

Mansfield Veterinary Clinic

July News



Changes to Routine Surgery

At the Mansfield Veterinary Clinic, we are continually striving to provide you and your pets with the best possible service and care. As part of this, we are changing our approach to elective surgeries such as desexings. Currently, all patients undergoing surgery receive: a thorough clinical examination prior to surgery; constant monitoring during and after surgery, by a qualified surgical vet nurse, using the latest technology monitoring equipment; the latest advances in sterility; prophylactic antibiotic therapy; pain relief before, during and after surgery; and of course, the most up

to date surgical options provided by our continuing education.

Previously, for elective surgeries, we have offered fluid therapy and pre-anaesthetic blood screening as *optional extras*. However, it has been undoubtedly proven that by not *routinely* providing these services, we are not providing your pet the ultimate care.

Pre-anaesthetic blood screening allows us to evaluate the internal health of your pet, things we can't always determine from a clinical examination alone. This will allow us to detect any likely problems and alter our anaesthetic regime as required.

Fluid therapy decreases the risk of anaesthesia by maintaining blood pressure and giving us immediate intravenous access if there is a problem. If you have ever had an anaesthetic you will know that they leave you feeling a bit dehydrated, and fluids can reduce this feeling. It has been clinically proven that animals recover from anaesthesia much better with fluid therapy.

Therefore, when you are given an estimate for routine surgery, it will now include pre-anaesthetic blood screening and fluid therapy, as well as all the other routine procedures we employ. Instead of checking the box for *optional extras* you will now be required to check the box only if you *do not* wish your pet to have these components of anaesthesia (eg. For financial reasons).

More Learning

At the beginning of last month Dr. Sally Cullen flew to Sydney for an Equine Surgery workshop as part of her distance education course. Highlights included meeting with other participants in the course and with several specialists in the field of Equine surgery. The workshop involved performing several surgeries on cadavers as well as learning how to apply limb casts on live patients.

Dr. Jackie Davey is off to Townsville next month for the Annual AACV Cattle Conference. We look forward to hearing all about it.

**BLACK KITTEN
FOR SALE****Male, desexed,
vaccinated and
microchipped.****\$100
Very friendly, suit
indoor or mousing
position.****ADULT BENGAL
CAT****Female, spayed.
Free to Good Home****Suit single house-
hold, indoor cat.**

Student Electives

It's that time of year again. Student electives have started. Mansfield Veterinary Clinic is one of the most popular clinics for students to attend as part of either their holiday rotations or final year electives.

For the last 6 months of their final year, Melbourne University Veterinary students undertake 4 lots of 3 week rotations. During this time, the students are referred to as Trainee Veterinarians, as they have completed all of their studies and written exams and are finishing their final practical work.

Again, we have 2 students booked for each block. Students are given the responsibility of beginning consultations with a view to making a diagnosis and initiating a treatment plan under the supervision of the attending veterinarian. They are also present behind the scenes, preparing animals for surgery and assisting in most surgical procedures.

Many of our students are already familiar with the clinic and clients as they have spent time here during their holiday rotations. We are very proud of our reputation of being so popular with the students and this is mostly due to you, our clients. Without your help and support, these students would not be getting the valuable experience they need. And, don't forget these students may become your veterinarian in the future. Both Dr. Sally Cullen and Dr. Jackie Davey were past students at the Mansfield Veterinary Clinic.

Pippa's Bladder

Pippa, an 18 month old kelpie, had a bad habit of running behind the car as it went up the driveway. Unfortunately, she wasn't counting on the car towing a trailer. Needless to say, Pippa got rolled.

At first, Pippa did not seem to have suffered too badly from the accident. She had a few grazes to her lower abdomen but could walk OK. Then, her owner noticed that Pippa was having trouble urinating, and was passing a few drops of blood. She was also off her food and vomiting.

So, in to the clinic she came. Given the history, it was thought that Pippa may have a ruptured bladder. She was put onto low volumes of intravenous fluids and hospitalised to determine whether or not her bladder was intact.

By morning, Pippa had not passed any urine, and her abdomen was starting to feel fluidy. Ultrasound examination confirmed a large amount of fluid in the abdomen and the bladder was not visible. An exploratory laparotomy (surgical exploration of the abdomen) was indicated.

As expected, Pippa's abdomen was full of urine. Her bladder had a neat rupture about 3cm long. The defect was sutured and the abdomen was drained of urine and flushed with warm sterile fluid to decrease the risk of irritation and infection. Fortunately, her other internal organs such as the colon, spleen, liver and kidneys, were all unharmed. A urinary catheter was placed into the bladder so that it would empty constantly, rather than fill up and place pressure on the sutures.

Within 2 days, Pippa was urinating well, eating and drinking without vomiting and was considered well enough to go home. And, she hasn't looked back. The bladder has a very good capacity for healing provided the suturing is well performed.