



East Bundaberg Veterinary Hospital &

Bargara Veterinary Surgery

February 2019 Newsletter



VETERINARY SURGERY

41591009

Practice Chit Chat

I think everyone who lives in our area is aware of how hot and dry it has been. During these hot dry months it is important that we make sure our animals have access to loads of clean drinking water and also cool areas to lie and rest. During the day it is best not to run your dog in the middle of the day and it is best to take water and shade with you if you are visiting our wonderful beaches.

Please do NOT leave your animals in the car when it is parked – even if the windows are down as the internal temperature of the car can rise dramatically when there is no wind flow or no air-conditioning. If you are not sure – sit in the car yourself and feel how uncomfortable it is within a short time. Remember dogs and cats can only regulate their temperature by panting or allowing heat to leave their body via convection methods (and this method only works on animals with short coats).

This is a “REAL GOOD TIME” TO CLIP YOUR DOG (or CAT) – if you are not sure if the animal will benefit, then just get it clipped and see if there is any difference. Now clipping dogs such as Jack Russel's is usually of no benefit but clipping Labradors there is a huge benefit. If you want to – bring your furbaby into our animal hospital and we can recommend what is best for you.

Also as we try our best to stay cool during this heatwave, remember that air- conditioners take the moisture out of the air and that is not good for animals with breathing or throat problems and air-conditioning does not work if the coat is too thick to allow the cool air to get to the skin.

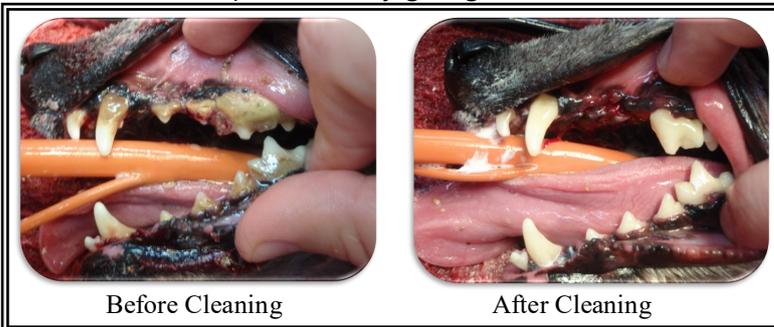
To get your dog or cat groomed please ring 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara) and if you would like your dog hydrobathed (we only use the mildest of shampoos and conditioners that will not harm the skin of your animal) then also ring these numbers (we do not recommend most cats get hydrobathed as the person holding the cat usually gets shredded and we do not like the screams and the curses resounding through the hospital from staff members who are trying to hydrobath the cat)



Dental Month

February is one of our dental months where we offer a discounted price for all the dental work we do for the month. Dental problems are one of the most common problems that I see with our furry friends – most animals have the start of decay by the end of the 2nd year of life and this decay then continues leading to lots of animal losing major teeth and having serious gum problems for the rest of their lives.

The dental problems are so easily prevented by having a professional clean early in life and then good dental care (that does involve professional cleans) for the rest of their life. There would not be an owner in Australia who is not aware of the importance of dental hygiene in their own mouths and for some reason they feel their animals are immune to the same problem. Try going for a month without cleaning your own teeth and feel the result (you may



Before Cleaning

After Cleaning

find that your partners, family and friends are not talking to you any more or at least standing on the other side of the room when conversing with you).

We continue to offer these special discounted months to encourage owners to deal with the animal's dental problem at an affordable cost. We do not want the cost of the procedure to stop the owners assisting their animal.

If you are interested in dealing with your animal's dental problems then please ring 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara) and either request more infor-

mation or make an appointment.

Desexing Month

We have just spent the last month desexing male and female dogs and cats for a 50% discounted price. Again, this is part of the culture of our business – to try to assist owners in an affordable way without sending our business into bankruptcy. We offer this discounted service every 3 months to aid the owner who is finding the cost is prohibitive to having their animal desexed.

If you know anyone who wants to partake of this discounted period (the next one will be in April) – or if you have an animal that needs to be desexed then please give us a ring on 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara) and book the animal in.

We do ask for a \$50.00 deposit at the time of the booking and this deposit is non-refundable. We only have limited spots and once they are taken then the offer does not occur again for another 3 months. There are some conditions such as the animal is not to be pregnant, the animal must be over 6 months of age, the animal must be healthy and non-aggressive etc. It should be noted that some animals such as Greyhounds will need to stay with us overnight on intravenous fluids - this is because the animal takes a long time to recover and needs to have its blood pressure maintained for at least 24 hours to stop serious muscular conditions developing post-anesthetic.



Nutrition

I was interested to read an article that was published in a well-respected journal in USA on the subject of grain free food. In case you have not noticed that there is a real "fad" at the moment on feeding dogs "grain free" food. Now there is no scientific evidence (that I know about) that says feeding grain or their by-products to dogs is harmful but there has been a number of food producing companies who are saying that feeding grain free is good for your dog.

Up to reading this article I just rolled my eyes when someone said they were feeding grain free food to their dog because it made "them healthier". I could see no health issues with this and so I just "sat on the fence" with this type of food. I was more interested in the quality and digestibility of the food rather than whether it had grains or not.

Then I read this article where a group of leading heart specialist veterinarians are starting to note the increase of cardiomyopathy in dogs in the USA and the majority of them are on grain free foods.

The cardiologists are NOT saying that grain free foods cause heart problems - all they are saying is that there is a common factor in a lot of heart problem animals and that factor is that these animals are on grain free foods.

Now I do not have any evidence to say whether or not grain free foods affect the heart of some dogs but I will be interested in the future to see what research occurs to try to get this sorted one way or the other.

I certainly do know that food companies compete against each other for a very large amount of money and they use every means possible to get the owner to buy their product. The packaging is becoming brighter and brighter, there are claims written on the packet that is misleading and sometimes based on false promises to the public that is not backed by scientific evidence.

What I do know is that there are only 2 dry foods for dogs that I personally recommend - Hills and Royal Canin. In my opinion these two companies manufacture the best dry foods for dogs. I am not saying that there are no other good dry foods on the market - I am only saying that these are the two food companies that I personally would recommend. What food you give your dog (and cat) is up to yourself - but do not be fooled with what you read on the packet and try to look past the price of the product (sometimes cheap food is not as good as dear food).



Davo's Corner

I am finally happy to announce that I have beaten my wife to the top of Wild Horse Mountain.

Now for those readers who are new to this newsletter let me recap - every time my wife and I go to Brisbane we have a ritual. We stop at Wild Horse Mountain, which is around 10kl south of Nambour, and we have a race to the top. For those of you who have not gone up this mountain - let me assure you that the road up can be very steep and it should only be tackled by someone who is superfit as I am (or someone who can at least walk up 3 stairs without puffing).

Over the last 20 years I have never beaten my wife to the top of the mountain and there has been times when she has had to come down from the top to assist me in my grind up the road with words of encouragement such as "Come on jelly-belly", "Would you like me to get a wheel chair and push you up", "Is that you making all that noise - everyone thought there was a steam train coming".

But finally, I have beaten her. It was the day before Christmas when she and I left our house heading to Brisbane. When I drove south of Nambour, I saw the sign to Wild Horse Mountain and I knew this was the moment I had waited for all these years.

I parked the car at the bottom of the mountain and I was off - up the track I went, Ventolin and oxygen tank in hand. I kept up a steady pace - never faltering and never stopping until the top was in sight. I must admit a few dozen children, an old lady with her seeing-eye dog and a man pushing a "walker" did pass me but my wife was nowhere in sight. Up, up I went and until finally I stood on the lookout (when I said "stood" - it was more like me hunched over gasping for breath and a kind person holding the oxygen mask over my face) and I knew I had won. Never again would she be able to say that she had always beaten me - the quest was over and finally I could take my place on the podium.

After I finally had recovered my breath and I could stand up - I did a little jig and a very loud "Whoop". A little girl who had passed me on the way up described my act as a "lump of jelly with burps" but I do not care - I had won.

I was thrilled all the way to the airport to pick up my wife - you see she had flown to Brisbane while I had driven but the fact that she was not there does not count. We always do "the mountain" every time we go to Brisbane - technically we had both gone to Brisbane and there has never been a condition that we both had to be "on the mountain" at the same time. No matter how much she complains - I won!!

