

Zillmere Veterinary Surgery

Summer 2010 Newsletter



RSPCA CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Zillmere Veterinary Surgery would like to say a special thank you to all who supported the RSPCA over the Christmas period. Christmas is the busiest time of year for the RSPCA and your support was greatly appreciated. Wonderful gifts of food, blankets and even possum pouches will surely help countless animals survive.



Catz Corner

As I type this message Queensland is beginning the big clean up. My deepest sympathy is with those who have been affected by the floods.

Late last year, Piper and I visited the Prep students at Geebung State School as part of the Australian Veterinary Association Pet Pep program. I'd like to thank the students for their attentiveness and for the beautiful drawing of Piper and myself, we had a terrific time ☺

In keeping with my commitment to continuing education, in March I will be attending the American Animal Hospital Association conference. I am looking forward to learning the latest in veterinary care.

I wish everyone good health and happiness for 2011 – World Veterinary Year.
Karen

WORLD VETERINARY YEAR



The world's first veterinary school was founded in Lyon, France, in 1761, shortly followed by the Alfort veterinary school, near Paris, in 1764, both of them at the initiative of French veterinarian Claude BOURGELAT. This means that 2011 will mark the 250th world anniversary of veterinary education.

By setting up the world's first veterinary training institutions, BOURGELAT created the veterinary profession itself. Thus, 2011 will also mark the 250th world anniversary of the veterinary profession.

Bourgelat's genius did not stop there. As a result of his fruitful collaboration with surgeons in Lyon, he was also the first scientist who dared to suggest that studying animal biology and pathology would help to improve our understanding of human biology and pathology. 2011 will also mark the 250th anniversary of the concept of comparative pathobiology, without which modern medicine would never have emerged.

Therefore, it is not just the anniversary of the creation of veterinary training that we should be celebrating in France in 2011. The entire world should join with us in celebrating our veterinary profession, which has been working to improve both animal and human health for the past 250 years.



Piper's Pointer



Microchip you're pet. A **microchip** is a small chip that is approximate to the **size of a grain of rice** that sits underneath the skin on the back of the neck. Microchips cannot be removed like a collar can if your pet escapes.

They make returning your pet home a simple and easy process. Microchipping is the **only legal way of claiming ownership** in Australia.

PLEASE ensure that your details are up to date. We cannot return your pet home quickly and safely if your details are not up to date. To find out if your details are correct, please visit www.petaddress.com.au and enter your pet's microchip number.



Sorry Rover, No Walk Today...

There is no doubt that with all of this rainy weather, finding 5 minutes of dry time to walk your dog can be a challenge.

In order to make sure that Rover does not tip the scales, it may be necessary to cut down on the amount of food he is being fed.

Weight is an in vs. out system. Our pets only need as many calories as they are burning to maintain a healthy weight. If they have a decrease in the amount of calories burnt, then weight gain may be a consequence.

Are you feeding your pet for the correct life-stage?

It is important to be feeding your pet a high quality, nutritional food for the correct life-stage.

This helps to ensure that your pet has the correct balance of nutrients, minerals and amino acids all throughout their life. Studies even show that when fed a premium quality diet, pets can live up to 22 months longer. That's a long time!

Dog

- Puppy (Small & Medium) – 12month
- Puppy Large Breed – 24 months
- Adult (Small & Medium) – 1 year – 7 years
- Adult Large Breed – 2 years – 5 years
- Mature (Small & Medium) – 8+ years
- Mature Large Breed – 5+ years



Cat

- Kitten – 12months
- Adult – 1year – 7 years
- Mature – 8+ years



Two Cases of the Itchies:

HELP! My Dog Has an Itchy Ear!

Ear infections are a very common problem in the warm summer months, and here at Zillmere Vet we have been seeing many ear problems.

A dog with an ear infection will often scratch at their ear. They can yelp or moan when doing this. A pungent smell can sometimes be detected and other physiological changes such as redness can be noted.

In order to diagnose the cause of the infection, we must perform a test by taking a smear of ear wax and examining it under a microscope. This will allow us to determine what type of infection your pet has and which medication is going to be the most effective.

If you suspect that your pup has an ear infection, please let us know immediately, as ear problems can be very uncomfortable and even painful for your pet.



HELP! My Dog Has Itchy Skin!

Just as ear infections are very common in summer, so are skin infections. Skin infections occur when the skin becomes a little bit inflamed due to an allergic response to something. While the skin is inflamed, the normal skin properties that act as a barrier do not work properly and an infection starts secondary to the allergic response.

Skin infections can be noted by redness and irritation, rashes, and pimples or breaks in the skin.

There are many treatment options for skin infections. If you are concerned that your pet has an infection, please contact us on **3865 2020**.



PRODUCT WATCH: COMFORTIS!

Comfortis is a brand new flea control for dogs. It is unlike any other monthly flea prevention in that it is given orally in the form of a tablet. This product is very fast acting (4 hours), water resistant (given orally) and here at Zillmere Vet we are finding it to be **VERY** effective.

