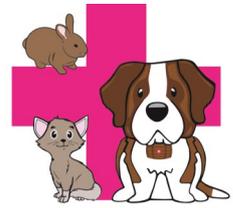


St Bernards Buzz



ST BERNARDS ROAD
Veterinary Clinic

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 7

JULY 2017

www.stbernardsvet.com.au

Welcome to Carina!



Carina grew up in Hong Kong and relocated to Australia in 2012. Before coming to Australia she worked as a veterinary nurse in Hong Kong for 5 years. After several years of working in the industry she aimed improve her knowledge by studying Veterinary Nursing in Australia.

She received the Certificate IV in Veterinary Nurse qualification in 2013, and has worked in different veterinary practices in Adelaide and Northern Territory after graduation.

Her goal is to provide, with care and compassion, veterinary services of the highest standard for all animal species through every stage of their life. Using her knowledge and skills to educate owners on improving their pet's health, welfare and happiness.

She likes all aspects of veterinary nursing and has a particular interest in surgical nursing and dentistry. She is very excited to be joining the team at St Bernard's Road Veterinary Clinic.

In her spare time she enjoy flying aeroplane, baking, chilling on the beach and with her kitty "Meatball"

Vomiting and diarrhoea and when to see us!

Vomiting and diarrhoea are two words most people don't want to talk about, let alone have to deal with when it comes to their pet. Thankfully, we have a summary of what you need to know so you don't have to dwell on these words for too long!



Most dogs and cats suffer from either (or both) of these at some point in their life. A common cause is 'dietary indiscretion' which is just our way of saying your pet ate something he shouldn't.

If your pet has a vomit or a bout of diarrhoea you should withhold food for a few hours (gastric rest), offer fluids for rehydration and feed a bland diet for a few days. After this, your pet will most likely recover without a problem.

Unfortunately there are times when vomiting and diarrhoea become a little more serious and that's when you need to call on us.

You should seek advice if your pet:

- Vomits more than once
- Has multiple bouts of diarrhoea
- Seems lethargic or is off his food
- Might have ingested something he shouldn't
- Has been losing weight recently

If you have a puppy or a kitten with diarrhoea or vomiting we recommend you get them checked with us no matter what as their little bodies don't have much reserve and they can go downhill very quickly.

It's best to ask us for advice if you are concerned about your pet. We might not be able to clean your carpet but we can help put your mind to rest!

Patient of the Month



Zac is a cuddly 9 year old male Groodle. He presented to Dr Chandana with a sudden onset of complete paralysis. He was suspected to have polyradiculoneuritis. This is a condition where the body's immune system attacks the nerves in the body. The clinical signs vary depending on which nerves are affected. In Zac's case, the nerves controlling the legs were affected, causing him to be paralysed.

Zac was placed on immune suppressing medication to control the diseases but this condition takes a long time to respond, generally taking weeks and months. Zac's dedicated owners had to provide a lot of intensive care at home to support him through. This included feeding and carrying him out to toilet. If Zac accidentally soils himself, they would clean him up so he wouldn't be burnt by his excreta. He also got used to wearing nappies! Zac responded well to his treatment. He started walking after 4 weeks of full time care by his family at home and was able to perform most normal activities after 5 weeks.

Zac has completely recovered - he can even cock his leg when he goes to the toilet. He is now up to going for short walks and enjoying getting out an about. He is being weaned off his medication slowly. We wish him the best and we congratulate their family for their great care and dedication to him.



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What you need to know about pancreatitis!

Pancreatitis is a painful and potentially life threatening condition and requires veterinary attention as soon as possible.

The pancreas releases enzymes to help digestion. These enzymes usually don't start to work until they reach the small intestine but if a dog has pancreatitis, these enzymes become active as soon as they are released. This causes inflammation to the surrounding tissue and organs. In severe cases, the enzymes start to digest the pancreas itself causing extreme pain.

Knowing the signs can enable us to start treatment quickly and effectively and help reduce the severity of the condition.

Watch out for:

Hunched back

Vomiting

Lethargy

Appears uncomfortable or bloated in abdomen

Diarrhoea

Not wanting to eat

A high-fat diet is a major cause of pancreatitis, especially for a dog who gets a large helping of fatty food in one sitting (such as human left overs or a rich marrow bone).

Obesity, hypothyroidism, diabetes and certain medications or other toxins can also predispose a dog to pancreatitis. Some breeds such as miniature schnauzers are also more susceptible indicating there may be a genetic component.

Treatment involves intensive fluid therapy, anti vomiting drugs, gastric rest and then reintroduction of a low fat food, often for life. A dog that has had a bout of pancreatitis is much more susceptible to repeat attacks in the future so diet management is essential.

We are always happy to answer any question you have about your pet's health. Ask us today.

Can my dog eat that?

Are you aware of some of the potential doggy dangers out there? We've compiled a quick list for you below.

This list is not complete and these are just a few of the hazards we find people forget about or are not aware of.

Grapes, sultanas and raisins: induce kidney failure in some dogs

Macadamia nuts: cause weakness, vomiting and diarrhoea

Avocados: lead to a stomach upset and the pip can also cause an obstruction if ingested

Onions, leeks, garlic and chives: ingestion leads to destruction of red blood cells

Chewing gum: contains Xylitol and this can cause weakness and seizures

Apricot, cherry and peach pips and apple seeds: contain cyanide and may cause poisoning

Corn on the cob: the corn might be digested, but the cob may lodge in the small intestine causing a blockage

Chocolate: you've probably heard this before, but remember chocolate is toxic to dogs and ingestion of just a small amount can be fatal - cooking chocolate and dark chocolate are the most dangerous

Rodent bait: can lead to blood clotting problems 3-14 days after ingestion

Snail bait: can cause seizures and even death

Stockings, undies, socks: are all attractive to dogs and can cause a nasty intestinal obstruction

If you think your dog might have ingested something that's on this list you should seek veterinary advice immediately.

