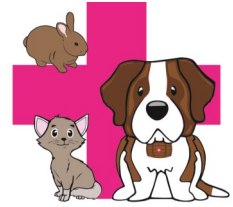


St Bernards Buzz



ST BERNARDS ROAD
Veterinary Clinic

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2017

www.stbernardsvet.com.au

Patient of the Month



Holiday Preparations!

The summer holidays are also just around the corner. If you haven't done so already, you need to book your pet in for their Christmas holiday as these facilities fill up very quickly for the Christmas period. If your pet isn't up to date with their vaccinations they may require two injections a month apart before they are allowed to board. This means you need to get in now! There is nothing fun about being turned away when you are on your way to the airport.

Cats generally require a minimum of an F3 (Feline Enteritis & Cat Flu) vaccination and dogs need to be up to date with their C5 (Canine Parvovirus, Canine Distemper, Canine infectious Hepatitis and Canine Cough) vaccination. Don't forget to take your pet's vaccination certificate with you when you take your pet for boarding. Worming and flea prevention must also be up to date prior to their holiday.

We are more than happy to discuss what your pet needs so call us today to prevent any extra Christmas stress.

Vaccinations—ask us for the right advice!

Vaccination is a hot topic in the media at the moment. There's plenty of information and scare tactics floating around on social media and so when it comes to vaccinating your pet, we want you to get the right advice.

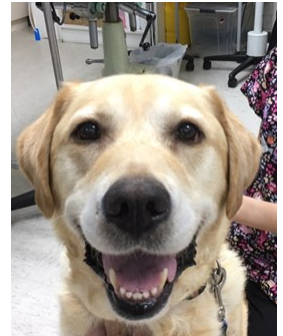
The take home message is that vaccination is **one of the most important tools** we have available to help keep your pet healthy. Vaccinations are safe, have minimal (if any) side effects and the reason we recommend vaccinations is because **they work**.

These are the top reasons vaccinations are so vital:

- They **protect against deadly diseases**: many dangerous diseases are completely preventable with the correct vaccinations.
- Vaccinations **save money**: vaccinations are substantially less expensive than the cost of treatment for the diseases they prevent.
- You can **board your pet** with other animals: if you ever plan to board your dog or cat he must be up to date with his vaccinations - what would happen if you had a family emergency and boarding was the only option?
- Visits to the vet hospital: **if your pet has to stay in hospital he needs to be vaccinated**. If your pet is sick, his immune system may be already be compromised so you want to know he is protected.

There are many diseases we are able to vaccinate against but your pet's health, lifestyle and where you live may affect which vaccinations are deemed necessary - we can help you make an informed decision and are always happy to discuss vaccinations with you.

When it comes to vaccinating your pet, we will give you the right advice.



Hugo is a very loving and boisterous 9 year old Labrador retriever. He came in because of a large lump of 12cm situated on the front of his chest. The lump was surgically removed and set off to the lab for analysis. The result came back to be a soft tissue sarcoma.

Due to the size of the lump, a large section of skin was missing as it had to be removed with the lump itself. This created a huge defect in the middle of the chest which was very difficult to close. Closure was achieved with skin flaps created from another section of the chest.

Unfortunately, Hugo's wound healing was complicated and part of the wound broke down after surgery. The wound was then treated as an open wound with bandages to heal by scarring. Hugo has been a fantastic patient through out the process. He gets lot of love and treats when he comes in for his bandage changes. After 6 weeks of constant bandage changing, the wound is almost fully healed. Well done Hugo and family.



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Don't let your pet get stressed in the heat!

The warmer weather is here and it's time for days at the beach and ice cream in the sun. With the warmer weather comes an increased risk of heat stress for your pets. Heat stress or heat exhaustion is a common condition seen in Australia. It is more common in dogs as they have very few sweat glands for heat loss and are generally more active than cats.

Signs of heat stress:

- excessive panting
- drooling
- extreme lethargy
- staggering
- weakness and collapse
- Seizures

Heat stress can kill your pet. **All** pets are at risk but brachycephalic dogs with a short nose (such as pugs and bulldogs), overweight pets, pets with heart or respiratory problems or those with thick, furry coats are at greater risk.

So what's the best way to avoid heat stress?

Never leave your pet in the car as the temperature can reach dangerous levels in just a few minutes, even on a mild day. Parking in the shade or leaving the windows partially open is not acceptable

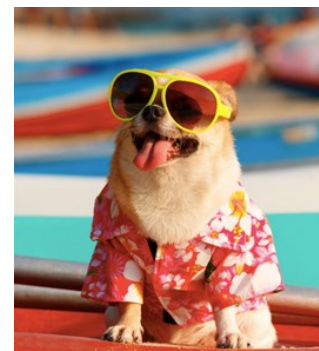
Make sure shade and cool water is available ALL DAY. On extremely hot days, your pet may need to be kept inside.

Never exercise your pet on a warm day - stick to the cool of the morning or evening (or skip exercise all together.)

Some pets will need to have their heavy coat shaved to provide some relief from the heat.

If you think your pet is suffering from heat stress you should **seek veterinary attention immediately** as heat stroke is an emergency.

If you are every worried about your pet you should call us for advice, we are always here to help.



Correct use of antibiotics!



One of the greatest threats to human and animal health is antibiotic resistance and the emergence of 'superbugs'.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) warns that 'unless urgent action is taken on the use of antibiotics in humans and animals, the world is heading for a post-antibiotic era, in which common infections and minor injuries can once again kill'.

In the veterinary world, we are taking notice of these concerns and doing our bit to help prevent a global catastrophe. In fact, Australian veterinarians have guidelines in place to ensure they are not overprescribing or misusing antibiotics.

Here are some essential things to understand:

- Antibiotics can **only be helpful in the presence of a bacterial infection**. They cannot treat viral infections and are not needed in clean wounds
- We sometimes **need to identify the type of bacteria present** to help choose the most appropriate antibiotic and this involves taking samples for culture and sensitivity testing. This may need to be done at an external laboratory
- If your pet is prescribed antibiotics you must always **use them as directed and finish the course**, even if you think your pet is 'better' - stopping too early can lead to the development of resistant bacteria
- A **revisit may be necessary** to check your pet's and extend the course of antibiotics if necessary
- **Never start any 'left over' antibiotics** you have before you get your pet checked with us

And finally, please don't ask us to prescribe antibiotics without a consultation as it is unethical and it's against the law!

