

Zillmere Veterinary Surgery

Autumn 2011 Newsletter



MILLION PAWS WALK

It's that time of year again!

Every year the RSPCA provides care to many lost, abandoned and injured animals. Zillmere Vet is providing support to the RSPCA by participating in their **annual Million Paws Walk!**

Every year we have a different theme to dress up as, and this year we have chosen the theme, 'Pets' Revenge.' Basically, our dogs will be dressed up as Vets and Veterinary Nurses while we will be dressed up as injured animals.

Please support the RSPCA either through participating in the walk, or giving a small donation. Every cent helps!

You can join our team or donate online at www.millionpawswalkfundraising.com.au/zillmere_vet or in person at our clinic.

Walk Details:

Date: Sunday, 15th May

Where: Boyd Park, Nundah.

Time: Walk commences 9am. On day registration from 8am.

Distance: 2 ½ km

Theme: Pets' Revenge!



Catz Corner

I hope that everyone escaped the recent wicked weather relatively unscathed. We will be busy with continuing education in March, I will be at the American Animal Hospital Association conference, Vicky and Emma are attending a one day seminar on wound care, seizing and heart disease, Wendy and Vicky are attending an evening on feline arthritis and Wendy will be attending a seminar on wound dressing and care. In April I need to have a knee reconstruction so will have a little time away from the practice. We are very lucky to have some excellent veterinarians to cover the period I will be out of commission.

Hope to see you all at the Million Paws Walk (I will be the one on crutches) ☺ Karen

MORE DOG, BABY, AND YOU SEMINARS!

Date: Tuesday's: 5th April; 3rd May; 7th Jun

Where: Chermiside Library

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Cost: FREE!

RSVP: 3403 8888



Injured Wildlife

Queensland has experienced devastating damage due to natural disasters. This damage is not only devastating for human life, but also for our wildlife eco systems. Here are some steps to follow if you find injured wildlife.

Birds:

1. Throw a towel over the bird and pick it up while being careful to keep its wings close to its body.
2. Place it in a box with air holes and put it in a quiet room.
3. Phone RSPCA QLD or another wildlife carer.
4. Do not try to feed it or give it water

Is it really injured?

Sometimes birds appear injured but really they are just young birds learning to fly. This often happens during spring and early summer. If the young bird is still standing and its parents are attending to it, keep your pets inside and keep an eye on it. If the young bird can perch, it is old enough to be out of its nest and sometimes just needs a hand to be put onto a branch of a tree close by. If the bird still appears to be injured the following day, phone RSPCA QLD for advice.

Possums:

If you are concerned that the injured possum is too big or feisty for you to handle, phone RSPCA QLD or another wildlife carer.

1. If you can, pick it up using a towel or small blanket.
2. Place it in a secure box (adults can be very strong) or pillowcase with an elastic band securing the end. If it is a baby wrap it in a soft towel or jumper and keep it warm.
3. Phone RSPCA QLD or another wildlife carer.
4. Do not try to feed it or give it water.

Injured wildlife can be brought to your veterinarian for care.

Important Phone Numbers:

BALM: 0405056066

Wildcare: (07) 5527 2444

RSPCA QLD: 3426 999





**Piper's
Pointer**

The importance of year round flea prevention:

Fleas are itchy little critters. Once you have a **burden** in your house it can seem impossible to eliminate this pest. The easiest way to prevent a flea infestation is to keep your fur-babies on **year round flea prevention**.

Fleas are much worse in summer than in winter and this has everything to do with the climate. **In summer, the weather is warmer so fleas hatch quicker.** However, fleas do not die in the winter. They simply **take longer to hatch.** And if you use a heater or have a fire place in your house, **flea growth might not be stunted** at all!

Two Types of Toxicity

Toad Toxicity:

As the weather cools, there is an increased predominance of toads in the backyard. When threatened, toads secrete a poisonous mucus that can be life threatening to animals.

Signs of poisoning:

- Frothing at the mouth or salivating
- Vomiting
- Lethargy

First Aid:

- Wash your dogs mouth out with a wet cloth. Focus on the gums, as the toxin is absorbed through the gums. **DO NOT:** stick the hose in your dogs mouth and turn it on. They may drown.
- Seek immediate veterinary attention.



The Facts about Feline Aids (FIV)

Did you know that there is a feline equivalent of HIV?

FIV (or feline immunodeficiency virus) is a virus which is transmitted from an infected cat to a healthy cat, usually through biting and scratching. The virus interferes with the immune system of infected cats and can be potentially fatal. **The incidence of FIV in Queensland is approximately 21%.**

All cats that have access to the outside world are at risk of contracting FIV, and once contracted there is no cure for the virus. As the disease progresses the immune system becomes compromised and too weak to fight off infection or disease. **In the early stages there may be no sign of FIV infection but in the latter stages infected cats may experience-**

Weight loss	Sores around the mouth
Chronic infections	Eye lesions
Poor coat	

The good news about feline aids is that even though there is no treatment or cure, we now have a **vaccine available** to prevent the disease. Any cat that ventures outside of the house should be vaccinated. To make an appointment or for more information please contact the clinic.

Chocolate Toxicity:

The Easter period is a common time for chocolate toxicity in dogs. Too much chocolate is toxic for dogs. Chocolate contains theobromine which is toxic in sufficient quantities. This is a xanthine compound in the same family of caffeine, and theophylline.

Signs of poisoning:

Hyper excitability	Hyper irritability
Increased heart rate	Restlessness
Increased urination	Muscle tremors
Vomiting	Diarrhoea
In extreme cases: coma	

First Aid:

Seek immediate veterinary treatment. We can induce vomiting if the chocolate is consumed in the first 1 – 2 hours.



Share a Yummy Easter Treat With Your Pet!

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of oat flour
- 1 tsp of Baking Powder
- 2 Eggs
- ½ Cup of Honey
- ¼ Cup of Canola Oil
- ½ Cup of Peanut Butter (can use reduced fat!)
- 1 Jar of baby banana food (yum!)
- 1 Cup of carob chips

Directions:

Preheat oven to 180 degrees. In a large bowl combine flour and baking powder. Mix well. Next, add the eggs, honey, oil, baby food and peanut butter. Mix until well blended. Finally, add the carob chips. Again, mix well. Pour batter into a lightly greased 9x9inch pan. Bake for 20 – 25 minutes or until top is golden brown. Cool completely on a wire rack and then cut into squares. Store in an air-tight container in the refrigerator. Bon Appetite! Woofs!



Hop-hop-happy Easter