

East Bundaberg Veterinary Hospital &



**VETERINARY
HOSPITAL**
41531399

Bargara Veterinary Surgery

March 2019 Newsletter



**VETERINARY
SURGERY**
41591009

We are now entering another month – summer is officially over and as we enter autumn. I must admit I find it hard to tell the difference, except on the early morning walks with my dogs (I leave home at 4.30am) are now dark when I start and the weather is getting a little cool at that time of the morning (to the stage I am thinking of putting on a light coat except, my wife – who is fast asleep at that time – thinks I am being a bit “wussy”).



March – Senior Blood Test and Examination Month

March is our Senior Month - where we offer to examine any animal who is over the age of 8 years and collect blood which will be sent to our laboratory for full analysis to try to detect early signs of abnormalities. (Now normally this would cost \$400.00) We are offering this full examination and blood test for **\$200.00**.

It is very important to note that this offer is NOT for sick or injured animals. It is a preventative offer not a treatment offer.



The more I thought about the offer, the more I realised that a lot of animals would benefit from this service so I have decided to extend the offer to all animals who are 5 years or older.

This examination and blood test is **SO** important to aid us in detecting problems **BEFORE** they rear their ugly heads. Every week we are presented with animals who have medical or physical problems that would have been so much easier to deal with if those problems had been detected earlier (and that would have made it easier for the owners).

So please let me try to explain in more detail what benefits you, the owner, and your animal will have with this examination and laboratory tests.

- ⇒ The physical exam will look at teeth, nose, eyes, ears, skin, muscle tone, heart and lungs sounds, lumps and bumps that may exist, temperature, blood pressure, weight, and any form of abnormality that the veterinarian may be concerned about.
- ⇒ The vet will collect blood and send it to our lab where tests will be done to assess the internal health of the animal. These tests will look at the liver, the kidney, diabetes, gall bladder, amount of protein in the blood, anaemia, hydration status, some clotting factors, pancreas, thyroid levels, muscle activity, cholesterol levels, immune system (including blood cancers), electrolytes (sodium, potassium and chloride) and calcium levels.

Overall there are 28 different values that are tested in the lab and approximately 12 different areas that the vet will physically examine. **In other words, the physical and laboratory examination will evaluate over 40 different areas in your animal.**

So, what is the benefit to you and your animal from this extensive examination?

The benefit is that we now have values for the health of your pet to refer back to over the next 12 months if your animal does get sick or debilitated later this year.

The main benefit is that you are aware of the overall health of the animal and you will know if your feeding program and your health program for your dog or cat is working. If a abnormality is detected with your animal then we can discuss with you the problem and the solution that hopefully will assist your animal **BEFORE** your beloved pet gets sick or debilitated.

As stated earlier this procedure normally (that means every other month of the year) will cost you, the owner, \$400.00. For the month of March **ONLY** the total cost is **\$200.00. That means there is a saving of \$200.00 (50% saving)**. I will emphasis again – this offer is **NOT** for sick or injured animals and should be seen as a early detection test for “normal animals”.

The blood test will take around 3 days to come back from the laboratory so the vet will not be able to give you the full answer on the first day and will need to contact you when the results come back from the laboratory.

If you want to take part of this offer, then please ring 41531399 (East) and 41591009 (Bargara) for an appointment.



Grooming and Hydrobathing

Even though we are entering autumn, I think everyone is aware that the next 2 to 3 months will still be hot and humid so I encourage all owners who have animals with long or thick coats to maintain their diligence in keeping

their animal groomed and hydrobathed.

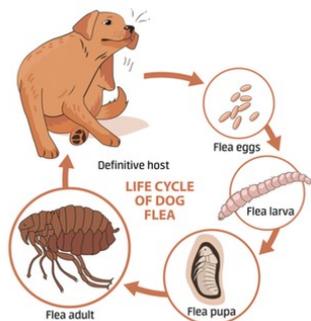
There is no doubt in my mind that a lot of owners have seen the benefits of keeping their animals clipped (having said that – there are still some owners who struggle with the idea of clipping their animal and I encourage them to talk to other owners who do clip their animals) and I applaud them for their actions. I have been an advocate of clipping animals in our hot humid climate for over 40 years and I have seen the benefits. I feel vets have an obligation to speak up for the welfare of the animals we deal with – I work on the principal that if I (or my colleagues) do not speak up – then who will? I have seen hundreds of animals benefit from regular clipping and I would encourage all owners to consider getting their animal clipped if the animal has a long or thick coat. I would also encourage all owners of dogs to get their animal hydrobathed this month – but PLEASE only use dermatologically tested dog shampoos and conditioners.



If you would like us to clip or hydrobath your pet, then please ring 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara).

Flea control

Over the last few months there has been a lot of advertising on television and in newspapers and magazines about new (and old) flea controls on the market. There is no doubt that we are seeing a lot of dogs and cats with fleas – especially after each rain period (yes it does rain occasionally in Bundaberg and Bargara)



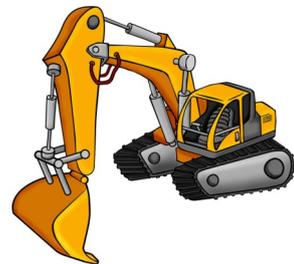
One of the main reasons this is occurring (in my opinion) is because a lot of owners are using products that worked wonderfully well 2 or 3 years ago but are not working now. The problem is that the average owner is not aware of the efficacy of the product that they use and because they have had a good result last year then they expect the same to occur. But the reality is – when a product is used too often or used inefficiently with a fast reproducing insect such as fleas – then resistance starts to occur and suddenly the problem remains no matter how much the owner keeps pouring a product onto or into an animal. I have no intention of listing all the products that do not work (in my opinion) but I do recommend owners who have a flea problem to contact us (or come on in) and we can recommend prod-

ucts that do work. Please remember we deal with a lot of different animals each month and we literally are “at the coal face” when it comes to what does work. Just pick up the phone or come in and we can inform you of what we recommend.

Davo's Corner

I came home a few weeks ago and uttered those words that my wife has dreaded to hear “Well dear, I have bought a tractor with a bucket and a backhoe”. Immediately my wife got out her phone and put the ambulance and the emergency ward phone numbers on speed dial.

Now my wife knows that when I get near any “men toys” that something usually (that means “always”) goes wrong and I end up destroying or breaking something that is precious to her or vital to the wellbeing of our home. For those avid readers who read this article each month – they will recall my episode with a Dingo (an earth moving device) last year when I was thrown a number of meters into the air and landed in a stone heap. Then there was the time when I put a pick through the water pipes to the house causing local flooding which my neighbours have yet to forgive me for. There have been lots of irrigation pipes destroyed by my use of a crowbar or shovel. I cannot remember the number of times I have caused the powerbox to trip or fuse as I tried to fix electrical lights or devices that are not working (surprising – they do not work after I am finished either).



My wife loves roses and has become frustrated endless times when I get on the “wiper sniper” and prune her roses to around 1cm in height. She has nearly given up in trying to grow flowers and small shrubs in the garden because of my zest with Roundup. Our shed looks like it has mumps because of the number of times I have backed the trailer into the door, uprights and walls. There are huge stain marks on the floor of the shed and driveway where I have attempted to change the oil of the car.

Put a chainsaw into my hands and I am like a man possessed. There is no stump, no log, no tree, no fence post, no living or dead thing that is safe when I have got a chainsaw. The noise alone is exciting to me – if I hear someone in the neighbourhood with a chainsaw going then my eyes dilate, my breathing gets faster, my chest puffs out, I start breathing through my nose as I head towards to shed where I have 4 (yes you read right – 4) chainsaws. I just want to start all of them and “cut something”.

I have stopped counting the number of times I have had branches and limbs of trees fall on me as I used the chainsaws. I have met and got the know the neighbours very well because I have dropped trees on the different fence lines we have and then had to mend them while the neighbour utters the words “Why?” over and over again. Yes – give me a chainsaw and I am like “a pig in mud”.

I could go on and on about the number of mishaps I have had with “men's toys” but this time it will be different. This time I have a tractor with a rollbar. This time I have bucket and a backhoe. And the beauty of it all – the tractor is red and that means it will go fast.

Yes – my wife may be afraid, but to me a tractor with a bucket and a backhoe opens up new adventures. Got to go now and dig a hole and move some soil. Why? Because I can!

