



My Vets

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Puppy Preschool: Currently taking bookings for our next class .
- Paralysis Tick information
- Keep your pets cool
- Royal Canin Dental food
- Find us on

facebook



Newsletter

VOLUME 2

Paralysis Ticks



The Paralysis tick is a nasty parasite that is currently causing a lot of grief for our pets and their owners. We have already treated a number of cases this year and unfortunately we are expecting to see many more....

What do paralysis ticks do?

Once a tick has attached itself to an animal it begins to feed on blood, at the same time injecting a neurotoxin into the bloodstream that causes damage to the cells of the central nervous system. Your pet will not become ill straight away, It can take up to a week before the signs of poisoning are noticed. If left untreated paralysis ticks can be fatal.

Signs your pet may have a tick.

Changes to voice (bark or meow)
Vomiting or difficulty swallowing
Coughing
Weakness/paralysis in the legs (usually hind legs first)
Laboured breathing
Panting shallow breathing
Lethargic



What to do if you find a tick.

REMOVE IT IMMEDIATELY - research has confirmed that it is best to remove the tick as soon as possible. If you pull the tick off and the head remains in the skin, do not panic! the tick will not be able to inject anymore poison once the tick body is removed. Do not use chemicals on the site as these will kill the tick but will allow it to continue to inject poison in the meantime, They may also cause irritation to the site and/or burn the skin causing unnecessary discomfort to your pet. Remember if you find one tick, there may still be more! so keep looking, is it not uncommon to find a number of ticks on one animal.

As the poison is slowly absorbed into the bloodstream you should still bring your pet in to be checked by one of our veterinarians once a tick is removed. Signs of paralysis may still occur a few hours later after the tick is removed.

Treatment

Once tick paralysis is confirmed your pet will be given a light sedation to help them relax (as stress will only make breathing much more difficult and the symptoms worse). We then will administer Tick anti serum (TAS), this binds to the toxin already in the system. A nurse will monitor your pet closely watching for changes in respiratory rate and effort, bladder control, Oxygen levels, body temperature and heart rate, and we will of course continue searching for any more ticks. Patients that have more advanced symptoms may require nasal oxygen or even a ventilator to assist them with their breathing.

How to reduce the risk of your pets getting a tick.

- Daily tick searches
- Using tick prevention products such as top spots, tick collars, oral insecticides
- Clipping long breed dogs/cats so that ticks may be easily spotted!
- keeping lawns and gardens mowed and cut back (ticks love overgrown areas)
- Avoid areas that are known for ticks such as reserves and bushland.

Please ask one of our staff members which option would most suit your pet, or if you are concerned that your pet may be showing signs of tick paralysis.



Help your pets beat the heat this summer!

Just like people our pets feel the effects of the summer heat. Exposure to high temperatures or overheating from overexercising can result in heat stroke or heat exhaustion. This is a serious condition and requires immediate veterinary treatment. If left untreated this may result in permanent organ damage or even death.

Signs of heat stroke:

- Heavy open mouth panting
- Lethargic, unwell
- Collapse or loss of consciousness
- Increased temperature



First aid



1. Move your pet to a cool area.
2. Place cool wet towels on areas like the belly or under the arms/legs (do not use ice, you may cause the blood vessels to constrict and make cooling difficult, you also risk over cooling them which can then result in hypothermia).
3. Contact the clinic immediately and transport your pet to the nearest clinic for a vet to assess and administer medical treatment.

How to prevent heat stroke:

1. Ensure your pet always has cool, fresh clean drinking water (you can place ice cubes in water bowls and place in a shady area to help keep cool, a kids shell pools are great for dog who love to take a swim during the heat of the day!).
2. Make sure your pet always has shady/cool areas available to escape the summer sun and heat.
3. Avoid vigorous exercise on warm days.
4. NEVER leave your pet in the car unattended, the temperature in your car can rise dangerously high in a matter of minutes.
5. Please be aware of certain breeds such as brachycephalic (short nosed) dogs e.g.: pugs & bulldogs, as they are more sensitive to the heat and will find it a lot more difficult to cool themselves.
6. Some long haired breeds may benefit from having their coat shaved to help them stay cool.
7. If possible hosing/running cool water over your pet (if they will let you) during the day will help keep them cool, or let them join you in the air conditioning!!



Ice Blocks for your pets!!

Help keep your pets busy & cool this summer by making them ice blocks! All you need is an ice cream container, water and some of your pets favourite treats (e.g.: Tuna, sardines, chicken necks almost anything, that is safe)!

Place the treat and water in the container and freeze overnight! Your pets will love them and it will help keep them cool this summer!



Royal Canin dental food!

While stocks last

Royal Canin Dental food helps reduce the build up of plaque and calculus by the mechanical action (brushing effect) of the specially shaped and textured kibbles.

Dental disease is common among our furry friends and can cause serious health problems if left untreated. By feeding a diet specially formulated for dental health you can help control plaque and maintain healthy teeth and gums for your pets.



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