

East Bundaberg Veterinary Hospital &



Bargara Veterinary Surgery



September 2019 Newsletter



I am writing this from an island off the north coast of Scotland – it is 7.30pm and it is still daylight. Every half hour or so a shower of rain comes across – the clouds being chased by a wind. The locals say that it is a warm day, but I sit here with my jumper on and a windbreaker on top – and I am sitting inside a B&B where the rooms are warmer than outside. It certainly is an experience to come to a country where the grass is lush and green, the animals in the field are very content and the people are very friendly and they speak with that lovely Scottish accent (my second most favourite accent, after Irish)

The amazing thing – even though the daytime temperatures get to a massively high 15 degrees and the night time gets to a low of 3 degrees (it is summer here) – nearly every long-haired dog that I encounter (and there are a lot of dogs here) – is clipped short. When I ask the locals “Why do you clip your dog in such a cool environment” – they all have the same answer – “To stop them getting too hot!”. If only owners of long haired or thick coated animals in our area would do the same. I know there are a lot of owners who do regularly clip their animal and I admire them and I congratulate them because I know that their animal benefits from not getting too hot. I know a lot of owners believe that the long or thick coat “keeps the animal cool” but if you really think about it – how does long or thick coats keep an animal cool? Their body temperature is 38.5 degrees, the air temperature in our area is usually around 25 – 30 degrees. So where does the cool air come from?



Have a think about how you, the owner, would feel if you put on a big woollen coat, place on some heavy mittens, put your feet in Ugg boots and then pulled on a woollen beany over your head and went for a long walk in our warm spring and summer months. Do you feel that this type of clothing would keep you cool in our sub-tropical environment? If you do – then maybe you could start a new fashion for the population of Bundaberg.

10% Discount on all Grooming Services during September



To encourage all owners of dogs and cats who have long or thick coats – we are offering a 10% discount this month on all clipping and grooming and that includes hydrobathing.

Spring is the time when all owners should consider keeping their “paw friends” cool and comfortable. This is the month when we, the owners, start putting away our blankets, folding up our jumpers, hanging up the jackets and start enjoying the warm months, as we head into our hot summer months. It is time to get out the beach towels, check to see if we still fit into our swimming costumes, start realising that we ate too much and exercised too little over winter and start planning for the fun times ahead in

our wonderful climate (do not consider opening up a swimming shop or selling beach towels in Scotland – the summer months are colder than our winter months).

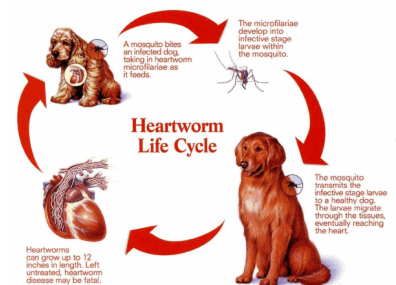
Remember to include your animal friends in this frenzy to get fit, healthy and cool. Keep your animal cool by clipping the long coat away, keep your animal feeling cleaner with a good hydrobath by one of our trained staff and let the whole family enjoy the warm months ahead.

So remember – for the month of September we are offering to clip, groom and hydrobath your dog or cat for a 10% discount. All we ask is that you ring 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara) for an appointment.

Add a little colour to your pooch this spring with \$15.00 hair colouring

Spring has sprung!

Has your fur baby has been vaccinated in the last 12 months ?– if you are not sure then ring our animal hospital on 41531399 and we can check our records also make sure your heartworm prevention is also up to date – (this is the breeding time for mosquitoes.) We recommend that owners use the yearly injection that prevents heartworm infestation in dogs, there are other alternatives as long as the owners remember to give these alternatives every month. Sometimes owners get confused between worming their animal every 3 months and giving heartworm tablets every month. There is NO tablet that you can give your dog that will prevent heartworm for 3 months – if you are not doing something every



month then your dog will not be protected.

Now is also a good time to make sure that the intestinal worming for your furry friend is “up to date” – . This especially applies to cats who will catch and eat lizards that carry a large tapeworm called *Spirometra*.

Check your animal for fleas – again as the temperature and humidity of the area increases so these small pesky parasites start to infest our animals and cause lots of problems. We do NOT recommend that you use a flea product if your animal does not have fleas. We often see owners wasting a lot of money and endangering their animal’s wellbeing by using products that are not necessary. Same as we see a lot of owners using products that no longer work to kill fleas (and ticks). If you are not sure of what product to use then please ring 41531399 and one of our staff will advise you on what products we recommend.



Spring time is a fantastic time to start exercising your dog (as well as yourself) so let us all start getting out the leads and harnesses and head outdoors on a regular basis to enjoy our wonderful climate and also enjoy the company of our animals. If you feel your animal is a bit overweight or has some arthritis or other problems that restricts its ability to exercise then please contact our animal hospital and find out what recommendations we can give to assist your animal. There is special food to help lose the weight and there are some wonderful products to assist your animal if it is arthritic.

We are not just here to treat your animal if it is sick or injured. Our main role is to assist animals to have a long happy and healthy life. If you have any concerns for the welfare of your animal then please do not hesitate to contact us on 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara).

Desexing special price in October

This message is for all those clients (and their friends) who have a dog or cat who needs to be desexed. Every 3 months we offer our services to the public to operate on female and male dogs and cats and remove their reproductive organs (in other words – spay or castrate) at a reduced rate (around 45% discount on normal prices).

Studies have been done in the past to show that a lot of owners would like to have their animal desexed but cannot afford the operation. We are all aware of the number of puppies and kittens who end up in animal shelters because of this problem. So we have decided to “do our bit” and offer this surgical procedure at a very affordable price.

So – if you know someone who is thinking about getting their animal desexed the October is the month.

Remember that there are limited spaces and the animal must be in good health, not be pregnant or on heat (if a female). If you are interested then ring 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara)

COME IN AND UPDATE YOUR PETS WEIGHT AND RECEIVE A FREE NAIL TRIM

Davo's Corner

As stated in the beginning of this newsletter – I am travelling around Scotland as you read this. Both my long-suffering wife and myself are driving a car and discovering areas that are “off the beaten track”. We travel with a Navsat (a global positioning device that tells you where to go and what roads to travel on when you set a goal into the machine) that hates me. Most Navsat machines come with a couple of different settings such as “Fastest way”, “Shortest route” but our machine comes with a setting “Let's find Davo the narrowest roads and preferably non bitumen tracks”.

I do not know why “Karen” (we called the Navsat Karen a few years ago and I cannot remember why but the name has stuck and when you want to humanise a machine so you can yell at it or curse it – it is best to have a name so the machine knows straight away that you are talking to it) hates me and just loves to send me up “roads” that the car is flat out fitting up.



Only yesterday we had set out on a windy rainy day (normal summer day in Scotland) and wanted to go from one major town to the next. “Simple” I thought as we set Karen and headed down the road. But oh no – not simple as far as Karen was concerned. It was only a few kilometres later we found ourselves heading over a number of hills on a track that even a goat would have had trouble traversing. Now this “road” was exactly one car in width, it was so well used that there was grass and weeds growing in the middle and there were large trees and shrubs growing on the side (and I mean the side of the road). The road wound its way up and down dales and hills and the furthest you could see was around 20 meters ahead. There was absolutely no way to pass any other vehicle coming the other way and in most cases, you would not be aware of that vehicle until you were nearly on top of each other.

Not this “road” did not go on for a few meters or a few kilometres – oh no – this road went for 32 Kilometres and the fastest speed we could get up to was around 30Kl/hr and most of the time we sat more on 15 – 20Kl/hr.

It took around 1 ½ hours to traverse the road and finally come out on the other end onto a wider road. By that time my knuckles were white from gripping the steering wheel, my eyes were nearly permanently dilated from the fear and the trepidation of what was going to happen if we met another vehicle (luckily we didn’t – I think even the locals either did not know about this road or never used it).

Yes we are having a lovely time here in Scotland but should anyone want to buy a slightly dented and yelled out “Karen” then please come and see me when I return.

Until then – have a lovely September and a fantastic spring.