

Beware Ticks!

We are already well into the tick season this year (August through to April) and unfortunately it looks like this is going to be a particularly bad season. Paralysis Ticks are the most dangerous environmental threat that our pets face on a daily basis and need to be taken very seriously.




What makes the disease particularly worrying is that no two cases are the same and animals vary hugely in how they respond to a tick bite. The toxin causes paralysis and can affect the muscles of the legs, swallowing, breathing and the heart. Unfortunately there is still a high death rate from tick paralysis despite all the advances in veterinary care. Ticks are spread by possums, birds and other native wildlife that have adapted over time to become resistant to the tick toxin. Sadly our domestic pets are still very susceptible to the paralyzing toxin resulting in over 10000 pets being affected every year in Australia.

Early signs include wobbliness in the back legs, vomiting, breathing difficulties, change in bark or meow and reluctance to exercise. Please contact us as soon as you notice any of these symptoms.

The **best preventative measures** to avoid tick paralysis are:

-  Check your pet's coat and skin closely on a daily basis for any sign of ticks. Make this a daily routine and pay special attention to the head and neck areas as the ticks are attracted by carbon dioxide in your pet's breath.
-  Apply a good quality spot on treatment every two weeks. (DOGS ONLY)
-  Use a tick collar and replace it every 2 months. (DOGS ONLY)

 Spray your cat with frontline spray every 3 weeks.

 Avoid overgrown, shady or bushy areas as these are favourite tick habitats.

The product we will recommend for your pet will depend on its lifestyle, access to swimming and perceived risk. Please talk to us about your tick prevention plan when next in the surgery.

New Arrivals

Many of you will have known that Dr Jenny recently went off on maternity leave. We are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of her bouncing baby boy - Lachlan at the beginning of June. Jenny and Lachlan are both doing well and we hope to have Jenny back working on Saturdays in the next few months.

We are also very excited to welcome Dr Tara to the practice. Tara was born and bred in Aspley and went to Clayfield Girls College and UQ where she graduated with a Bachelor Of Veterinary Science with first class honours in 2005. Over the past six years she has gained a wide range of experience working in small animal practice in the UK and Brisbane, where she has built up a strong following due to her clinical ability and her outgoing, friendly and empathetic personality. We are thrilled to have her join the practice where she will complement our strong focus on exceptional veterinary care and client service.




Phone: 3353 6999
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Vaccination Facts

There has been a lot of debate recently and a little confusion about how often we should be vaccinating our pets.



 Dogs are vaccinated against the **Distemper, Parvovirus, Infectious Hepatitis, Bordetella and Kennel Cough** viruses. Traditionally a single vaccine has been given to protect against all five of these diseases annually. We now have a new vaccine available which can be split into two parts. The Distemper, Parvovirus and Hepatitis component lasts for three years, while the Bordetella and Kennel Cough component still needs to be given every year. This means that we can tailor make a vaccination plan for your dogs depending on their risk of contracting these viruses, which normally means that they receive a **C5 every three years** and a **C2 every year** in the intervening years. Not only does this mean that we are not overvaccinating our pets, but it also reduces the cost of the vaccine two out of every three years.

 Our Cats are vaccinated against **Feline Herpes Virus (cat flu); feline calicivirus and feline infectious enteritis virus**. We still need to vaccinate cats annually against these diseases.

 Puppies and Kittens should start their vaccination courses at 6-8 weeks of age, when the immunity they have received from their mother's milk starts to wane. This ensures that they are protected at the most vulnerable time of their lives while they are still growing and their immune systems are developing. However, if your pet missed these early shots, start now as it is never too late to vaccinate.



Itchy Skin and Hayfever

This is the time of the year that many dogs develop allergies and become quite uncomfortable. You will know if your dog suffers from this as it will start chewing at its front feet and scratching at its ears. Severely affected dogs can be itchy all over. Anybody who suffers from hayfever will understand the discomfort of this condition. Dog allergies can be caused by flea bites, contact with grass, breathing in pollens or by components of their diet. Fortunately there are many ways that we can help our pets and stop that continual scratching. There are a few new treatments available now which have revolutionised how we deal with this debilitating condition. Come in and see us to discuss how we can help your pet.



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McDowall**

Opening Hours:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 8:00am -7:00pm
Wed & Fri: 8:00am-6:00pm
Sat: 8:00am-1:00pm