- New Years Day (Thursday 1st) - Closed (Emergencies Only)

Otherwise the clinic is open normal hours of:

- Monday—Friday - 8:30am—6pm
- Saturday - 9am—5pm
- Sunday - 9am—12pm

We do you request that you call the clinic to make appointments and before coming in to pick up any medications that are not dispensed 'over-the-counter' (ie. must be approved by a vet).

From all the staff, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

TRICHOBEZOAR

Dr. Andrew Jacotine went to see a sick cow that he diagnosed with an obstruction. Exploratory surgery, although an option, was not requested and the cow was otherwise treated but unfortunately died. Out of curiosity the owner opened up the cow and just as Andrew had said, there was an obstruction. The intestine was blocked by a trichobezoar, also known as a hairball. Cows can develop hair balls by licking themselves and each other.



FOR SALE

Black
Quarterhorse
Cross
Yearling Filly

Very quiet, loves
people, easy to
catch, float and
trim.

Regularly wormed
and vaccinated.

\$2000

Negotiable to right
home.

FREE TO GOOD HOME

2 Friendly
Shed Cats
Great Mousers
Desexed,
microchipped,
vaccinated.

POPPING HIPS

Recently we were presented with a dog that had fallen off the back of a four-wheeler motorbike. She had been unable to put her hind leg down since. On examination we found she was painful in the hip and a dislocated hip and/or broken pelvis was suspected. She was placed under general anaesthetic where it was found that one leg was quite a bit shorter than the other.



A radiograph confirmed that her hip was dislocated, but fortunately her pelvis was intact. It was then necessary to replace the hip by angling the leg and popping the femoral head (ball) back into the acetabulum (socket). The leg was then placed in a sling to prevent weight bearing and strict rest for 1 week advised.

Most cases of dislocated hips can be treated conservatively with replacement, bandaging and rest. But occasionally the ligaments and muscles surrounding the hip will be badly damaged and surgery must be performed. This case did not require surgery and has recovered well.

BACK FROM THE DEAD

CHANGE OF
SEASON WORM
YOUR PETS



General anaesthesia in animals is a relatively safe procedure, but all anaesthetics come with some risk. More often we are concerned about older animals and so pre-anaesthetic health checks, blood screens and fluids during surgery are recommended, and in some cases mandatory. We use the newest in anaesthetic regimes and monitoring equipment and have a trained surgical nurse monitoring anaesthetics at all times.

Recently we had a 'code blue' during surgery.

'Angus', a 12 week old great dane pup was in for surgery after being run over and fracturing the growth plate across the head of the femur. He had been in hospital for 24 hours to check for other effects of the accident and was clinically stable.

Under anaesthesia, however, Angus developed increased respiratory effort, and half way into surgery his heart suddenly stopped! Surgical Nurse Margie Davies initiated the response by, firstly getting assistance, secondly checking Angus's airways and starting respirations for him, and thirdly accessing necessary medications. Meanwhile, Dr. Andrew Jacotine started on chest compressions to maintain circulation.

After 5 minutes Angus's heart was still not beating on it's own so his chest was clipped and Andrew prepared for open chest heart massage. A final thump on the chest before grabbing the scalpel and.... spontaneous heart beats began.

The surgery was then completed uneventfully (and quickly) and Angus awakened without any side effects.

The reason for the cardiac arrest was then searched for. Radiographs and ultrasound of his chest revealed his liver was within the thoracic cavity instead of the abdomen! The force of the accident had ruptured his diaphragm and allowed his abdominal contents to enter his chest.

Angus was given a few days to recover the initial surgery and then underwent anaesthesia again to repair his diaphragm. The second surgery was much less eventful but just as successful and Angus is recovering extremely well and is putting on about 4kg per week!