

# St Bernards Buzz



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8  
AUGUST 2017  
[www.stbernardsvet.com.au](http://www.stbernardsvet.com.au)

## From Dr Jenni's Desk!

Dr Jenni attended the International Feline Medicine conference last month, attending 39 lectures all about cats over 4 days! The key topics which were discussed were Endocrine disease (hyperthyroid disease and diabetes mellitus) and Feline Cardiology. As you would expect with cats, their heart disease is different to everyone else's, and there is ongoing research trying to get more information about what causes heart disease in cats, the different types of heart disease that they get and how to best treat and manage their heart disease to ensure optimal quality of life.



It is estimated that at least 10% of cats have heart disease, but they are very good at hiding it from their humans, often until it is too late to intervene. Thanks to recent developments we now have some excellent tools to help us assess the severity of heart disease in our felines and to assess the likelihood of our patients developing thromboembolic disease. This means that we can intervene early with the aim of protecting them from developing potentially fatal complications.

It was an amazing opportunity to learn "all about cats" and to be surrounded by vets from around the world who are passionate about felines and their care.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your feline family members please contact us for an appointment.

## FREE Dental Check-up!

**Does your pet have Bad Breath??? Maybe some discoloured teeth???** August is Dental month. We have lots of exciting promotions and freebies!!!

Book in for a **FREE** dental check with one of our expert team. We will check out your furr babies teeth, gums and give you a goodie bag to take home to say thank-you for your visit. Please call St Bernards Veterinary Clinic Ph.83644545..



## It's never too late for dental care!

It's not uncommon for us to see an older pet with dental disease but many people are worried about their senior pet having to undergo a dental procedure.

In fact, as our pets get older, their immune system becomes less effective at fighting off bacterial and viral diseases so **good dental health is more important than ever!**

Senior pets may be missing or have worn down teeth and this can affect their ability to chew and digest their food. They are also very good at hiding dental pain and soldiering on, so many owners put

changes down to 'getting old.'

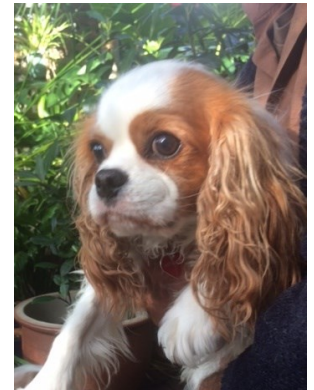
**The fact is, your senior friend may be in considerable pain and could have issues such as an oral mass or a broken tooth.**

Prior to an anaesthetic, we may recommend blood and urine testing to check the overall health of your senior pet and tailor the anaesthetic protocol accordingly.

It's important to realise that veterinary anaesthetics are on par with human anaesthetics and are very safe. This means your pet will be able to undergo necessary treatment to ensure a pain-free mouth and will be able to live a happier and longer life.

**Please ask us for more information if you are worried about your pet.**

## Patient of the Month



Sammy is a four and a half year old male neutered Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. He came in for a dental check and teeth clean this month with Dr. Chandana. Two of the teeth had to be extracted due to severe periodontal disease present around them.

Periodontal disease is the inflammation of the tissue around the tooth's supporting structure. The inflammation is caused by bacteria on the tooth surface which accumulates in the plaque. The plaque then calcifies (within 24-48hours) to form calculus (tartar) which has a rough surface that caused irritation to the gum. When this happens, it causes pain and sensitivity to the affected teeth. Therefore, they have to be extracted to relieve the discomfort.

Sammy was sent home with pain relief after the extraction to keep him comfortable and pain free. His breath is nice and fresh after the cleaning and the extraction site healed beautifully. Sammy's mummy is maintaining the teeth with a routine of special dental diets that cleans while eating and dental chews.

# St Bernards Buzz



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

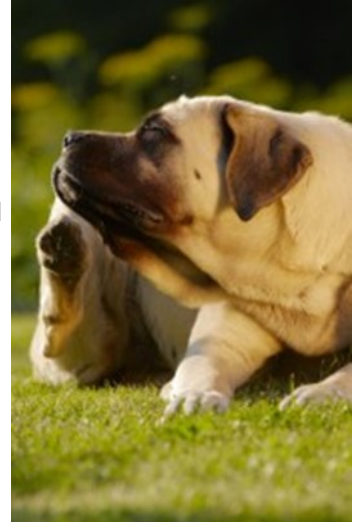
## Flea Prevention Reminder!

Spring is just around the corner and as the days are getting longer, **now's the time to ensure your pet is up to date with flea prevention.**

Eggs that were previously laid by fleas may have been lying dormant over the cooler winter months but as soon as we get some warmer days these eggs will hatch. This will lead to an emergence of fleas and lots of itchy pets!

Treat now to prevent these little pesky little creatures from bothering your pet. The saliva from their bites can set off a nasty reaction in your pet's skin leading to *flea allergy dermatitis* weeks after the bite. This often requires antibiotics and medication to break the itch cycle. This can be costly and time consuming and prevention is easier than the treatment!

The good news is there are plenty of excellent flea products available for your pet. We will be able to recommend the most suitable and effective treatment.



## Can you clean my pet's teeth without an anaesthetic?



Without an anaesthetic we cannot perform a thorough examination of your pet's mouth, and there is simply no way we can diagnose or treat dental problems while your pet is awake. When it comes to gold standard dental care, we can't just ask your pet to sit back and 'open wide.'

You may have seen anaesthesia-free dentistry advertised but it is often performed by people who **lack appropriate training** and qualifications.

It can also have a **negative psychological impact** on your pet and might cause your pet **unnecessary pain** (plus it also puts us in danger of being bitten).

It's also important to realise that a thorough dental examination requires a patient to be **completely motionless** for procedures such as radiographs and probing.

An anaesthetised patient allows us to look for any root problems and potential sources of pain. We can clean under the gums, which cannot be done correctly if your pet is awake. Removing only the calculus that is visible on the tooth is ineffective because it does not fix the source of the problem or enable healing and reversal of the dental disease.

Anaesthesia-free dentistry can potentially mask serious underlying disease and can cause your pet unnecessary pain. You can read more about this on the [Australian Veterinary Association website](#).



***If it's been more than a year since your pet's last dental check, please give us a call.***

