



Summer 2013/14

Caring for your pet this Summer

Long hot summer days are great but make sure your dog has plenty of water and shade and doesn't overdo it chasing the ball during the backyard cricket game. Over the years we have seen a number of dogs with **Hyperthermia** (over-heating) at Christmas time from over exercising in the middle of the day, or excessive sun exposure and lack of fluids. Here are a few tips to keep your pet cool on those warmer days:

- Make sure you have several sources of drinking water around the house and yard in shady areas, and put some ice cubes in to keep the water cool.
- Try frozen ice treats! Try freezing filled kongs (be careful not to overfill kongs when freezing), favourite toys, suitable pieces of fruit (such as berries, apple, banana), dry dog food, or make chicken pupsicles!
- Only walk your dog in the cooler times of the day such as early in the morning or later in the evening. Be aware that later in the day, the road surface may still be extremely hot, so use the grass.
- Dogs will normally find the coolest spot of the house or yard themselves, but place outside beds or mats in shady or cool spots. Some dogs will also dig in the dirt to find the cool earth below to lie in. Try dampening your dog's blankets or mats with water to create cool resting spots, or you can also buy cool mats and cool jackets specifically for dogs.



Ticks and snakes are also an issue through the warmer months. Tick paralysis symptoms to look out for include hind leg weakness, problems breathing, retching and regurgitation, a different sounding bark or meow, and coughing when eating or drinking. Clipping your dog or cats coat as short as possible during Spring and Summer will help make searches a little easier and also assist in keeping them cooler during the warmer months. The signs that your pet has been bitten by a snake depend on the type of snake and the amount of venom injected at the site. Our pets are often bitten around their muzzle, head or on their limbs. Signs that your dog or cat has been bitten by a snake include sudden weakness, dilated pupils, vomiting and/or twitching muscles.

We have a map in reception recording all the paralysis tick cases we have seen so you can see if there have been any cases near you. If you have any questions about over-heating, paralysis ticks or tick prevention or snake bites don't hesitate to call us on 4632 8333.

Scalibor Paralysis Tick Collar for Dogs

- **One easy application protects your dog from deadly paralysis ticks for 3 months.** Scalibor provides the longest lasting protection available; simply apply one Scalibor collar every 3 months for year-round protection.
- **Completely odourless.** Scalibor has no unpleasant odour and transfers to your dog's skin through friction, not by vapour action.
- **One size fits all.** The flexible Scalibor collar is large enough to fit even the biggest dogs, and is easily cut to fit small dogs too.
- **We can send you a reminder text message when your collar is due to be changed!**

For more information on tick protection call in or contact us on 4632 8333





Earlier this year at TVH – hand rearing newborn puppies!



In September this year 2 of our amazing nurses took on the task of hand-rearing 3 new-born puppies each. The pups came from a litter of 9 and unfortunately the mother could only rear 3 of her puppies naturally.

The puppies were all given the opportunity to get their fair share of colostrum (the nutrient rich milk initially produced by their mother in the first 24 hours of birth to help give puppies immunity to diseases in the first 6 weeks of life) and then our nurses Alison and Tracey took on 3 puppies each and provided 2 hourly feeds... day and night!

Hand-rearing puppies involves keeping them clean, warm and well-nourished... during the day the rest of the TVH team were keen to lend a hand however the nights were back to each nurse on their own!

Each new day brought exciting milestones as each puppy opened their eyes, put on weight or took their first steps!

As hard as it was to part with their new fur babies we found loving homes for each of the puppies and love that we can watch them grow as each comes in for vaccinations, Puppy Preschool or just a visit!

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

Dr Ruth Devlin

Ruth is a part-time Vet at Toowoomba Vet Hospital often working Tuesday, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday morning. Ruth has worked in Toowoomba veterinary practices for her entire career since graduating in 1997. She has always been passionate about the well-being of all animals and decided she wanted to be a vet as a young child.



Ruth is working on travelling all the world's continents and has made good progress on that having only recently returned from living in the Deep South of the USA for a few years. Ruth has three cats, Dimitri, Trouble and Leo and two energetic young rescue dogs, Lunatic (Luna for short) and Shena. She also has two sons, Alexander and Izak and a husband Mykl. Her animals give her fewer problems! Ruth's outside interests include doing dog training, gardening, digital scrapbooking and spending time with her boys.