

East Bundaberg Veterinary Hospital &



Bargara Veterinary Surgery



MAY 2019 Newsletter



We are now entering the last month of autumn and all owners should be assessing their animal for arthritis – the days are becoming cooler, so the animals with damaged joints start to feel the pain and discomfort associated with arthritis.

We now stock an oral medication called **4Cyte** which, in my opinion, is the best oral product on the market today. It comes



in two forms – granules and a liquid form. You can add it to the food or you can give it “down the mouth” – just depends on what method you feel comfortable with. I personally am using it on one of my 7 year old dogs who is showing signs of arthritis and after using it for the last month I have seen a dramatic improvement in his ability to run and play. Now I am using the liquid form of the 4Cyte as I mainly use dry food (kibble) for all my dogs and adding granules to the food often means that the dog leaves some of the granules in the bowl. I am very comfortable giving the medication (liquid) orally after the meal but if I wanted to add it to the food I would just put a small

amount of mince or some form of wet food on his dry food and add the medication to that. The dog I am using it on seems to enjoy getting the medication and certainly I have no problems with the administration. I have had no clients tell me that their animals do not like the taste of the medication.

For more severe cases (and again I do have a 12 year old female dog with severe degenerative arthritis) I use a medication called Cartrophen. This is an injectable medication that involves one injection a week for 4 weeks and then one injection every 3 months. I have personally used this medication on hundreds of dogs and cats over my life as a vet and have seen countless animals benefit from this medication.

Occasionally I have to put my geriatric 12 year old dog on an anti-inflammatory medication to ease the pain and the inflammation associated with her severe degenerative joints especially if we take her to the beach where she forgets she is a senior animal and wants to chase seagulls as well as play with our other animals. Invariably the next day she is very still and sore but has a wide smile on her face – the anti-inflammatory medication soon makes her mobile and the smile remains.

There is no set medication for all arthritic sufferers and it is necessary to sometimes tailor the medication to suite the damage associated with the arthritis and the lifestyle of the animal. But if your dog or cat is only showing early signs of arthritis – the 4Cyte is my recommendation. If the animal is showing definite signs of lameness or soreness most of the time – Cartrophen injections (and sometimes in combination with 4Cyte) is my recommendation. If the animal is showing major signs of pain or discomfort where the lifestyle of the animal is definitely compromised – the anti-inflammatory medication is my recommendation. If you are not sure – make an appointment and let one of our veterinarians examine your animal and develop a program to assist you and your loved animal friend.



May is Mothers Day

I assume we all are aware of Mothers Day – a time to thank our mothers for putting up with us when we were young (or in my case – just putting up with me for my whole life).

But let us also remember our pets on Mothers Day – I am sure they would like to say “Thank you” to all the female owners who they see as “Their Mother” but the animal cannot express their gratitude. Maybe find some time or method to include your animal in the celebration for our mothers and for the mothers in our family. In my family – my mother is too far away to spend the day with her but we always make sure

that we take our animals to “the beach” and spend Mothers Day together as a family. At this stage I would like to thank my mother for putting up with me and I am sure, one day, my Dad will forgive my mother for not leaving me at the hospital when I was born.

Bargara Mothers day Dog Walk – now starts at 4.00 pm

Once a month, my manager (Lynelle) and members of my staff hold a “Dog Walk” around the shores of Bargara. The walk is held on every 2nd Sunday of the month and for the next few months the starting time is 4.00pm.

The walk starts at our Bargara Vet Surgery office in Bargara (on the main road into Bargara opposite the golf course and near the old service station) and the group then heads off down to the Esplanade and walks along the foreshore. It often finishes with a “get together” where owners can mingle, the animals can play and together “old times” can be discussed and new friends made. I would HIGHLY recommend this walk to everyone (not just those who live at Bargara) – it is a wonderful “together time” and both owners and their animals benefit from this experience. If you are interested and want more information (or just want a reminder) then please ring Lynelle on 41531399.



Pensioner Discount Consultation

Occur every Tuesday and Thursday at East, Monday and Thursday at Bargara

A lot of owners are not aware that we offer Pensioner Discounts on our consultation on Tuesday and Thursday. If you are a pensioner (and it does not apply to senior pensioners – it applies to ALL pensioners) and you need a routine consultation (it may be for skin problems, vaccinations, arthritis examinations, lump examinations etc) then these days may get you the advice and expertise you require but at a lower cost. There are limited spots available and there may be restrictions on which veterinarian you see (depends on what other vets have got booked in) but it is important that you ring first to make the appointment so that you are not disappointed on the day.

Just remember to ring first and make the appointment at the appropriate time – Pensioner days at East are Tuesday and Thursday and at Bargara they are Monday and Thursday.



Last Summer Clip – 10% discount for the month of May



A lot of owners who have dogs and cats with thick or long coats are reluctant to get their animal clipped during our autumn or winter months because they feel the animal “is going to get cold”. Now sometimes I think I need to remind owners that we live in a semi arid sub tropical climate where even during winter months most people are NOT wearing coats or jumpers during the day and most times we are only wearing light cardigans or jumpers at night. The average day time temperature during winter is between 22 – 24 degrees and at that temperature we have no need to our warmer clothing and are more comfortable in just short sleeves. Sure there are days when a warm jumper is nice but these days are not often and we need to remember that our animals cannot take off their long or thick coats during the day.

Our recommendation with all the animals with long and thick coats is to have the coat clipped in May and then the coat will grow a bit longer during the winter months and keep our animals warm at night and all the animal to be cool during the day. For the month of May we are encouraging all owners to consider clipping their animals and we are offering at 10% discount on all clips during the month. If you are interested please ring 41531399 (East) and 41591009 (Bargara).

Come in and update your animal's weight and get a free nail trim in May

We encourage all owners to become aware of their animal's weight going into winter. This is a time when a lot of animals will put on weight because the cooler weather and the short daylight hours encourage the animal to be less active but to eat more (a lot of the time because they are bored) and they get heavier.

So bite the bullet – come in and weigh your animal on our accurate scales and while you are there get their nails clipped – for FREE! **While you are there – get your animal's worming tablets.**

That way we can match the exact medication to the weight of the animal. Keeping your animal free of intestinal parasites is important for the animal as well as the for the health of the whole family. All dogs and cats over the age of 12 months should be given a worming medication (that works) every 3 months. Remember you and your family (human family) is at risk if your animals picks up “worms”.



Puppy Preschool – one of the most important part of behavioural development that you can ever do for your new dog.

Every Wednesday night, if you drive past our main veterinary hospital, you will see lots of cars in the car park and if you look through the big plate glass windows you will see lots of people and puppies laughing and interacting together. The puppies are learning to interact with other dogs of their own age as well as learning to interact with other humans (called socialisation). This is one of the most important facets of development of behaviour that your puppy can undertake and it MUST start before the animal is 14 weeks of age. If you wait until the puppy is over 15 weeks of age before you start then it is TOO LATE. It is my (and a lot of other behavioural veterinarians) opinion that this “socialisation” period is the so important that it is a pity that it is not mandatory (compulsory) for all puppies. This is the time they learn to develop confidence in themselves, this is the time they learn tolerance to other animals (including humans), this is the time they learn not to develop fear aggression and this is the time they learn that life is about having fun and not hiding from strange situations.

Each class is over a 4 week period and if you have a new puppy (or even an not so new puppy) that is under 14 weeks of age then please contact Lynelle and get more information on this most important subject. Remember if you miss this opportunity then you can never “catch up”. The future happiness of your puppy depends on you!



Davo's Corner

Again I am relegated to the last few lines of the newsletter. Again the editor waffles on and on when he could have made this newsletter more about me and stopped worrying about the welfare of the clients and their animals. I mean to say – which is more important – me and my story about my life and my wanting to stand on the podium at the next Olympics (or driving my new tractor or using my many chainsaws) OR information that may assist owners to have healthier happier pets who hopefully live a long life.

The choice is obvious, and I expect all readers to contact the editor and demand more “Davo time” in the next newsletter. So until next month I wish you all well and I will continue “on the road to greatness” – Happy Mothers Day to all mothers.

Till next month, Davo