

Zillmere Veterinary Surgery

Spring 2010 Newsletter



Catz Corner

Welcome to our first attempt at emailing a newsletter. We are planning on sending out a newsletter every three months as well as any health alerts as they appear. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter please email us and we will take you off the list.

In August I attended the ASAVA (Australian Small Animal Veterinary Association) annual conference. It was a great week looking at the in depth aspects of immunology and infectious diseases. In October I will be speaking at the Wild West Veterinary Conference in Reno (Nevada) – wish me luck with the Yanks ☺

Dr Robyn is now only working Saturday mornings as she is pursuing her PhD.

Best wishes from Karen

Wellness Month

November is wellness month at ZVS. Because our pets are not able to speak to us, and because they age 5 – 7 years for every one human year – we need to be very proactive in our wellness screening programs.

In November we will be offering blood tests for all pets aged over 4 years without the need (or cost) of a consultation with the veterinarian. One of our wonderful nurses will draw the samples and will phone you with the results.

There has been some discussion in the media recently regarding the issue of vaccinations for our pets. We follow the recommendations from the WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association) which are to vaccinate dogs for the core diseases of distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus every three years and for canine cough complex every 12 months. To be eligible for a three yearly vaccination schedule, dogs must have completed their puppy series and have had their 12 month vaccination. The situation with cats is not so straight forward as there are currently no approved three yearly vaccinations available. We have been offering this three yearly protocol for dogs for the past four years, but can also give your pet annual vaccinations if that is your preference.

Open Wide: Ahhhhh.

Dental disease is a common issue affecting many of our furry friends. It is so common, that 85% of cats and dogs are living with it.

Dental disease causes painful mouths and gums, bad breath and damage to liver, kidneys and the heart. Severe dental disease will result with loss of teeth.

Come in to Zillmere Vet for a **FREE** dental check to assess and discuss your pet's dental health.



RECALL ON EUKANUBA:

Eukanuba has experienced problems with one of their US plants and have issued a voluntary recall on some of their dry food products with an expiry date between **1st of July 2010 and 1st December 2011**. These products are: **Veterinary Diets – Canine Response, Restricted Calorie, Low Residue, Feline Low pH/S; Naturally Wild – Salmon and Rice, Wild Turkey and Multigrain; Custom Care – sensitive skin.**

Dog, Baby and You!

New addition to the family? The Brisbane City Council are holding **FREE** seminars on preparing your Fido friend for the arrival of baby.

Where: Chermside Library, 375 Hamilton Rd, Chermside

Time: 7 – 9pm

Dates: 7th September, 14th September, 5th October, 2nd November & 7th December

*Please RSVP as there are limited places available – Contact **Suzi on 0434 838 968**

* Please **do not** bring rover along as well!!

De-sexing your cat

Cats can start their reproductive lives at the very young age of 4 – 5 months. In addition to preventing unwanted litters, desexing may result in a positive behavioural change in your cat. Desexing may also minimise the chance of your cat developing reproductive organ related health issues that may have otherwise been detrimental to your cat's life. There are significant costs involved in caring for a litter of kittens. All this can add up to \$180 - \$250 per kitten for the first 8 weeks alone.

A desexed cat is less likely to:

- Wander or run away, especially males.
- Contract Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) (also known as Feline AIDS)
- Develop certain type of tumours
- Get into fights over territory or mating partners, this can cause abscesses which can be fatal.
- Anti social behaviour towards people or other animals, thus reducing the enjoyment of owning a pet
- Spray or mark its territory, which is often the house.

Desexing your cat is a much easier and less expensive option.

Good Kitty... It's just a trip to the vet....

Is getting Kitty to the vet like getting blood from a stone? Here are some handy tips next time Meow has to come for a check up.

- ❖ Always use a carrier (top opening ones are highly recommended)
- ❖ Train Kitty to view the carrier as a 'happy place' – keep the crate out in the home all the time and place treats and blankets inside to entice Kitty into the carrier
- ❖ Bring along Kitty's favourite treats
- ❖ Take Kitty for regular car rides – start short and increase distance.
- ❖ Reward good behaviours no matter how small with treats, pats and verbal praise
- ❖ Remain calm and speak in a soft voice

Local Puppy Pre-schools:

Teamwork Puppy School – 0407 761 201
Beams Rd, QUT grounds Carseldine
Metropolitan Dog Obedience Club – 0412 899 086
Marchant Park, Cnr Gympie & Murphy
Rds, Cherside

Say Cheese :D

kraM Photografie is a photographic agency which began operating in 2010. Kram's Director, Mark Aichholzer, completed a diploma of photography in August of 2010 and embarked on starting his own business.

With his overall love of animals, and especially his beautiful furkids (DJ and Hank the Golden Retrievers and Gypsy the Russian Blue feline), Mark found his love of photography merging with his love of animals and decided Pet Photography was the primary area in which he wanted to work.

kraM's pet photography work is orientated toward a more natural approach. There is no studio or heavy lighting which can sometimes cause stress to your much loved furkid. kraM can come to your home or can photograph your pet in his or her local park, the choice is yours.

If you'd like some treasured memories of your little furry friend, give kraM Photografie a call on 0405 680 676 or check our his work on line at www.kramphotografie.com.au

Puppy and Kitten Healthcare

Do you have a new furry addition to your family? Puppies and kittens require a lot of care and attention. It can be very hard to keep on top of routine healthcare with life being so hectic. Here is a simple guide to follow for routine healthcare for your new fur baby!

Vaccinations:

Puppies and kittens need a course of three vaccinations, each a month apart. They are given at:

- 6 – 8 weeks old
- 12 weeks old
- 16 weeks old

Each vaccination will include a full health check to ensure no issues have developed and to discuss any worries or concerns you may have.

De-Worming:

Puppies and kittens need to be de-wormed right from the start.

- Weekly until 8 weeks old
- Once every 2 weeks until 12 weeks old
- Monthly until 6 months old
- Every three months thereafter

Heartworm:

Heartworm is spread through mosquitoes and can be life threatening. Heartworm prevention should be started from 12 weeks of age.

Microchipping:

Microchipping is now compulsory for all puppies and kittens sold between the ages of 8 and 12 weeks old. Microchipping can be done at any time and is the only legal way of claiming ownership in Australia.

De-Sexing:

De-sexing is recommended around 5 or 6 months of age. Generally, this ensures that the de-sexing procedure is completed before a females' first heat and before destructive behaviours are developed.

Weather is heating up... Treat your pooch!

- 1 cup water
- 1 cube chicken or beef stock
- 4 small pieces of chicken or beef

Dissolve stock in water and tear meat into smaller pieces about 1/2 inch squares. Freeze for about 12 hours or until solid. Great for hot days!!

We are now on FACEBOOK! Join us for the latest news and updates!