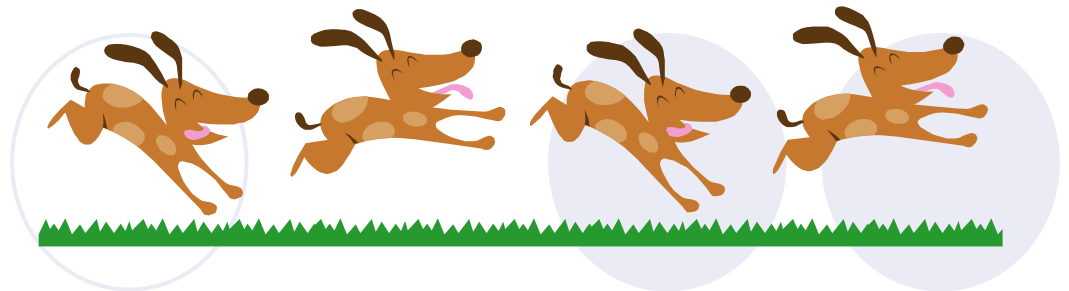


The Woof & Whiskers



SPRING/SUMMER 2013

Volume 1 Issue 2

SPRING INTO PREVENTION!!

FACT: Ticks are more closely related to spiders than they are fleas. Have you protected your dog from deadly Paralysis ticks?

FACT: It's the female tick that attaches itself to dogs. Have you done everything you can to protect your dog from deadly Paralysis ticks?

FACT: Female ticks can lay up to 3000 eggs during a lifetime. Have you protected your dog from deadly Paralysis ticks?

FACT: Paralysis ticks sense heat, CO₂ & movement from hosts, maybe your dog or cat! Don't let a tick come between you & your pet.

Well, here we are already! Spring is here and so with it come all the 'nasties'! Snakes, ticks, bees, & allergies!!

After the election weekend, the total of tick case numbers was over 30 since the first of August! September is exceeding this figure! So definitely start your prevention measures NOW if you haven't already. Daily searching is still essential even if you are using a product on your pets, so aim to spend at least 5 minutes a day doing a thorough search! Prevention is much the same again this year, other than the new collar that has come onto the market earlier in the year. So for dogs we have the Scalibor, Preventic and Kiltix collars, Frontline Original, Frontline spray & Advantix.

REMEMBER—THERE IS NO PRODUCT THAT GIVES OWNERS 100% GUARANTEED

SNAKE IDENTIFICATION

Snakes are on the move after a 'not so cold' winter! We have had 3 brown snake cases for the first week of spring. Lots of sightings reported as they warm up after the 'mild' winter break, so be on the look out for them as you venture out and about with your pets.

Most of the staff here have reported seeing active snakes about their properties. Even my own cat has brought in a dead juvenile brown to my back door!

Don't forget the Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers are available if you need them—they are able to catch and relocate any problem snakes you may find at your place!

PROTECTION AGAINST PARALYSIS TICKS!

For cat owners, sorry to say, but there is NO registered product available other than Frontline spray for Paralysis ticks! So search, search and more searching will be re-

If you do remove a tick but are having difficulty identifying it, place it on some clear sticky tape and bring it to the Clinic.

So be prepared! Use one or more products to protect your pets, do the daily 'tick crawl' (your fingers will be-



quired for your kitties!

Visit www.virbac.com.au for helpful tick identification, prevention, symptoms and treatment for pets! And remember we are only a phone call away if you need assistance.

come really sensitive to little bumps), avoid scrubby or well grassed areas and river banks, and be aware of the symptoms paralysis ticks can cause. And we are only a phone call away....24hrs a day! Good luck!

Check the website www.whatsnakeisthat.com.au for a quick reference guide to snakes on the Northern Rivers, as well as emergency information and general knowledge. Brush up on your first aid, just in case, and add us to your phone Contacts. EYES OPEN!!

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WHO'S WALKING WHO?

Easy Walk Harness --

Designed to gently discourage your dog from pulling while walking on a leash, the Easy Walk Harness is so simple -- easy to fit and easy to use. Dogs AND owners love it! Unlike traditional dog collars, this Easy Walk Harness never causes coughing, gagging or choking because the chest strap rests low across the breastbone, not on the delicate tracheal area. Designed to make controlling your dog during a walk a bit easier, this Easy Walk Harness helps to prevent discomfort when your dog tries to pull you.

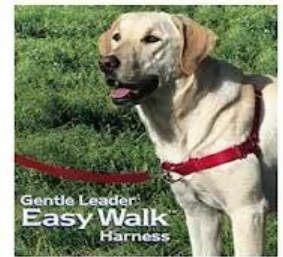
- Included is a quick snap buckle on both the shoulder and belly straps to make it easier to get the harness on and off your dog
- This harness features a soft-but-strong nylon

construction and 4 adjustment points provide maximum comfort and a reliable fit

- The complementary color of the belly strap makes it easier to identify each strap, while keeping the overall look pleasantly color-coordinated. You can quickly see which strap goes over the shoulders, and which goes under the belly.



Available in a variety of sizes & colours. Prices range from \$15-25 which is quite reasonable. These harnesses are also recommended by our local training advisor, Sarah Rutten.



TOXIC PLANTS



Being inquisitive little creatures, pets can sometimes just get a little too 'up close and personal' with some not so nice plants and shrubs. They may look pretty, and smell lovely to us, but underneath can lurk a terrible chemical component that poisons our loved pets. Luckily most ingested plant toxins generally cause gastrointestinal upsets, but they can also cause, if left untreated, major organ damage, especially to the

liver and kidneys. One to mention, especially for cats, is the Lily family-- day, Asian, peace etc. If any part of these plants are ingested, the toxin can lead to severe illness and death!

There are plenty of sites online to check out. www.rspcansw.org.au or www.purina.com.au to name but two!
Just reading an article in a

Veterinary Journal about the house plant 'Lucky Bamboo'. There was some concern by Vets that this plant has been causing toxicity in cats, and it has been linked to acute renal failure in Ragdolls. There are ongoing investigations and studies being conducted on the Dracaena genus and its potential effects once ingested.

Just a heads up...if your cat tends to play with this indoor plant, then it may be 'Unlucky Bamboo' !! Feng shui or not to Feng shui!

A BIG TURNOUT!

It seems so long ago, but Paws In The Park 2013, held on August the 4th, was a huge success and was enjoyed by all!

We had near enough to 100 dogs and their owners turn up on the day, enjoying a bit of FUN in the sun!

A big thanks to all who donated to the Charities of The Day...they were wrapped with their donations...they shared roughly \$1200...fantastic!

There were some excellent prizes this year and some memorable events! We thank all our

sponsors for sharing and supporting our doggy day! The highlight of the day was definitely the Peanut Butter Lick, which we are pretty sure every dog entered, and the Hay Bale high jump!

The Photobooth was a winner! The images captured on the day were fantastic, and the Facebook photo comp was a hit thanks to Stacey!

We hope we can look forward to another event in the years to come—maybe every 2 years, but we shall see.

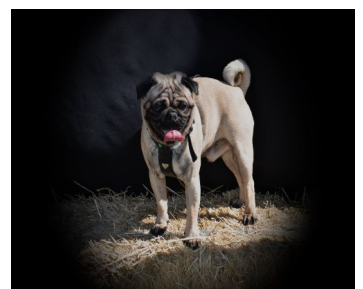
Thanks to everyone who shared the day with

us and we hope your dogs had a barking good time!

PHOTOBOOTH

COMPETITION

WINNING IMAGE...



BATS, LYSSAVIRUS, PETS & YOU!

Volume 1 Issue 2

Some of you may have heard of this 'newish' virus that bats carry, so thought it was worthwhile giving you some basic information about it, and to let you know what to do if you or your pet come into contact with a bat, sick, injured or dead!

Up to 30% of sick or injured bats have been found to be infected with this virus, and 3 humans were infected after being bitten or scratched—all cases were fatal!!

The virus (a form of rabies) is spread in the saliva of infected bats and enters another body through breaks in the skin, ie bites, scratches. The virus migrates to the brain

via nerve endings. Incubation can be as short as a few days or as long as several years.

Sick flying foxes are more likely to be caught by pets, and there is a chance the bat is sick because of this virus.

If you find a bat, alive or dead, or your pet finds a bat, **do not handle it**.

Phone Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers 6628 1866, Wires 1300 0940737, or Emergency Animal Disease Hotline 1800 675 888.

Only **trained, vaccinated bat handlers** should be involved. A dead or sick bat can be sent for

testing.

If your pet is bitten or scratched, you need to wash any wounds liberally with soapy water for at least 5 minutes, and apply an iodine based antiseptic. You then need to contact us and we will refer you to a vaccinated Veterinarian for treatment and testing of both the pet and the bat. If you have been exposed you need to call your GP immediately.

Rabies vaccine is available for pets that have been exposed but can only be administered by an AQIS accredited Vet and the cost is around the \$300 mark.

This is just basic information for you, aiming to raise awareness for pet owners and locals.

For further information, go online to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Clinic goss...

We have just waved goodbye to Melissa D (or Little Mel) as she heads to the big smoke to develop her VN career in Brisbane. She started with us as a school-based VN trainee, completing her VN Cert IV 12 months ago. She has gained the necessary skills and knowledge required in a busy Veterinary Practice and we have no doubt that she will settle into her new position with ease. Sadly we will miss her presence here at the Clinic but it's fantastic that she has this opportunity!

With Rebecca still on 'mummy' leave (she

may be back part time in Nov), we now have on the block, John Campbell. John studied Vet Science at Wagga but is a 'local' to our area. He has moved home to Bexhill, to join his partner who works in the area. His chosen sport is Rugby League, so happy faces here as footy talk is tossed to and fro! He joins us as a new Graduate, a keen and courageous one! His hours are 8-5pm Mon-Friday. He has an interest in Cattle Medicine and Surgery, Herd Health,

and Canines, but enjoys dealing with all animals, bar wild birds and reptiles!!

Just to confuse you, we also have another John! John Hampson is filling in the bits (mainly Friday/Sat and weekend afterhours). He is another local lad, hailing from Kyogle way, loves and lives bicycle racing, and fishing. He is super fit so we have nicknamed him 'Roids' (as in the banned substance which he does not use—just to clarify!). John loves working with household pets and cattle.

So a few new faces for you to meet and greet!

What's up Doc?

Since the last edition, we continue to treat gastro-intestinal disorders! This has led to major abdominal surgeries being performed to remove **spleens**, and **foreign bodies** such as MACA NUTS!! So as an owner just be cautious of what you are feeding your animals (ie high fat content), OR what they may be foraging and ingesting such as avocados, nuts, corn cobs, compost, rocks or socks!

It is with heavy hearts that we

have had to say goodbye to a number of our life-long patients....it is always a difficult decision for owners to make and they do their best to make the final stage of their pets' lives comfortable.

Sadly, with life comes death, but for the lucky pets who have the best of owners, life is full of love and care! We would just like to congratulate all our pet owners that are grieving at this time for giving their pets' a full and happy life!

This time of the year is particularly hard for our Vets and Nurses on an emotional level - we all dislike TICK SEASON and often we have to face pet deaths on a regular basis due to

this horrid little parasite. So **please** continue with

searching and application of **tick control** products to your animals.

Stay safe this Summer!





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YOU, YOUR PETS AND US!!

It's really important to us that each and every one of you is greeted and treated respectfully when you enter our Clinic. Of course in return we expect the same! We really don't like keeping clients & patients waiting for long periods of time in the waiting room, so all we ask is that you make an appointment time, (mornings tend to be quite hectic!) check in at the front desk when you arrive & weigh your dog on the scales if possible. Cats will be weighed in the Consulting Room. Even if you do have an appointment scheduled, we will prioritise emergency situations such as envenomations, road traffic victims, or other critical situations that may be a matter of life or death.

We do have cold drinks for sale in the Reception area during the warmer months as well as self-serve FREE chilled water for your refreshment! Coffee is available next door at the Rous Café if you require a nice caffeine hit!

We are always open to suggestions if you feel there is something we can improve on or change in any way, to make you and your pets' Vet visit enjoyable, so please don't hesitate to leave feedback at the Front desk or leave a note to pass on to Management.

And just a couple of little quotes we like (American, but they reflect our own thoughts):

"A cold, wet nose on a dog does not necessarily mean he's healthy. I've seen plenty of sick dogs with wet noses."—Mark Howes, DVM.

"Every time I save a life, every time I fix a patient, that makes everything worth it. And I love it when a client says, 'I wish my physician would treat me as nice as you treat my pets.'"—Phil Zeltzman, DVM.



SPRING SUPER SPECIALS

**BELOW: 'LIL MEL'S
LAST DAY AT WORK
WITH SOME OF THE
CREW!**



PREVENTIC

\$10 EACH

Offer Ends

30.10.2013



ADVANTIX 6 PACKS ONLY

ALL SIZES \$60 PK

Offer Ends 30.10.2013

"One day at the Vet Clinic where I take my cat, a man was verbally sparring with the Receptionist. After a few moments, a Vet Nurse came to her co-workers defense..."Sir...do you know what happens to aggressive males in this Clinic?"

Note; This is an American joke...only in America!!

