
SMALL ANIMAL NEWS

TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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Stuart Knox Donald Hood Rob Brudar



Hi folks. Hope everything is going fine with our four legged friends.

Over the last few years we've been becoming more and more aware of a very insidious problem with our pets. It's a problem that we're told is becoming more and more of a problem with humans. More and more of the animals we see are over weight and some are frankly obese. Approximately 70% of mature animals that we see in any one day are overweight. That's frightening. As with humans obesity sets animals up for heart disease , joint disease such as arthritis , diabetes and a long list of other problems. Overweight animals tend to develop old age pensioner problems earlier than slimmer animals and tend not to live as long as slimmer animals....

It's in our best interest to keep our animals slim. The best way to do this is to feed our pets appropriately and

exercise them regularly.

Overweight animals should be dieted. The simple way to do this is to cut back on the amount of food fed daily. Don't look for a "Jenny Craig" style weight loss in either dogs or cats. If "FIDO" the dog is 5kg overweight then we try to lose 1 or 2 kg over 6 months and reassess the situation as we go. With cats we try and lose half a kg or so in 6 months.

If you have problems with trying to lose weight using your pets normal diet then we have a range of very effective prescription diets for weight loss. Ask anyone at the hospital and they can help you with a choice.

We now run the **Taree Vet Hospital Slimmers Club**. Any overweight pets that wish to come bring their owners along to the hospital once a fortnight—usually Monday 2pm. Torri our ace receptionist runs the club. There are weigh—ins at every meeting usually followed by exercise in the park and a pep talk on different ways to lose weight . Owners can swap stories and give each other tips. All dogs in the club are fed on **HILL'S R/D (Reducing Diet)**. Every dog which has joined the club has lost weight and is far healthier now as a result. Ask anyone at the clinic

about our Slimmers Club.

ARTHRITIS TIPS

Old pets (especially overweight ones) often suffer badly from arthritis at this time of year. Tips 1) Keep their weight down 2) Keep them warm—especially at night 3) Physiotherapy—give sore joints a rub and a massage to get them moving in the mornings. Remember at TVH we have many anti-inflammatories and joint medications which can help.

ABDOMINAL SURGERY

In the last couple of months each of the vets has had some very exciting abdominal surgery to perform. Stuart saw an old Golden Retriever which was a bit “off colour”. On examination he could feel a large mass in the dog’s abdomen. It was decided to perform an exploratory laparotomy—surgically open up the abdomen and have a look. Once inside Stuart discovered a huge tumour mass the size of a football growing on the dog’s spleen. No other tumours were detected. The spleen with the tumour attached was removed. The tumour weighed over 2 kilos. Three weeks after surgery and the dog is running around as if nothing happened. The tumour is likely to have been a haemangioma—a tumour of the wall of a blood vessel—very common in spleens in older dogs. It is very likely that there will be no recurrence.

Rob had a Sharpei which presented with vomiting. On examination Rob could feel a lump inside the dog’s abdomen. This dog had a history of eating bizarre things. Two

years previously Rob had operated on the dog and removed a corn cob from its intestine. Radiographs confirmed there was a mass in the dog’s mid abdomen but we couldn’t determine what it was. An exploratory laparotomy was performed and a tumour was found in the mesentery of the gut. To remove the tumour would have involved removing about 8 inches of intestine with a guarded prognosis as the tumour was likely to be a lymphosarcoma (a nasty tumour which had very likely spread elsewhere already) The owner elected euthanasia.

Don operated on a poodle which had been shot in the abdomen with a rifle. He removed about 4 inches of damaged small intestine and the dog went home happy about 3 days later.

Well there’s never a dull moment at Taree Vet Hospital. Breanna McCloy our newest trainee vet nurse is getting to see some pretty juicy cases and enjoying every minute.....and just to think she was going to be a hairdresser if she didn’t work for us....Hope you’re all well. See you soon. From all at TVH.

