

St Bernards Buzz



ST BERNARDS ROAD
Veterinary Clinic

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www.stbernardsvet.com.au

Happy New Year !!!

We would like to wish all our two and four legged family a Happy and Healthy 2017.

As we start our New Year we would like to celebrate all our amazing patients and acknowledge that they are all special members of their families and hope they all stay healthy and happy during 2017.

Parvovirus Outbreak

The canine parvoviruses are highly infectious viruses in dogs and are especially fatal to puppies and young dogs. The viruses are very hardy in the environment. They are able to survive over winter in the ground despite freezing temperatures. When the weather warms up, the viruses are then able to multiply readily, increasing the chance of a breakout.

The viruses can be brought indoors from contaminated soil under the shoes and many household disinfectants are not capable of killing the parvoviruses.

Dogs become infected through oral contact with the virus in faeces, infected soil or soiled bedding or toys. After contraction of the viruses, there is usually an incubation period of 3-7 days before there are any clinical signs appearing. Infected dogs then shed huge amounts of virus in their faeces, saliva and vomitus. In surviving dogs, the virus may be shed for 2-3 weeks post-infection. Hence, it is important to isolate the infected dog from other dogs.

The virus destroys developing young white blood cells in the bone marrow, the cells in the heart and cause sloughing of the intestinal cell leading to signs of bloody diarrhoea. The intestinal bacteria are then able to translocate into the blood stream via the leaky intestines causing sepsis.

Infected patients will need intensive treatment and monitoring with intravenous (IV) fluids, antibiotics, anti-vomiting medication, IV glucose, blood transfusion and intestinal protectants while in strict isolation protocol so that the virus doesn't spread throughout the clinic/hospital. Contaminated bedding are usually destroyed (incinerated as medical waste) or decontaminated with special disinfected for killing the viruses. The parvovirus vaccination is part of the core vaccine which is given to dogs. The vaccine takes 12 days after inoculation before it becomes protective so it is very important to keep our fur babies up to date with their vaccinations to be protected against this potentially lethal disease.

Tips on Preventing Heat Stroke

The heat is on and as we battle our way through summer, spare a thought for your pet.

Our pets are super susceptible to heatstroke. They can't sweat all over like humans do and they only produce a tiny amount of sweat through their footpads. The only way they can attempt to cool themselves down is through panting.

Keep an eye out for: Excessive panting, Exaggerated and noisy panting, Drooling, Weakness or collapse

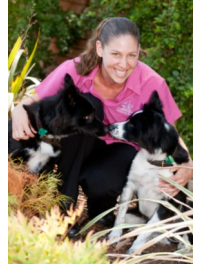
- Don't leave your pet in the car . The internal temperature of a car can become like an oven in minutes (even on a mild day)
- Avoid exercising your pet in the heat of the day
- Consider clipping your pet's coat to help them stay cool

If you are ever concerned about your pet in the heat you can always call us for advice



Goodbye Ellen

This month we will be farewelling one of our veterinary nurses, Ellen at the end of January. Ellen has been an awesome part of the St Bernards Team for the last eighteen months, and has done a fabulous job mentoring our Puppy School graduates. We wish Ellen all the best in her future endeavours in the Northern Territory and look forward to hearing from her in the future.



Helping the wild-life in summer

After a few hot days, it is not uncommon for our wildlife to become dehydrated and suffer from heat stress.

How you can help our native friends:

Place shallow containers of water around your garden at varying heights (remember to put a stick or rock in them so if animals fall in they can get back out again)

Keep cats and dogs inside and supervised at all times to prevent them preying on vulnerable wildlife

If you find an animal suffering from heat stress call us as soon as possible and we can give you the best advice.

