



# East Bundaberg Veterinary Hospital & Bargara Veterinary Surgery



## October 2019 Newsletter



We are entering the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of spring and already it feels like mid summer – hot and dry. The area around Bundaberg and Bargara is struggling in the extremely dry weather but that does not mean that our pesky parasites such as fleas, mosquitoes, midges and other biting insects, as well as internal parasites are not important. In fact in this dry hot time – parasite control is more important for our domestic (and wild) animals. Their body is already under the stress of the lack of water and rain as well as the extreme hot weather that dries out the lungs and skin – the animals do not need parasites also causing inflammation, irritation, anaemia and damage to the body and all its organs.

So please – make sure your parasite program is up to date. I made mention a few newsletters ago that a few clients are using products that are not working – this especially applies to flea and “worming” control. We have seen a lot of dogs and cats in the last few weeks with lots and lots of fleas on them. The owner has applied a “flea control” that stopped working a few years ago but the owner is not aware of this information. If you are not sure of the efficiency of the products you want to use – ring our staff on 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara) to see what we are finding works. Remember we are the people who have to deal with these problems on a daily basis and we are aware of what is working and what is no longer working. All you need to do is ask.

### October is desexing month

Most of our readers are aware that we offer “half price” desexing every 3 months to encourage all owners of dogs and cats to get their animal desexed. I think every person who owns an animal is aware of the many puppies and kittens that end up in animal shelters each year and we want to assist in some small way to assist overcome this problem.

Therefore each 3 months we offer our services at massively discounted price. Same operation to desex the animal but at (or close to) HALF price.

There are some conditions – the female animal must be not “in heat” or pregnant. The animal must be in good health. We do NOT offer a discount service to aggressive animals. The dog or cat must be under the age of 3 years – we are trying to decrease the accidental breeding of young animals with owners who cannot afford the normal price.

We also recommend every dog and female cats wear an Elizabethan collar post surgery and we require all dogs and cats be confined in a small area post surgery during the healing period (10 days).



### Octopuss month

This is the month that we have called “Octopuss month” because we are centering on assisting cats and their owners during this month.

We are offering the following to all cat owners—

- Half price desexing of all male and female cats under the age of 4 years . Grooming of cats under an anaesthetic for \$184.00 (normal price \$358.00)
- 10% discount of ALL cat products – food, merchandise, flea control, worming etc)

Guess the number of black cats in the jar on the counter of our reception area to win the jar with all its contents. There is no cost to enter this competition and all clients are encouraged to enter.

- Free nail trim for all cats
- Free administration of medication – bring you cat in with you when you purchase the worming tablets (or other oral medication) and our nurses will administer the product free of charge for you

- Go onto our Facebook site and upload a photo of you amazing cat. Show you furry friend to the rest of our clients. There will be a gift for the most amazing photo.

To all feline owners – let us celebrate the relationships we have with our animals and show the world how much we care for our furry friends.

### Online Booking

We now offer online booking for all your pets health care needs, either scan the QR code to the Right —>  
Or go online at [www.eastbundabergvet.com.au](http://www.eastbundabergvet.com.au) or pop on our Facebook page



It's no **vacation**  
without **vaccination**



Remember.  
Check in with your vet  
ahead of holiday time.

## Christmas is coming

Go into any retail shop at the moment and there is a good chance your ears are going to be bombarded with Christmas music and posters that remind you how many days to the special day and how you need to “buy now” and miss the late rush. But Christmas is also a time of holidays, fun in the sun, relaxation, etc. For those owners who are going away – please make sure your animal is vaccinated properly. If you are going to put the animal in a boarding kennel or cattery then make sure you have made a booking – these establishments fill up very fast during the festive times and if you leave it too long then you will need to find other arrangements. All good boarding kennels and catteries will demand that your animal is fully vaccinated before you will be allowed to leave the animal with them.

## Microchips and keeping the information up to date

Every holidays we are inundated with stray animals who are found wandering the street. We always check for a microchip and then contact the owner so they can come and collect their animal.

We are often associated with animals who have been hit by cars while they wander the streets and unless we can contact the owner for permission to treat there is nothing we can do.

It is important to all animals are microchipped, but it is also important that the details of the microchip is up to date. If you have moved lately or are going to move soon then please give us a ring so we can assist you in updating the microchip information. We know the system and we deal with the microchip registration companies on a daily basis and our staff can advise you on how to change the details or even check the details are correct.

Microchips can lose their power and we recommend all owners with ageing animals who were microchipped when the animal was young to bring in the dog or cat and our staff will check whether the microchip is still working and the animal is still registered.

We are offering to assist you for no charge this month – just ring first and talk to our staff. Ring 41531399 (East) and 41591009 (Bargara) and our staff is more than willing to help you and your animal.



## Clipping your dog

It would be remiss of me not to mention that, in my opinion, all dogs and cats with long or thick coats should be clipped in spring, summer and autumn and if you put your head outside your house or work area you will realise how hot the climate is at the moment.

I would love you to be reading this newsletter with the rain falling down outside or the weather to be cool but as I write this newsletter the weather is definitely hot and the area is dry. My concern (the reason I became a veterinarian and the reason I have stayed a veterinarian for 45 years) is the welfare of all animals. It would be wrong of me not to remind all owners that their animal will be more comfortable and happy if they have a thick or long coat and it is removed allowing their body to be of a low temperature. I know you have heard it or read it before – I have been standing on my box and talking about clipping dogs and cats for last 27 years (since I have been in Bundaberg) and I have seen a lot of animals benefit from owners getting the animal clipped. I congratulate all those owners who do get their animal clipped and I would encourage all other owners to also get their animal clipped. I am not only talking about Alaskan dogs but also about blue cattle dogs, Labradors, German Shepherds etc. If the coat is thick or long – please think about the welfare of your animal. I know you like the look of the dog or cat with a thick coat but I know the animal will be a lot happier without that coat.

Have a go and trial it – you may be surprised how happy your animal is afterwards.

We have a wonderful experienced team to clip and hydrobath your animal – ring today on 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara) and “let it happen”.

## Davo's Corner

I finally got back from my holiday travelling around Scotland with my wife. We drove ourselves in a hired car and with a Navsat telling us where to drive. The Navsat's nickname was Karen and she was set to take us on roads “not well travelled”- that means not the main roads and definitely not highways and main byways. I wrote in the last newsletter about some of the very narrow roads she led us onto – roads with no passing lanes, with vegetation growing in the middle of the road, no way to turn around and heading down hills and dales where men (and women) fear to tread.

This meant that we certainly saw areas of Scotland that very few tourists have seen. Common comments by the locals (when we finally arrived at our accommodation for the night) was “No one ever drives that road”, “I did not know that road even existed”, “You have got to be joking – I thought that road had been closed” etc. But what a wonderful country and wonderful people – very friendly and very helpful. But be aware – if you decide to walk into their mountains and around their coastline then a lot of the walking tracks have no signs and no indication of which way to go once you are on the track and other tracks cross the one you are walking. In fact, we found a lot of the tracks literally stopped in the middle of nowhere and you were expected to find your own way home.

We could tell you horror stories of going on a walk that was only supposed to last 45 minutes and taking up to 4 hours to get home. Other walks that were supposed to take 4 hours but actually took 7 hours of hard walking to get back to the car. Walks where we had to head through the heather (knee deep) or go through peat bogs to get to the area we were targeting.

Wonderful time but certainly physically and mentally tiring – glad to be home (home trip is another story on its own – 57 hours in airports and on planes to get home).

