

East Bundaberg Veterinary Hospital &



Bargara Veterinary Surgery



MARCH Newsletter

Where are all these months going? It was only yesterday (or so it seems – but that may be my age playing a role) that I was making New Year Resolutions and now we are saying “goodbye” to summer and “hello” to autumn. As I write this newsletter the weather is overcast and showery which is so different to most of the months of spring and summer when we were undergoing a massive dry spell (along with the rest of Australia).

With all the rain and warm humid climate – our beloved animals are developing lots of ear problems, feet problems, skin problems associated with yeast formation, allergies to pollens and lots of biting insects. If your dog or cat is starting to lick their feet excessively, shaking its head, if the dog or cat is scratching badly at their skin or there are bare areas showing then please get them to our animal hospital so we can attend their problems before they become severe.

Special Price – March – Physical Examination and Internal Health Monitor Blood Test \$200.00 (normally \$400.00)



This may surprise owners, but I cannot see inside an animal and tell if there is a problem. Now I know that some of my avid readers would be shocked at that statement because they have seen vets on TV pick up an animal and tell the owner everything that is wrong or the same vet waves “a magic wand” and lo and behold – the animals becomes fit and healthy and both owners and animal disappear into the sunset laughing merrily looking forward to a long happy and pain free life.

The trouble being – I never got that magic wand and the older I get, the more I understand that prevention is better than cure. I also understand that a lot of animals have problems that cannot be detected with a stethoscope or a light shining in the eye (or a thermometer up the rectum). It was only last week (true story by the way) that a friend presented a 2-year-old Boxer dog because it was urinating a bit more than normal. We tested the urine and noticed that there were a couple of abnormalities so requested a blood test. Turns out the dog has a serious condition called Pancreatitis (look it up on the internet to see how serious this condition is) and because we found out before the dog got sick, we can treat it at home. Without that blood test we would have been presented with a sick dog and by the time we had found the pancreatitis it would have had to be hospitalised for a number of days (and that can be very expensive) or could have died. Now we know that the cost of examinations and blood tests can be prohibitive with a lot of owners putting off these examinations and blood test until they can afford it (but life seems to always “get in the road” and these examinations and tests are put “on the backburner”).

For the month of March we are offering to do a comprehensive test on all dogs and cats to detect underlying health issues as well as examine the animal physically for the total price of \$200.00 (normally \$400.00)

There are two conditions to this offer –

1. This offer only applies to animals who are not sick or injured at the time of the procedures. (This is **NOT** a diagnostic test, the blood will be sent to a pathology laboratory and we will not get an answer for a few days after the blood is taken)
2. This offer is only for the month of March



If you would like to participate in this offer then please ring 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara) and make an appointment

Grooming and Hydrobathing – just do it!



I have promised myself that I am not going to write a long paragraph on the benefits of clipping dogs and cats in our hot humid climate, so I am only going to point out that most animals were not bred for our climate and most animals would benefit from a good clip and good deep hydrobath. If you wish one of our trained staff to assist you and your animal with either a good groom or a fantastic relaxing hydrobath then please ring 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara).

Toad Poisoning – dogs and cats

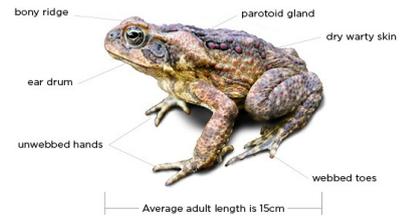
With the advent of the wet weather along with the heat and humidity there has been a lot of toads reproducing causing a huge increase in toad numbers and consequently a large increase in the number of phone calls regarding dogs and cats that have been “poisoned”.

There are a few things about toad poisoning that I want owners to be aware of.

- Toads do NOT use their poison to intentionally kill anything. Their poison is used as a deter-

rent to other animals to encourage predators to leave them alone. This means that most animals who come into contact with a toad will not die but will often get mouth irritation that causes the animal to salivate for around 20 minutes and may vomit or shake its head due to the irritation.

- We do NOT encourage owners to wash the mouth out with a hose. We have had more complications caused by owners forcing water onto the lungs of the animal or forcing more of the toxin into the animal. If you feel it is necessary, then wipe the mouth with a damp cloth to minimize the irritation.
- Dogs and cats who are salivating will continue to salivate for around 20 minutes whether you wipe their mouth or not. Some animals will swallow the saliva and that can make the animal vomit.
- The animal will destroy the poison in 45 minutes so if you find your dog or cat has been playing with a toad and the animal appears normal around 45 minutes later then your animal should be fine



The signs of toad toxicity that you need to be wary of is fitting or unsteady on feet. If your dog or cat starts falling over, if it collapses or starts fitting then please ring us STRAIGHT AWAY. Our success rate of saving animals with toad poisoning is very high as long as we instigate treatment as soon as we can. So, if you are concerned then please ring us on 41531399 straight away and we can assist you.

Davo's Corner

I staggered into the house last Saturday after a long and weary afternoon on the golf course when "Lady and Mistress" (my wife) asked if I had a pleasant afternoon. **PLEASANT AFTERNOON! ! ! !**

What did she mean? We golfers do not play golf to have a relaxing time and to have fun! We play golf with the same attitude as most armies go to war – we go to defeat our demons and bring peace and harmony to the golfing world. It is a fight between us, our golf clubs, the ball, trees and lakes, bunkers, greens that do not "run true", the wind and other forces of nature as well as other players and finally the demons that live within us that rear their ugly heads every time we swing a golf club. Golf is the ultimate torture inflicted on ourselves by ourselves. We do NOT have "a pleasant afternoon"! Anyone who has stood, and listened, in the middle of a golf course during a normal amateur competition day will understand that golfers are not "having fun".



The air is full of expletives, the occasional "wack" as a club head is driven into the ground, a lot of groaning and sighing and other sounds as we golfers struggle with the "Golf Gods" who enjoy creating trouble and tribulations to anyone who is silly enough to play this very frustrating sport. We (golfers) also know that the Gods instil into our golf clubs (and our golf balls) the ability to cause havoc and mayhem. In fact golfers are so sure that our clubs know what they have done wrong when the ball disappears into the rough, goes over the fence or takes a swim in the water traps that the only way to get the club to act properly is to inflict flight and pain to the club (in other words – throw the club as far as possible).

Take my friend Fred as an example. Now Fred, Chris, Terry and I were playing a competition on this wonderful golf course (not in Bundaberg) and Fred was not playing well. We had finished 13 holes and Fred had struggled with around 12 of them – playing well over his handicap and he was not enjoying himself (worse than normal). Fred put his ball on the tee on the 14th hole and stood over his ball. He wagged his club, he took a few deep breaths, he flapped his hands from side to side to remove the tension, he shuffled his feet, he twisted his head from side to side to remove any kinks – he was ready. He took his driver and took an almighty backswing twisting his torso around 180 degrees. He then swung his club with an almighty "grunt" with both feet off the ground at the point of impact and his club met the ball at supersonic speed. The ball took off "like a bat out of hell" down the left part of the fairway and then around 100 meters out it suddenly took a sharp turn to right, flew across the whole fairway and headed for the deep rough. The ball collided with an overhanging branch from a tall tree, slammed into the trunk of another tree, careered into a metal sign warning of snakes and with a loud "clang" the ball started its journey back to the tee where Fred was standing with his mouth wide open, his eyes dilated and his hot breath berating the quietness of his other partners. The ball rolled slowly towards our group and came to a halt at the bottom of Fred's feet. Now Fred is normally a quiet golfer, but his body language spoke more than words could say. He swung his driver (golf club) around his head and without a word – he "chucked" it down the fairway. He then stomped down the fairway – picked up his club and without a word – threw it again. He continued down the fairway and repeated the process another 2 more times. Then on the last "pick up" of the club – he swung it with all his might. The club twisted gracefully in the air a number of times and finally landed in the course lake – about the middle of the lake. It disappeared from sight with a "plop" and then absolute quietness settled over the course. Fred walked back the group silently. We all stood there feeling very awkwardly until Chris said, "Good throw Fred" and Fred, in his quiet gruff manner said, "Thanks Chris". Without another word we continued to play the rest of the game. We KNEW that Fred's club was evil – taken over by the Golf Demons and it was too dangerous to use again, and it would only have infected the other clubs in Fred's bag and possibly influenced the other clubs in our bags. It needed to be disposed of and we admired the way Fred went about it. It is the way golf legends are formed and the legends grow with each conversation. Well done Fred.

We do NOT play golf because it is pleasant – we play golf because we enjoy the pain!

Davo