
SMALL ANIMAL NEWS

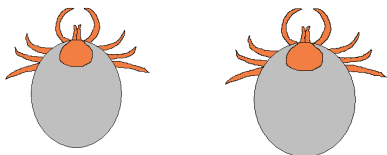
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

49 Chatham Avenue, Taree, NSW, 2430
Phone (02) 6552 2633 Fax (02) 65510631 E: tarvet@tpgi.com.au
Stuart Knox Donald Hood Rob Brudar

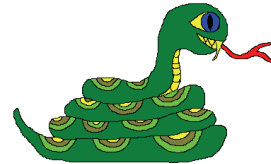


Hi folks. Hope everything is going fine with our four legged friends. Well Autumn is officially here. We're having some nice cool mornings but we're still getting some stinking hot days. The change in the weather affects the problems we see with our pets.

We're already seeing fewer paralysis tick cases than a couple of months ago. We can't however stop our tick prevention regimes as we're still seeing one or two cases a month compared to 2-3 cases a day in early summer. **Frontline-Spot-on , Frontline Spray , Proban Tablets or Liquid and Kiltix Tick Collars** are all helpful in tick paralysis prevention.



Despite the climate changes **FLEAS** are still here in huge numbers and normal flea control is advised. We are seeing lots of skin problems—mostly related to fleas.



Unfortunately the incidence of **SNAKE BITES** increases at this time of year too. If you suspect your animal has been bitten—phone to let us know you're coming and get it to us as quickly as possible. We've treated several dogs already this summer with a high survival rate. All were treated with antivenene by intravenous infusion. Red Bellied Black Snakes are our most common offender and if the animal is presented to us early after a bite from one of these we have a good chance of saving it.

A problem that goes on all year but one that we seem to be seeing lots of at the moment is **DENTAL DISEASE**. If our dog or cat lived in the wild it would be preying on other animals. When it ate these other animals it would be chewing through skin and bones and

gristle as well as the prime meaty bits. This chewing through a whole carcass involves a lot of hard work for the animal's mouth but results in strong clean teeth because of the constant cleaning action of hard tissues being rubbed against the teeth. We spoil our animals. Most commercial diets—hard or soft are far softer than “wild food”. They are very well balanced nutritionally but tend to allow the build up of food debris on the teeth which eventually becomes calcified and turns into Tartar. Tartar allows bacteria to grow on the gums resulting in gingivitis. Tooth infections and tooth root abscesses often follow. Check your animal regularly for discolouration of its teeth at the level of the gums—this is likely to be tartar. If it is there we need to prevent further deterioration of the situation. If your pet's breath is smelly all the time then the chances are they have tooth or gum problems also. There are special diets which can minimise the build up of tartar. Regular cleaning with a toothbrush and pet toothpaste helps too. Raw meat or fish in the diet are beneficial and chewing on hide chews or bones is great for oral hygiene. If your animal has smelly breath or stains on its teeth it's probably worth giving us a ring and having a chat about it. Prevention is better than cure.....Tooth root infections often require removal of teeth under general anaesthesia.

Hope this newsletter finds you all well.
Best wishes from all at TVH.

