

Zillmere Veterinary Surgery

Winter 2011 Newsletter



Catz Corner

Hi everyone,
I can hardly believe the year is half over already, 2011 is racing by! We have been busy with continuing education, Vicky and Wendy attended a one day seminar on joint disease, Chloe and Emma attended a communication workshop and I have been to the American Animal Hospital Association conference and a parasitology lecture. I was surprised to learn that the most common gastro-intestinal parasite of dogs is Giardia. This is of special concern as giardia can be transmitted to people and it is not controlled by our regular de-worming medications.

See the article later in the newsletter
For more information.

Keep warm and keep well,
Karen

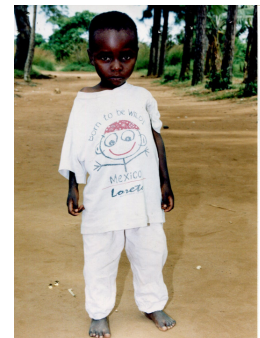


Thinking Globally!

When you have your canine family members vaccinated with a three yearly vaccination at Zillmere Vet, you are also helping to prevent rabies in the Serengeti.

Thanks to a wonderful program sponsored by Intervet, each vaccine sold raises funds to assist with the prevention of rabies for dogs in Serengeti, Africa. This program has seen the incidence of human hospitalizations due to rabies bites **reduced by 93%** and **has seen the elimination of rabies** in the Serengeti National Park.

Continuing with our global responsibilities, 5 years ago we started sponsoring a young boy by the name of Bushira in Tanzania. Throughout the years, we have seen Bushira grow and develop. With our assistance, Bushira has been able to have clean food and water, attend school and play soccer, which is a favorite pastime for him. We look forward to continuing to watch Bushira grow, and we feel very proud that we have been able to make a difference.



**Piper's
Pointer**

Why you should brush your teeth!

It is natural for plaque, tartar and bacteria to build up on our teeth. That doesn't mean that it is a good thing. When the plaque and tartar start to form on our teeth, it builds a solid layer which can cause gingivitis. Dental disease can also cause painful mouths and gums, bad breath and damage to liver, kidneys and the heart. Severe dental disease will result with loss of teeth. This is an important issue, as approximately 85% of pets are living with dental disease.

Ask your mum and dad to brush your teeth for you. It's easy! Just get a pet toothbrush and pet toothpaste - never human toothpaste as it can upset our tummies - and rub in a circular motion on

the teeth.
If your mum and dad are worried, tell them to come in for a **FREE** dental demonstration. Make sure you also tell them Zillmere Vet are giving away **FREE** dentastix while stock last!



Million Paws Walk Update!

A very massive thank you to all who supported this year's RSPCA Million Paws Walk! Once again the walk was a great success!

We had a fantastic day, and even won the prize for best dressed team.

Photo's from the day have been posted on our website: www.zillmerevet.com and are an absolute must see - Karen dressed as a poodle!





Parasites... eeewww!



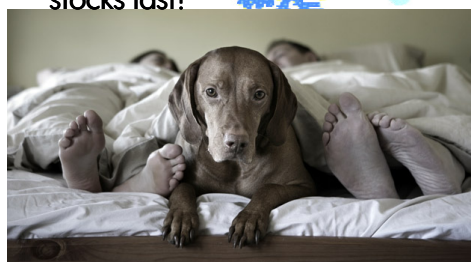
We are all familiar with intestinal worms – hook worm, tape worm, round worm and whip worm – and the need for regular worm control in our pets. But did you know that keeping your pet parasite free has important implications for your health as well? Round worm larvae from pets can infect people but instead of setting up home in the gut as they do in the animal, in people the larvae migrate through the tissues causing muscle pains and sometimes blindness.

Another parasite that can transmit from pets to people is giardia. Giardia is not a worm, it is a small protozoan parasite which lives in the small intestine causing diarrhoea. In a recent study giardia was found in 13.4% of Australian dogs making it the most common gastro-intestinal parasite. Interestingly, many of the dogs which harboured the parasite did not show any clinical signs of the disease. The Companion Animal Parasite Control Council recommends faecal tests 2 – 4 times a year for young animals and once or twice a year for adult pets. A faecal test costs only \$30.00, you can pick up a collection kit from the surgery, or just drop in a fresh sample of poo for us to send to the lab for this important screening test.

Helping our older pets through winter

The cold weather can take its toll on our older furry friends. Here are some tips to help them stay comfortable through the cold season...

1. Keep your pet warm – let them sleep inside where it is warmer, and raise bedding off the ground or make it extra thick and warm.
2. Cartrophen injections – these injections help to increase the fluid in the joints and can make joints affected by arthritis much more comfortable.
3. McLaren Photonic Therapy – This non-invasive therapy uses light to stimulate specific accupoints which assists with pain relief from mild to chronic pain.
4. Hill's Prescription J/d – standing for joint diet, this specially formulated food helps to nourish cartilage.
5. Use ramps instead of stairs wherever possible to relieve pressure on hips and joints
6. Avoid slippery surfaces
7. Sasha's Blend – formulated with glucosamine and a blend of other nutrients, Sasha's Blend helps to improve joint health. Pick up a FREE sample at the clinic, while stocks last!

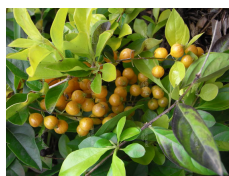


Poisonous Plants – Killer's in Your Garden

DOGS: There are many toxic plants that can have negative health affects on our pets. A common plant in flower at the moment is the *Sheena's Gold (Duranta Erecta)*. When the berries of this plant are consumed, they can cause gastrointestinal upsets, such as vomiting and diarrhea, and in extreme cases even seizures can occur. If your dog is showing any signs, please phone the clinic immediately.

CATS: Lily's are a very popular accompaniment to many floral arrangements; however, they are VERY poisonous to cats. Less than one leaf can cause toxicity. Consumption of a Lily can cause kidney failure and even death. If Lily consumption is suspected, seek immediate veterinary care.

For a comprehensive list of poisonous plants, please see <http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/>



Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Foundation

Currumbin Wildlife Hospital is one of Australia's largest wildlife hospitals. But now this non-government funded hospital is in danger due to a shortfall of support. The recent Queensland flooding has seen a decrease in tourism to the sanctuary and an increase in the number of patients seen at the hospital, and the results are worrying.

Currumbin Wildlife hospital need to raise \$200 000 by Spring and every cent helps.

Donations can be made at www.cwhf.or.au, and every cent goes towards the animals.

Thank you for your support.

