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PATTERSON RIVER VETERINARY CENTRE
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Patterson River Veterinary Centre

Summer Newsletter 2013

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Summer Newsletter 2013

Christmas is fast approaching and this can be a risky time for pets, particularly their gastro-intestinal systems.

This is the time of year when we see pets that have been fed the wrong type of food and this can play havoc with their tummies. Left over festive food is often far too fatty for our pets and this can lead to gastroenteritis or pancreatitis. We all know the feeling of overindulgence and this has the potential for serious consequences in our pets. Some human food can be toxic to our pets and this includes onions, garlic, chocolate, raisins, grapes and macadamia nuts, just to name a few. Young dogs just love a good chew and at times this can be on inappropriate objects that can lead to tummy upsets or even worse, an obstruction. You would not believe the objects that we have removed from the gastrointestinal system of pets over the years.

Skin disease is particularly prevalent at this time of the year. In this newsletter we have included an article to help you with your itchy dog. We also have a fantastic flea

control product now available, *Comfortis*, and we are able to offer it at a discounted rate over the Summer months. We now have our Christmas stock available so if you are looking for something to pop under the tree for your four legged friend then call in and take a peek. We also have some wonderful Kong toys to give away with Advance food.

Kerrie has almost finished her Feline Medicine course with the Continuing Veterinary Education at Sydney University. She recently spent a weekend in Sydney at a workshop as part of the course. Meaghan is progressing well through her Veterinary Nursing course.

Miriam continues to run our wonderful puppy classes every Monday night. If you are planning on a new canine member over the Summer then please keep these classes in mind. We cannot stress how important socialization is for young puppies. Greg is busy training for the triathlon season.

Have a wonderful festive season and we wish you and all of your pets a healthy and happy 2014.



Patterson River Veterinary Centre provides:-

- 🐾 Preventative health care for small animals
 - Vaccinations
 - Heartworm prevention
 - Worming
- 🐾 Premium pet foods
- 🐾 Surgery
 - Soft tissue
 - Orthopaedic
- 🐾 Radiology
- 🐾 Cryosurgery

- 🐾 Pathology
- 🐾 Hydrobath
- 🐾 Dentistry
- 🐾 Weight loss advice
- 🐾 Puppy classes

**We are open 9am – 7pm Monday – Friday
and 9am – 12 midday Saturday.**

Consultations are by appointment.

Ph 9772 0777

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Like our Facebook page and you will be kept up to date on our latest news. We post information regularly.

10% Discount all Summer long COMFORTIS

Convenient flea control for your Dog...All Summer long!

Frankie and all of our staff would like to wish you and your pets a relaxing and fun filled Christmas and all the best for a healthy and happy 2014.

Comfortis...

We have a new product in stock this summer to eliminate fleas from your dog.

Comfortis* is the no-fuss, no-mess way to protect dogs against fleas for a whole month. Dogs love the taste of the beef-flavoured chewable tablets, which provide rapid treatment and lasting control of fleas.

Here are just a few reasons why we think Comfortis is right for your dog!

Fast acting

Comfortis starts killing fleas in 30 minutes, providing fast relief from fleas for your dog.

Family friendly

Comfortis can't rub off onto you, your family, other pets, clothing or furniture.

Convenient

Comfortis is easy to offer. Your dog will love the taste of the beef-flavoured, chewable tablets!

Can't wash off

Comfortis can't be washed or shaken off, making it ideal for dogs that are washed or swim regularly.



Come in and visit us before summer is in full swing to discuss a flea control strategy for your dog.

10% off this product for summer...

making it more affordable than it already is. We are offering this deal **all Summer**. Just mention this ad to receive the discount.

* Comfortis® is a trademark of Eli Lilly and Company. ©Comfortis is a trademark for Elanco's brand of spinosad.

Case Study...

Meibomian gland adenomas are benign growths commonly seen on the eyelids of middle aged or elderly dogs.

They are best removed before they get any bigger as the larger they become the more of the eyelid that will need to be resected. These lumps inevitably cause irritation to the eye and removal then

becomes essential. A wedge resection of the eyelid is needed to remove the mass. Dissolving fine suture material is placed under the skin to close the defect.

The dog goes home with a head collar, antibiotics and pain relief and a good recovery is expected. If your dog has one of these lumps then surgery sooner rather than later is advised.

Itchy Dog...?

The earlier the treatment, the quicker it will be resolved.

In this area we see many dogs regularly with skin disease all year round but particularly during the Spring and Summer months. There are many reasons why dogs develop skin problems, however, the most common is allergic skin disease. We most often see flea allergy dermatitis and atopy.

FLEA ALLERGY DERMATITIS

This typically affects the area around the tail base with itching, hair loss, inflamed skin and scabs. It occurs due to an allergy to flea saliva and just one or two fleas can trigger a reaction wherever the dog has been bitten by a flea before. Fleas just seem to love the area around the tail base so this is generally where it begins, but the itching can become more generalized if not treated early. Treatment involves instituting a good flea control program and breaking the itch-scratch cycle with a course of anti-inflammatories.

ATOPY

This often has a hereditary basis to it and is generally first seen in the first year or two of a dog's life. As the dog ages the allergy may become more

severe. The itchy areas are usually the paws, tummy and under the front legs. The ears will also often be involved and develop a secondary infection. The allergens can be one or more of many things including pollens, grasses, dust mites, moulds and fungi. The exact cause is often difficult to ascertain. To determine exactly what the dog is allergic to requires a trip to the skin specialist for allergy testing with a view to desensitization. This involves injections at home weekly by the owner.

There are many ways to alleviate your pet's discomfort and these include oatmeal based shampoos, antihistamines, special skin diets that contain essential fatty acids to help reduce inflammation of the skin and often the dog may need to be prescribed anti-inflammatory medication to break the itch-scratch cycle. If secondary infection has developed then antibiotics/antifungals may also be needed.

If your dog does start to scratch and itch then the sooner veterinary treatment is sought, the quicker the problem will be resolved and the less medication your pet will need to be taking.



Free gifts with Advance...

FREE KONG toys with every bag of Advance pet food 3 kg or larger. Hurry only while stocks last.



"...the sooner veterinary treatment is sought, the quicker the problem will be resolved..."



"...there are many ways to alleviate your pet's discomfort..."

