

St Bernards Buzz

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2020



Cupcake Week – October 26th – 31st



Because we didn't get to participate in the Million Paws Walk this year, Cupcake Week is our chance to bake for an amazing cause. While we firmly believe you never need an excuse to throw a party, Cupcake Week is a great opportunity to bake and fundraise for the RSPCA! Pop into the clinic during the last week of October to get your delicious treats and to donate to a worthy cause.

Although the treats are definitely a highlight, the real cherry on top is all of the animals we can help with our fundraising. The RSPCA is a charity dedicated to rescuing, treating and rehoming thousands of animals each year. Our Cupcake Week is not limited to just cupcakes. We may make brownies, slices, quiches, muffins, scones...whatever takes our fancy. We'll also look after the pooches with some attractive looking pupcakes and hopefully they'll taste great too!

Canine Parvovirus

Canine parvovirus is a deadly and highly contagious virus that attacks the gastrointestinal tract of puppies and dogs. It is a very hardy virus, which can survive for 12 months or more in the environment.

It is important to realise that dogs do not have to come into contact with other dogs to become infected with parvovirus.

The virus is usually spread when dogs come into contact with any area a contaminated dog has been i.e. nature strips, soil, faeces, dog kennels and parks. **We can even bring it home with us on our shoes if we have unknowingly walked in a contaminated area.**

After exposure to the virus, dogs will often develop a fever and may suffer severe abdominal pain, followed by profuse vomiting and diarrhoea (which often contains blood). A high mortality rate amongst infected puppies can be expected. Some dogs may survive depending on how quickly treatment is sought. Veterinary treatment involves intensive care in isolation for several days; however treatment is not always successful.

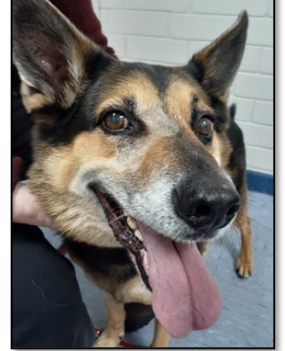
It is important that all puppies commence a vaccination program from 6-8 weeks of age and that all adult dogs have regular boosters.

Please call us to organise a vaccination and health plan for your pet.

Grass Seeds Going Crazy!

Spring has certainly arrived and we should remember it can be a very challenging time for our pets. Although we remind you every year, we will do it again because it is important to be mindful of the things that will cause our pets grief at this time of the year. The seed heads on the Barley grass start to dry off as soon as we have some warm weather and will penetrate places on your dog and cat that you didn't even know existed! Please have your dog or cat clipped short to make finding grass seeds easier before they cause significant damage.

Bandit



Bandit, is a handsome German Shepard cross. When he came for his first vet check he was very anxious and after some consideration we decided to try him on some fear free medication so he would feel more relaxed next visit. He was given a medication called gabapentin. When he came into the clinic recently to check a lump on his eyelid he was a lot calmer and comfortable. It is important to look out for signs that your pet is stressed at the vet so that we can help them. Some signs of stress include shaking, panting, acting restless and refusing to take treats from our vet team. The medication we use to help these patients address the neurotransmitters in the brain associated with fear, anxiety and stress. If you are concerned your pet is stressed at the vet we encourage you to have a chat to one of our team members to see how we can help!

