

St Bernards Buzz

Happy New Year...



We hope that you all had a special time celebrating Christmas and are looking forward to the challenges and joys that the New Year will bring. We are excited about what 2016 will mean for St Bernard's Road Veterinary Clinic, as always we have lots of exciting new ideas to implement so that we can continue to provide you and your family the special care that you deserve.

We have welcomed Arin to our team - which is very exciting. Arin is a very experienced veterinary nurse who has practiced in both England and Adelaide. She of course has a menagerie of pets at home, and her family has just expanded to include a horse.

Play it safe this Summer

We all love playing "fetch" with our dogs at the park or beach, but sticks have the penetrating properties of an arrow and can be lethal. Stick related injuries can range from minor scratches to impalement. Sticks can easily pierce the skin and when grabbed by the dog, they can potentially penetrate all the way through to the oesophagus or major blood vessels in the neck.

Kong have just released a really funky "SAFESTIX" which is a much safer option for your fun in the sun this summer, and we have them in stock at the clinic.

This summer, to keep your dog safe and reduce the risk of stick related injuries, be prepared:

- Have a number of safe toys that your dog likes to fetch at the ready
- Keep a toy in the car or next to your dog's lead so you always have one with you
- Inspect toys regularly for wear and tear - replace them if there is any damage
- Remember to "stick" to throwing dog toys, not sticks!

After all, you wouldn't shoot an arrow at your dog, so why would you throw a stick?

What to do if your pet starts to feel the heat

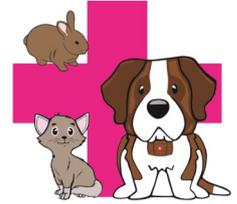
Our pets can't sweat all over their bodies like humans can. They rely on panting to get rid of the hot air and only produce a small amount of sweat through their footpads. This makes them **extremely susceptible to heat exhaustion** in hot and humid conditions. Heat exhaustion can be particularly dangerous and even fatal so it's important to be able to recognise the signs and know what to do.

Watch out for:

Excessive panting
Exaggerated and noisy panting
Lethargy
Drooling
Weakness or collapse
Vomiting

What to do if you suspect heat exhaustion:

Bring your pet to us immediately (or seek emergency veterinary care)
On your way here you can cool your pet by applying wet towels to hairless parts of your pet's body (groins or paws)
Place your pet in front of the air conditioner or a fan while you are in the car
If you are ever worried about your pet in the heat call us for advice



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Patient of the Month

Suzy's story highlights how important it is to have all lumps checked.

Suzy has a history of growing Mast Cell tumors, which are really nasty tumors which can be fatal for dogs. She has already had 3 removed and was cruising along happily when another lump was found on her right foot. It was only noticed because she was stressed with the thunder before Christmas and started licking her feet. The lump was tested and found to be yet another mast cell tumor, and because it had been growing in the webbing between her toes it stayed hidden. Suzy was taken to surgery pronto and unfortunately the tumor was more extensive than initially thought and she had to have 2 toes removed. She is recovering really well and the testing on the lump shows that it was all removed and thankfully was only a low grade Mast Cell Tumor. Good Luck with your recovery Suzy xx



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