

East Bundaberg Veterinary Hospital &



Bargara Veterinary Surgery



February 2020 Newsletter



The rain has finally started, and as I write this newsletter the grass is beginning to grow, the water is pooling in puddles on the side of the road, The air is cleaner and the general feeling of everyone I talk to is one of optimism for the year ahead. But with the rain comes the humidity and the heat, along with breeding insects and increasing number of toads populating our backyards. Now is the time to make sure your flea control and intestinal worming is "on track", and your pet groomed (and to only exercise your dog early in the morning or late in the afternoon).

I do want to talk about toad poisoning in an article later in this newsletter but first I want everyone to be aware of the Special Dental Offer we are doing in February.

February Dental Offer to ALL Clients of our Business save money and help your animal's health

I think most owners of dogs and cats are aware that we have a major discount offer every August to assist owners who have animals with dental problems. But we feel that one offer a year is not good enough as there are lots of dogs and cats who have dental decay and owners are putting off the treatment because of the cost of the procedure.

So we are offering our services for a same price as will be charged in August – for the month to February, Normally the cost of putting an animal under an anaesthetic, placing a drip into the arm, hospitalising the animal for a day, running a blood test before the anaesthetic to make sure the animal is fit and healthy "on the inside", cleaning and polishing the teeth would cost \$600.00+. This price does not include any medication given or sent home with, does not include any extractions or dental x-rays.

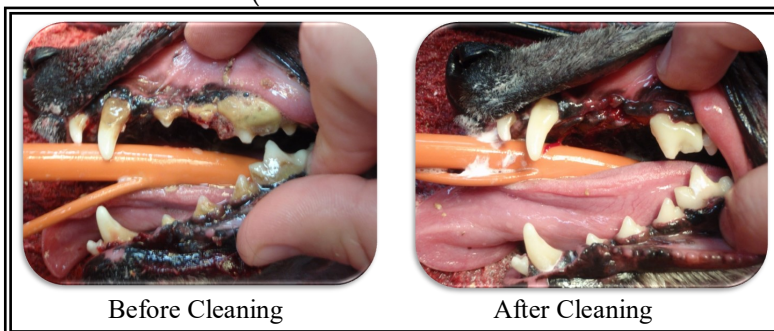
But for the month of February we are offering two special prices

\$430.50 - Full dental clean and polish with a pre anaesthetic blood test (a blood test is a must on all animals who are 8 years old or older)

\$335.50 - Full dental clean and polish without a pre anaesthetic blood test (we recommend a blood test on all animals before an anaesthetic, but we allow owners to make that final decision)

It should be noted that the above offer does NOT include any medication used or sent home with, does NOT include any extractions or dental x-rays.

This offer is ONLY for the month of February. If you want to partake of this offer then please ring 41531399 (East) or 41591009 (Bargara) and make an appointment. There are limited spaces and once they are full then the offer is removed.



Toad Poisoning

Every few nights we get a phone call relating to dogs and cats playing with toads, causing the dog or cat to salivate and the owner to worry that their animal is going to become ill or even die. Nearly every one of the owners has already "Googled" and sought information on how to deal with the problem. Now as much as I LOVE Google – there are some things that are written on the internet that are either wrong or are out of date.

We do NOT recommend you wash the dog or cat's mouth out with water – most times the washing is more dangerous to the health of the dog or cat than the toad poison. I have seen animals with serious lung problems that the owner caused by forcing water into their lungs, I have seen animals with lots of stomach problems caused by owners forcing the poison down the animal's throat.

If you feel you want to do something then get a wet rag or cloth and WIPE to tongue and mouth but in most cases, when the salivation has already started, then the toxin has already absorbed into the tissues.

The poison of the toad is more to irritate the animal to make it go away rather than to kill the animal. Once the dog or cat gets the poison into the mouth it causes intense irritation that makes the animal salivate a lot. When the animal swallows the saliva, it causes the animal to



vomit. Most animals do NOT die from the poison – they just froth a lot for around 15 – 20 minutes. They then are quiet for a while because they feel a little ill and then they become normal. The body of the animal denatures the toxin very fast – if your dog or cat has not shown symptoms of toxicity within 45 minutes then it is going to be OK. The signs of toxicity include muscular contractions, stumbling or “wonkiness” and fitting. Certainly, if your animal is starting to become wonky, if it starts fitting, if the muscles of the body are starting to show signs of multiple contractions then RING THE VET.

Time to clip and hydrobath your animals



February is the hottest month of the year and now is the best time to make sure the coat of your dog and cat is the shortest it has been for the last 12 months. Even with the rain we have been fortunate to have – the humidity is very high and the temperatures are still well over 32 degrees. The coat of your animal was not made to stop them from getting hot. The coat was developed to allow animals to live in cold climates such as Europe or North America or to be comfortable in our winter times. You do not wear a fur coat in our summer months, you do not put on gloves and a scarf in our warm summer months so please do not allow your animal to become heat affected in our summer times. Get the dog or cat clipped and make the animal healthy and happy in our

wonderful environment.

Hydrobathing is important this time of the year to remove the “crud” that builds up as the skin reacts to our hot summer months along with the many different environmental problem associated with summertime (e.g. pollens, insects, shedding of hair, dead skin cells, dried protective oils etc).

Do NOT damage the skin by using harsh shampoos and not using appropriate conditioners. Make an appointment and get our grooming department to wash and spoil your dog while also using the best shampoos and conditioners for the skin type of your animal.

Wellness Programs

I have not visited this subject for a number of months, but every day I am dealing with clients who are very happy they are a member of this program.

For the owners who are not aware of what the Wellness Programs are – we have developed 3 different levels of the Wellness Program, where you join for a fee once a month and in return you get free consultations, free revisits, free vaccinations and worming, discounted medication and merchandise, discounted services etc.

It is beyond the scope of this newsletter to discuss the different Wellness Programs but if you own an animal (and I assume you do or you would not be reading this newsletter), if you want to save money (never met someone who did not want to save money), if you want to make sure your animal has all the right products and right advice to keep it healthy and happy, if you want to be able to budget properly, if you want peace of mind knowing that if there is a problem with your animal you can get professional help at no cost – then please contact our receptionist and she will send you out some information and a pamphlet that will explain the different programs. We have around 20% of our clients on the Wellness Program and I have yet to meet anyone who is a member of the Wellness Program who regrets it (and if anyone did regret it – it is easy to drop out of the programs). In fact nearly everyone I deal with who is on one of the programs tells me how much they enjoy saving money and how much they enjoy joining the program. If you are interested in joining one of the Wellness Programs – contact Tegan or Lynelle on 41531399 and discuss it with them.

A promotional graphic for the Wellness Program. It features a white cat on the left and a brown dog on the right. The text lists benefits: 'Free Vaccinations', 'Unlimited Free Consultations', 'Free Revisits', and 'Affordable monthly repayments'. It also includes the text 'Ask our staff about our Wellness Program Today!' and a tagline at the bottom: 'Inspiring minds and enhancing the health and happiness of companion animals.'

- ✓ Free Vaccinations
- ✓ Unlimited Free Consultations
- ✓ Free Revisits
- ✓ Affordable monthly repayments

Ask our staff about our **Wellness Program** Today!

Inspiring minds and enhancing the health and happiness of companion animals.

Davo's Corner

I was sitting in my favourite chair in the lounge room the other day and my wife (long suffering woman – so she keeps reminding me) came into the room and stood in front of me and clearly said (I am sure the neighbours could clearly hear her) “Are you listening to me?” (along with some other words that seem to have got lost in background of life but sounded like “blah blah blah”). Now I pride myself on my caring calm nature where every word my wife utters is important and should be acted on straight away. But the problem is that she keeps moving her mouth and nothing making any sense comes out (or so it seems to me). She accuses me of “selective deafness” and that my hearing is getting worse as I get older. I have spent some time studying this “selective deafness” that wives seem to accuse their husband of developing. In fact - it seems that this condition mainly occurs in men once they have been married for over 3 years, teenage children – where the condition not only affects their hearing but also their ability to retain information and their ability to talk properly (only allowing them to answer questions with monosyllable grunts) and adolescent members of the community where you have told them to be home by 10pm and they turn up at 2am along with loud noises and cars backfiring as it drives down the road.

I need to spend more time researching this condition and that may mean more time playing golf and discussing this with my golf partners, spending more time in the bar talking to other patrons and more time going fishing where, again, this can be discussed with other fishing mates. In fact this could take a LONG time of researching before the truth is revealed. In the mean time I will just have to try and interrupt the “blah blah blah” that I keep hearing and the neighbours will just have to get use to the noise. *Till next Month, DAVO*