

OCTOBER NEWS

October 2008

FLIP'S FACE LIFT

Flip the terrier came in to see Doctor Sally one Sunday afternoon. He had been digging under the fence at home and unfortunately stuck his nose into the backyard of another dog who gave him a bit of a chomp for poking into other dogs business. Flip suffered a significant injury to his face and mouth and was brought straight in.



After being stabilized on fluids and very strong pain relief for the night, Flip went into surgery to try and fix his chomped face. The bite of the other dog had broken through his nasal bones as well as the tip of his top jaw, leaving a rather unusual looking face. Once anaesthetized it was found that his nose, front teeth and lips were completely separated from the rest of his face!

Dr. Sally performed major reconstructive surgery of Flip's face, managing to stabilize the fractures and re-attach his jaw and lips. After 2 hours of surgery, Flip's face was as good as new and with hardly a scar. At the time of writing he is still recovering from his big face lift but hopefully will be smiling again soon.

WHAT A STICK!



Tolmie, the Border Collie, was noticed to have a very sore foot. There was pus draining from a sinus between her toes and she was barely able to take any weight on the foot. Probing the sinus with local anaesthetic revealed some small pieces of wood, but a larger foreign body was suspected and so a general anaesthetic was required.

On further investigation, a wound was noticed on the back of the leg, above the pads but below the wrist. After cutting down on the rear wound, a piece of stick about 5cm long was discovered!

Tolmie was probably running at great pace and got the wood stuck in between her toes where it drove itself completely inside leaving only a small wound between the toes. Fortunately there was no major damage to any tendons or blood vessels and Tolmie has made a full recovery.

The Mansfield Veterinary Clinic, has last month purchased a new, x-ray machine.

The new machine will produce small animal radiographs of better quality and consistency than our previous machine.



Please ask us about routine radiographs for hip dysplasia and OCD lesions in your young pups of predisposed breeds, or in breeding animals.

PINKEYE



Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis (or Pinkeye) is a contagious disease in cattle caused by the bacterium *Moraxella bovis*. *Moraxella bovis* is carried in the nasal and ocular (from the eye) secretions from both infected and carrier animals. The bacteria are able to attach to the surface of the eye using special pili, and they produce toxins which erode the cornea, causing ulceration and severe inflammation. Flies play an important role in spreading the bacteria from infected to non-infected cattle, thus the disease occurs mainly in the summer months.

Pinkeye is considered to be an economically important disease throughout Australia, as it can lead to losses in production and treatment costs can be extensive. Fortunately, a new vaccine has been developed to help protect cattle from developing the disease. **Coopers® Piliguard Pinkeye Vaccine** is a single use vaccine that needs to be given 3-6 weeks before the expected onset of the pinkeye season (i.e. best given in October). Although the vaccine is not 100% effective, it has been shown to dramatically decrease the amount of cattle affected by pinkeye and decreases the severity of the clinical signs in affected cattle. Annual boosters given before each pinkeye season are recommended.

Other management tools should also be used to control the spread of pinkeye in your herd:

Fly control - such as with products like 'Arrest' or 'Coopers Easy Dose'.

Treat clinical cases early - this will decrease the number of infective bacteria in the herd and limit spread. Treatment involves antibiotic eye ointments or injections by your vet, and using eye patches to promote corneal healing.

Segregate affected animals and try to avoid yarding them in dry, dusty conditions so as to minimize transmission to susceptible animals.



J/D - FOR OSTEOARTHRITIS

Taking your dog for its daily walk may not be as much fun for your pet as you think! Is he or she just getting old, or is your dog suffering from the painful joint condition osteoarthritis (OA). Just as arthritis affects humans, one in five dogs are affected by this debilitating condition.

But how do you know if your much-loved pet has OA? And what's the best way to help him or her?

Telltale signals that your pet may be suffering in silence include: limping, difficulty rising, stiffness, decreased activity level, reluctance to play, run or climb stairs, as well as behavioural changes such as aggression or withdrawal. If your dog has demonstrated any of these signs, an appointment for an arthritis screen by your vet is highly recommended.

Controlled weight loss and exercise programmes are usually recommended along with a course of pain-relieving medication and/or a course of injections.

Thankfully, further help is at hand, with the introduction of a new dietary supplement designed to alleviate the pain and physical signs of your dog's OA. The result of years of research, Prescription Diet Canine J/D from Hill's Pet Nutrition, is a technologically advanced nutritional product containing appropriate levels of nutrients for the management of dogs with arthritis.

Containing the nutrient, EPA, a natural fish oil extract, Hill's Prescription Diet Canine J/D is clinically proven to be beneficial for dogs suffering from OA and is suitable for the long-term feeding of adult and senior dogs. Additionally, as EPA is an effective, natural supplement, the need for drug therapy, and the potential for associated side effects, is also reduced.

Hill's Prescription Diet Canine J/D is available solely through veterinary clinics.

This article is an extract directly from Hills Pet Nutrition.