



Spring 2014

It's Spring already! The days are getting longer which means more play time for our furry and fluffy four-legged friends! As much as we love spring time with our pets it is important to remember that other little critters like Spring as well – fleas and ticks.

Flea and tick prevention are VERY important for your pet. Here's why:

Ticks:

- The paralysis tick injects a paralysing toxin into the bloodstream of your pet causing an *ascending flaccid paralysis*. The toxin also has an effect on the muscles responsible for controlling breathing and swallowing.
- Pets *must* be treated if they are showing signs with a *tick anti-toxin* injection – this is given slowly into their vein and pets must be monitored closely for signs of having a reaction – it is like giving a blood transfusion.
- The tick anti-toxin is expensive to make – it is from dogs that are immune to the paralysis tick so treatment is expensive and the total recovery time can be anywhere from 1-7 days depending on how severe the signs are that your pet has.
- Do not use products meant for dogs on your cat – they are very toxic to cats.
- It is much cheaper to *prevent* ticks – please come in and discuss which tick prevention would be most appropriate for your dog or cat.



Fleas:

- Apart from fleas causing immense discomfort for our pets, many pets are *allergic* to the flea bite – meaning just *one* bite can trigger a cascade of itchiness which can progress into a skin infection requiring antibiotics and anti-inflammatories.
- Young puppies & kittens with a heavy flea burden can actually die from anaemia due to blood loss.
- Just ONE female flea can lay up to 300 flea eggs – when you see an adult flea it is just the tip of the iceberg!
- Fleas carry *tapeworm* which can be transmitted to us and particularly children who pat and handle dogs with fleas.
- Many supermarket products just *repel* fleas, meaning they will still be in the bedding and soil – you need to use a product that *kills* the fleas – talk to your Vet or one of our nurses as to the best flea treatment or prevention for your pet.



wiseGEEK



****New product**** for our senior pets or any pets with any signs of arthritis our post-operative orthopaedic patients - 4cyte!

4cyte has been developed as the ideal approach in the treatment of osteoarthritis. It addresses the clinical signs of lameness but also modifies the disease process by reversing or repairing the pathological process that is occurring in the diseased joint.

4cyte has been backed by world class research and is EASY to give – just a few small balls that can be put with food. They are tasty and very competitively priced! If you would like to discuss the product more or trial your dog or cat on 4cyte then just give us a call or drop in and have a chat to one of our friendly staff.

Delta Dogs - Red Bandanna Club



We are delighted to have recently sponsored a Delta Therapy Team through the Delta Society's, Red Bandanna Club. The team we are supporting are Tess McNab and Ivy, who visit at Brodribb Home in Toowoomba where they provide wonderful support to the patients by spending time with them, offering a chat, a floppy ear to listen to and a paw to

shake! Pictured here are Brodribb resident Mrs Margaret Lewis with Tess McNab and Ivy. For more information on Delta Therapy visit www.deltasociety.com.au



Did you know...

We offer a 24 hour emergency service?

By calling 4632 8333 at any time of day or night you will always be able to receive Veterinary advice and care from one of the Veterinarians you know and trust.



Staff Profile – Gillian Spanner

Gillian has recently joined us as Practice Manager. She has a background in Hotel & Business Management. She is from Ireland and has been calling Australia home since 2002. She is married to Brad and they have one son Matthew. Gillian loves animals, especially dogs – she has recently added two 8 week old Australian Terriers to her family!! They are all currently attending Puppy Preschool at TVH with Kym Greaves. She is looking forward to meeting everyone who is part of The Toowoomba Veterinary Hospital “family”.

