

Mansfield Veterinary Clinic

June News



JUNE SPECIAL

10% off all winter dog rugs.

Waterproof, water resistant, quilted or fleecy varieties available.

All colours and sizes.

Put your order in before stocks run out.

Dogs can be donors too

All of us are familiar with the fantastic work of the Red Cross Blood Bank, but, did you know that dogs can be donors too. Last month we had two dogs requiring blood transfusions at the Mansfield Vet Clinic. Tappa, a 12 year old Golden Retriever, required a blood transfusion when he had his spleen removed due to a tumour, and Nika, a Rottweiler, needed blood cells after having a severe bleed from her uterus following the arrival of nine pups.

Dogs do not generally require their blood to be typed for a first transfusion as they possess very few natural antibodies to other blood types. Therefore, any available blood donor can be used. Dr. Sally Cullen's Rotty Cross Fletcher, and Veterinary Nurse Bri Seaton's Border Collie Jamaica, 'voluntarily' gave blood for Tappa and Nika. If either of these dogs need transfusions in the future, they would have to have their blood cross matched with the donor to avoid a reaction.

Tappa, is recovering well following his splenectomy. Dogs can live quite happily without their spleens. Provided the tumour has not spread to other parts of his body, we hope Tappa will make a full recovery.

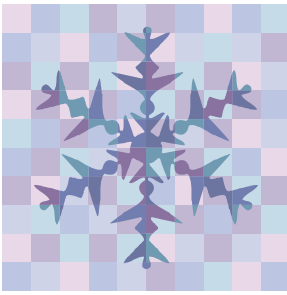
Nika is also recovering well. The blood transfusion allowed us to surgically remove her uterus (ie. spay) thereby controlling the bleeding. Unfortunately, she lost 5 of the pups, but the surviving 4 are thriving.

Survivors Party

A fun time was had by all at the Snakebite Survivors Party. A snake shaped party cake made by Vet Nurse Margie Davies (see back page of the High Country Times 23rd May) was the colourful centrepiece. There were nibbles for both dogs and owners and even a pass the parcel. All attending pups headed home with prizes (eg, most vials of antivenene, longest stay in hospital) and a party bag of treats.

It was very rewarding to see these dogs back to their healthy selves. The snakebite experience is very stressful for everybody involved, pets, owners and clinic staff, so it was great to have an enjoyable afternoon to celebrate.

Thanks to everyone who attended, and all those who couldn't make it.



CHANGE OF SEASON

TIME TO WORM YOUR PETS

YOUR PETS
SHOULD BE
WORMED
EVERY 3
MONTHS.

DID YOU
KNOW YOU
CAN NOW
WORM YOUR
HORSES FOR
ONLY
\$10?

IMAX GOLD
AVAILABLE
AT THE
CLINIC.

Cushings Disease

We have diagnosed and treated several cases of "Cushing Disease" in dogs and horses at the clinic. Cushing's disease (or hyperadrenocorticism) is caused by excessive production of hormones (cortisol) from the adrenal gland. The adrenal gland is often called the "fight and flight gland" as it is activated when the animal is under stress. The condition is usually caused by a tumor in the adrenal or pituitary gland.

Dogs with Cushing's disease are generally thirsty, drink more water than usual and are continually hungry. They have a bloated abdomen, are lethargic, they often pant and may have hair loss. Horses develop hirsutism which is the presence of a long, often curly hair coat that is not shed in the warmer months. They are also inclined to be thirsty and eat more. Another feature is poor healing of wounds.

When we suspect Cushing's disease we need to perform special procedures and blood tests to confirm it. Treatment involves suppressing the production of cortisol from the adrenal gland by using chemotherapeutic drugs. This can be quite complicated but is generally successful.

Any animal showing any of the signs listed above should be examined by a vet. There are many other conditions that can cause any of the signs and it is important to get an early and accurate diagnosis.

Diseases such as Cushing's would often go undiagnosed in the past. At Mansfield Veterinary Clinic we are continually striving to keep up to date with advances in veterinary diagnostics. Our ultrasound machines are state of the art and we can even identify adrenal glands which helps in the diagnosis of conditions such as Cushing's disease. We have access to advanced laboratory services, CT scanners and MRI as well as a range of specialist vets. This gives us immense satisfaction since it enables us to maximize our ability to help the animals that we treat.

Bon Voyage Bri

You won't be seeing much of Vet Nurse Bri Seaton over the next month as she is off to Singapore, England, France, Spain and Thailand. Bri will be catching up with some of her husband's relatives in England and Spain as well as having dinner with former Mansfield Veterinarian Dr. Tim Spencer, who is currently working in England.

We look forward to seeing lots of photos.