



Yass Veterinary Hospital

72-76 Laidlaw Street
Yass NSW 2582
Phone 6226 4444

Murrumbateman Clinic
Rose Street
Murrumbateman NSW 2582
Phone 6227 5955



It has been an exciting time at the Yass Veterinary Hospital over the past 6 months; a time of transition and transformation. You are no doubt aware that this has come about due to the change of ownership with Peter Gibbs selling me his share of the practice. I am now the sole proprietor of the practice – a challenging albeit daunting time for me. Fortunately I am surrounded by a very supportive and professional team that has helped me with this transition.

We have welcomed local veterinarian Tamara Butler back from Emerald Veterinary Hospital and new graduate James Brown to the team. Congratulations go to James & his new bride Lucy who were married in March on the South Coast.

Our team has been busy attending conferences to further their knowledge and disseminate new ideas through the hospital. Peter, Terry and I attended the Australian Veterinary Association Annual Conference in Brisbane in May and also collected our 2nd Practices of Excellence

NEWS...AND OTHER GOINGS ON

Award – the first practice in Australia to collect the award twice. I have also attended a fantastic 2 day dog stifle surgery practical course at the new wonderfully equipped Charles Sturt University in Wagga, presented by a specialist from the States. Tamara attended a horse conference in the Hunter Valley in July, Petrea is heading off to a small animal conference and James is attending a pocket pets and exotic pets course later in the year.

Claire organised the RSPCA Million Paws Walk around Yass in April, which was a huge success with about 50 participants. The walk concluded with a free BBQ lunch at the Vet Hospital with over \$1,600 being raised. Claire continues with her puppy preschool classes on Tuesday nights and Tracey Basset now runs obedience classes on the hospital's lawn under our recently installed floodlights, also on Tuesday nights.

On a sad note, the Williams family sadly farewelled our black staffy, Winnie (pictured left), after a short illness with lung cancer. She was a 'once in a lifetime' dog and she has left a large hole at home. We have very fond and lasting memories of her time with us.

DENTAL MONTH

Are you knocked out when your pet breathes on you? Does your dog or cat have a hard brown deposit on the teeth around the gums, particularly the back teeth? If you have answered yes to either of these questions, then there is a fair chance that your pet needs to have a dental scale and polish.

The hard brown smelly deposit is dental plaque or tartar. It is composed of food molecules, saliva and bacteria and attaches to the teeth at the gum margins like cement. This plaque causes a nasty inflammation and infection at the gum margin which creates gradual retraction of the gum exposing the tooth roots. This causes discomfort, makes chewing difficult and results in loose teeth. With a lot of nasty bacteria and inflamed gums in close proximity, bacteria can enter the blood stream and 'wash' around the body. These bacteria can then lodge on heart valves, in

the kidneys and 'seed' at other sites within the body causing micro abscesses.

It is important to maintain the health of your pet's teeth. To promote prevention we encourage our clients to have their pet's teeth scaled and polished before the disease becomes too advanced. Our equipment is almost identical to human dentists. We have a modern veterinary dental machine with an ultrasonic scaler that removes tartar off the teeth. Once the teeth are clean a polishing paste is applied to the teeth and the teeth are smoothed with a low speed tooth polisher.

Unfortunately we can't get our dogs and cats to sit in a chair and open their mouths. We need to give them a general anaesthetic so the teeth can be cleaned easily and thoroughly, without inflicting any pain to your pet.

August is Dental Month

During August please make an appointment for one of our nurses to perform a free dental check-up on your pet. Simple scale and polishes for cats and dogs will be discounted during Dental Month.

Cat Dental
Clean, Scale & Polish **\$199.00**
(Extractions and antibiotics not included)

Dog Dental
Clean, Scale & Polish **\$229.00**
(Extractions and antibiotics not included)

Be quick and make a booking on 6226 4444

Winter/Spring 2010 Newsletter

August 2010

LAMINITIS IN HORSES

Given the amount of rain we have had this winter, spring is likely to be quite good to us and we should all be on the look out for the signs of laminitis in our horses.

Laminitis is inflammation of the laminae in the hoof (see picture). Laminae keep the hoof attached to and provide support for the underlying foot structures, especially the pedal bone (distal phalanx). Inflammation in the laminae can cause them to separate leading to pain and reduced support for the pedal bone. The front feet are more commonly affected but it can occur in all four.

Causes of laminitis include, diet (lush pasture or grain overload), overeating/obesity, trauma (especially exercising on hard ground), stress or retained foetal membranes after foaling

Acute laminitis disrupts the blood supply leading to inflammation and degeneration of the laminae. Signs of acute laminitis include, lameness, increased digital pulses, "saw horse" stance and/or pain over the toe on application of hoof testers.

Acute laminitis is an emergency and often a cause of inflammation can be easily identified (e.g. pony got into the grain/lush spring pasture). If you suspect your horse has laminitis you should call a vet straight away because if left untreated it can cause pedal bone rotation.

Once the pedal bone has rotated the horse has what we call 'founder' and is likely to have frequent attacks of acute laminitis and can be chronically lame. Founder also predisposes the horse to be seedy toe. Dishing, cracks and growth rings may also be seen in the hoof. Bulging in the sole where the pedal bone has rotated and pushing down is also common; in very bad cases the bone can penetrate the sole.

Treatment of acute laminitis involves removing or minimizing the cause, improving blood flow to the hoof,

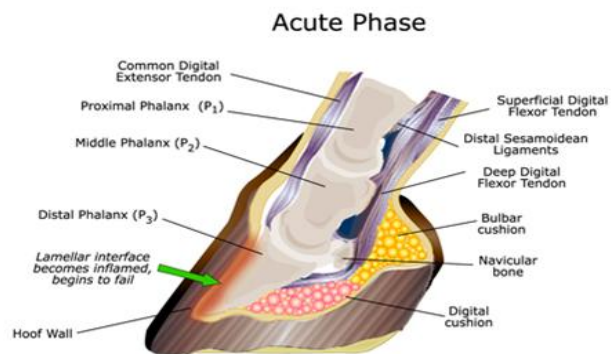
controlling pain and preventing further damage to the laminae

Treatment of founder includes x-rays, corrective shoeing, controlling pain and preventative measures (weight reduction, restricting access to lush pasture, founder-guard supplementation, exercise on soft ground).

Prognosis is dependant on several factors. These include duration of acute laminitis, number of feet affected, weight of horse, pedal bone rotation/condition, recurring episodes and owners dedication to care/treatment.

If the horse responds well to therapy for an initial bout of acute laminitis then there is a good chance for full recovery but any rotation of the pedal bone greatly reduces the chance of full recovery.

This spring watch your horses for signs of acute laminitis. If you have obese ponies restrict their access to the lush grass, try for a bit of weight loss and supplementation with founder-guard may help as well. The RIRDC have also just recently published information on pasture management for laminitic horses which may be helpful. See their website at www.rirdc.infoservices.com.au.



FLEA CONTROL PRODUCT LABELLING



What is Permethrin?

Permethrin is a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide and is found in many 'spot-on' flea and tick control products for dogs that are readily available in supermarkets and pet stores. We do not recommend the use of products containing permethrins in multi pet households and as such we do not stock products that are permethrin based.

While permethrins are generally safe for most mammals, including humans and dogs, cats are extremely sensitive to

Flea control products labelled for use on dogs only should NOT be used on cats, not even a little drop. Recently we have had a few cases of very serious permethrin poisoning in cats presenting as acute emergencies.

their effects. Accidental poisoning is becoming increasingly common, especially in multi-pet households where a tiny amount of the dog's medicine is thought to be safe. Sadly, this is not the case – please read the label before using any product on your cat.

A cat that has come into contact with a permethrin product, by absorbing it through the skin and/or licking it off its own skin or the dog's, usually presents with obvious muscle tremors over the whole body. These tremors turn into seizures in severe cases, often progressing to coma and death.

The onsets of clinical signs are usually within 1 to 3 hours.

Provided cats are presented promptly to a veterinarian, once they start showing signs of poisoning, most cats survive permethrin toxicity. Cats are placed on iv fluids & treated symptomatically with muscle relaxants and sedatives until muscle spasms abate, which usually takes 2 – 3 days.

2010 PRACTICES OF EXCELLENCE AWARD



Peter Gibbs and Terry Butler receiving the award from Corrine Mawson, Pfizer Animal Health and AVA President Mark Lawrie

Following our nomination for this award during 2009 we were fortunate to be one of the six veterinary practices across Australia to receive the award. This recognises the efforts of our team in providing exceptional care and service to you and your animals.

With just a little humility we would like to announce that this is the second time we have been honored with this award—the only veterinary practice in Australia to achieve this distinction. We first won the award in 2002.

YASS WINS AGAIN!



EQUINE DENTISTRY

Most responsible horse owners understand the importance of regular dental care for their horses. Performance, comfort and well-being are all dependant upon a properly functioning and comfortable set of teeth.

Signs that your horse may have dental problems include slow eating, dropping food, 'quidding', impaction of food in the cheeks, weight loss, fighting the bit, headshaking & lugging. Sometimes there may be no outward signs of discomfort.



Unlike our teeth, the horse's teeth continue to grow during most of their lives. The upper molars (grinding teeth) are wider than the lower molars and due to the way a horse chews, sharp enamel

points form along the molar edges.

Regular dental maintenance involves performing a thorough examination and (under sedation) properly treating sharp enamel points, removing retained caps, extracting wolf teeth & correcting hooks, waves, ramps & tall teeth. Sedation allows for proper treatment with a minimum of stress or discomfort to the horse and can only be legally prescribed by a veterinarian.

We can do the best job on your horse's mouth when we use the facilities at the Yass Veterinary Hospital. We have an indoor crush and are able to use a special dental haler which significantly improves the ease & efficiency of doing horse dentals.

Our preference is for you to drop off your horses and leave them in the yards at the Yass Veterinary Hospital for the day. You can also leave your horse trailer safely and easily in the parking area beside the drive through driveway.

MURRUMBATEMAN CLINIC— NEW OPENING HOURS

In order to better service animal care needs in and around Murrumbateman we are extending our opening hours to open all day Monday from 1 November 2010.

Following from the successful increase in our opening hours on Thursdays we see a definite need to increase our opening hours.

Thank you for supporting us and we look forward to making your animal care needs **easier for you to manage by providing greater options** with our opening hours.

Murrumbateman

Opening Hours

From 1 Nov 2010

8am-6pm Mondays,

Tuesdays and

Thursdays.

9am-12noon

Saturdays



Yass Veterinary Hospital

We are constantly striving to do it right for our patients, clients and staff, by providing at all times, high quality and caring veterinary medical, surgical and ancillary services. We aim to keep the animal population of the Yass Valley as healthy as possible and doing this in a cost effective manner whilst acknowledging our client's needs for their animal/s.

72-76 Laidlaw Street
Yass NSW 2582

Phone: 02 6226 4444
Fax: 02 6226 1077
E-mail: yassvet@yassvet.com.au
www.yassvet.com.au

WHO'S WHO:

Vets: Dr Stuart Williams, Dr Petrea Wait, Dr Tamara Butler, Dr James Brown, Dr Peter Gibbs, Dr Claire Scarlett.

Nurses: Heidi Broers, Anita Eccleston, Brooke Bush, Alicia Perceval, Louise Duncan, Tessa Ivison.

Admin: Terry Butler, Gail Battye, Glynese Evans, Debbie Frew, Joanne Makin.

From the Practice Manager: **A NOTE ON FEES**

The cost of providing high quality veterinary medical and surgical services is high but it is important that this is kept in perspective.

First the medical and surgical services we provide are no different from those provided to humans. The knowledge and skills required are the same (and if you ask any vet they will tell you it is greater as they are required to treat more than one species). With human medicine, though, there is Medicare to offset the cost of our medical services. There is nothing comparable for our pets.

Second the cost of equipment necessary to provide your pet with the best possible care is not measured in the thousands but the tens of thousands. We are constantly assessing our equipment to ensure that not only are we technologically "with it" but that we are in the best possible position to provide the best possible care. As we are a fully accredited veterinary hospital we need to have all the equipment and facilities needed to provide a full range of hospital services.

Third we have our normal ongoing costs such as electricity, rent, gas and veterinary supplies all of which seem to be increasing all the time.

Finally we are a one stop shop. When you go to the Doctor you may be up for medicines that you need to get from the chemist, pathology which you need to

go to the pathologist for, x-rays which you need to go to the radiologist to obtain and so on. Each one at an additional cost so that when you tally all these up the costs really start to mount. With the vet, however, all these are done on the premises and included in your bill. Under most circumstances you do not have to go anywhere else at additional cost to you.

I must stress however, that it is not all doom and gloom—there are quite attractive pet insurance policies now available from a number of providers. We would be more than happy to discuss your pet insurance needs with you.

Further, we are also in a position to assist you in applying for interest free loans through CareCredit should you find you wish to utilise these services.



Finding it tough during these times then proper planning will help you and your pet.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION...

Consider regular vet checkups for your pet to head off problems before they become too great (and expensive) to handle.

K9 Education Services

Puppy Preschool

Puppy Preschool Classes consist of five one hour sessions. You will be in a class with 4-6 other puppies and their owners. Classes are held from 6.30pm on Tuesday evenings at the Hospital.

Dog Socialisation

Yass Veterinary Hospital runs dog socialisation sessions on Saturday mornings.

These sessions are designed to provide a safe environment for your puppy or dog to meet other people and dogs.

We have two fenced paddocks that are suitable for on lead and off lead training and play.

Dog Obedience

Dog obedience classes consist of seven weekly sessions also run on Tuesday evenings.

Classes are held in our floodlit dog training area between 7-8pm and conducted by Tracey Basett who is an accredited instructor in dog obedience and agility.

Please go to our website
www.yassvet.com.au
or contact us for further details or to enrol you dog.