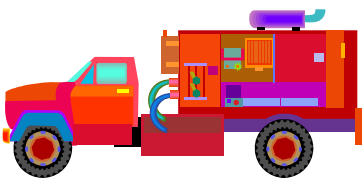


FIRE SAFETY FOR YOU AND YOUR PETS



In the past few weeks we have seen utter devastation to properties, homes and lives in the awful bushfires that swept through Victoria on Black Saturday. Our hearts go out to anyone affected by the disaster and we feel for our clients that are in the affected areas.

As well as the tragic human losses, many animal lives have also been lost including both domestic pets and native wildlife.

If you are in an area that is likely to be affected by bushfires, it is important to have a fire plan that includes both you and your animals. As we keep hearing through the media, early preparations are important for survival.

If you have cats, dogs or birds, and plan to evacuate, make sure you have transport cages accessible for cats and birds, and collars and leads available for dogs. Also make sure you have room in the getaway vehicles for all family members! If there is a fire approaching or you are in an at risk area, keep animals in a safe enclosed area (such as the house) to make sure they don't run away with fear.

If you are planning to evacuate horses or other farm animals, have halters and leads ready, as well as a way of transporting them such as a float. Remember that your neighbours are likely to be evacuating as well and may not be relied upon to borrow horse floats and trucks. Also make sure you have a safe place to transport them to. Also ensure your horses are easy to catch and float— float loading lessons are not usually very successful with a panicking horse in a fire! As with any fire plan, if evacuation is planned, it should be done early before the fire is posing a direct threat.

If you plan to leave horses or other livestock, plan to have them in a safely fenced paddock with the least amount of fuel (such as dry grass, undergrowth, trees). If possible, an area with a dam or irrigations system would be ideal. Also remove any rugs, headstalls or fly masks from horses as they can melt and cause burns.

In many cases it is recommended to evacuate animals from a fire-threatened property if safe to do so, even if you plan to stay.

If you come across injured or sick animals in a bushfire area, cover them with a towel or blanket and contact your nearest vet clinic or wildlife shelter. Remember that a scared or stressed animal can become aggressive, so keep yourself safe too with protective gloves etc.

For bushfire donations contact either the Red Cross on 1800 811 700 or Wildlife Victoria on 1300 859 453.



CHANGE OF SEASON



WORM YOUR PETS!

MOLLY SAW IT COMING...TWICE!

Molly the terrier recently came in to see us one weekend with a very sore eye. It had been sore and shut for the past few days and needed attention.

Dr. Jackie examined the eye and found a large ulcer over the surface of the eyeball, known as the cornea. She suspected Molly may have had something stuck in her eye that had caused the damage. After applying local anaesthetic to the eye, she was able to look more closely and found a HUGE grass seed stuck under the third eyelid. The seed had been rubbing on Molly's eye, causing an ulcer. It was removed, making Molly feel much more comfortable.

After a big sigh of relief (from both Molly and Dr. Jackie) and some tasty treats to cheer her up (Molly, not Dr. Jackie), Molly was sent home on some medications to help clear up the ulcer. However, a couple of days later she was back with the eye still sore. Another examination was performed and this time a second HUGE grass seed had begun to poke out from under the third eyelid. This was very supr-eye-sing! This grass seed had probably penetrated all the way into the eyelid days ago, but also may have been picked up by Molly as she rubbed her very sore eye.

Foreign objects such as grass seeds often cause ulcerations to animals eyes and can become lodged under their conjunctiva or third eyelids. Sometimes these can penetrate right into these tissues and are not able to be found until the body starts ejecting them a few days later.

Molly was very lucky in this case and her eye made a full recovery following its double whammy!

If you notice your pet with a sore or shut eye it is important to bring them in to have it thoroughly checked out straight away to give it the best chance of a good outcome. Remember to keep an eye on those eyes!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Giraffes have the same number of vertebrae as humans!
- Kangaroos can have a joey at foot, a newborn joey in the pouch and a paused embryo inside all at once! And, each mammary gland produces milk of different composition according to the stage the joey is at.
- Diving animals such as whales can slow their heart rate and metabolism in order to go for long periods without breathing surface air!
- Female calves that have a twin brother will always be infertile!
- A cross between a horse and a donkey is a mule, which is also infertile!
- A baby echidna is called a puggle!
- Horses cannot vomit!



FOR SALE

Four gorgeous kittens!

All male, 3 tabby, 1 white and tabby.

All very beautiful and playful and looking for a loving home.



Price \$150 including desexing, microchipping and 1st vaccination.

