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Don't Wait to Retaliate:

Protect your pet and home from fleas NOW!



The creeping, crawling, gnashing, nasty nibblers are on the march! They're everywhere - in your carpet, between your floorboards even in your garden and the blood thirsty blighters are seeking out your pets too. Yes, the Ferocious Aussie Flea is back - and with a vengeance. Stop your pet suffering from these parasites and hop into serious flea control.

Our pets love going outside and enjoying the warmer weather. But whilst they are out enjoying a walk at the park, playing at the beach or exploring the bush, they can be picking up unwanted guests. Once on your pet, fleas start breeding and laying eggs - a single female flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day! These eggs fall off your pet and into your home environment where they can develop and then emerge as brand new fleas which can jump onto your pet and continue the cycle. In the warm temperatures, it doesn't take long for an initial few fleas picked up outdoors to become hundreds, even thousands, turning your home into a summer breeding ground for fleas.

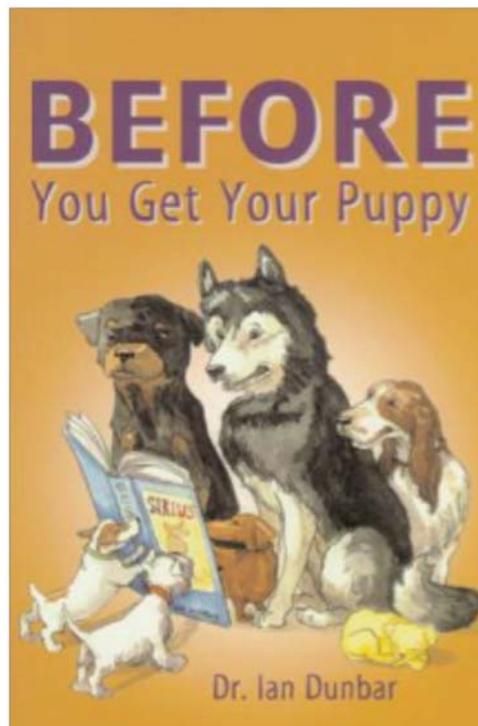


Dr Ian Dunbar – free ebooks

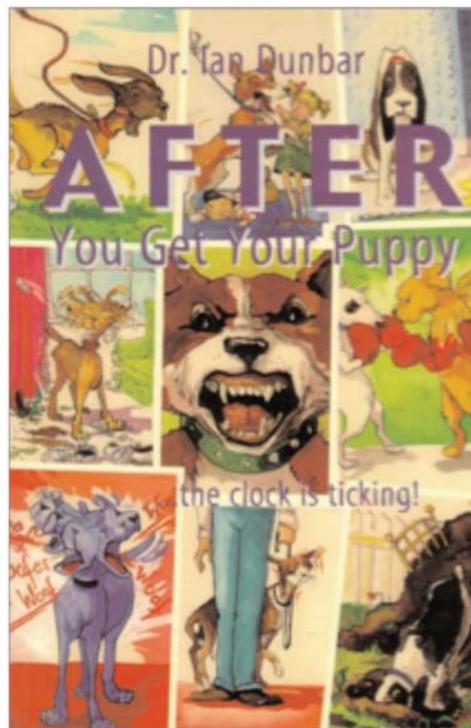
Veterinarian, animal behaviorist, and dog trainer, Dr. Ian Dunbar received his veterinary degree and a Special Honors degree in Physiology & Biochemistry from the Royal Veterinary College (London University) plus a doctorate in animal behavior from the Psychology Department at UC Berkeley, where he researched the development of social hierarchies and aggression in domestic dogs. He is one of the world's leaders in socialization and training of puppies.

He has authored numerous books and DVDs about puppy/dog behavior and training, including the two brilliant books listed here BEFORE You Get Your Puppy and AFTER You Get Your Puppy.

These books are well worth saving the links to or printing out for reference for yourself or anybody else you know that has, or is thinking about getting a new puppy.



<http://www.dogstardaily.com/files/BEFORE%20You%20Get%20Your%20Puppy.pdf>



http://www.dogstardaily.com/files/downloads/AFTER_You_Get_Your_Puppy.pdf

Anthrozoology: Can animals benefit our health?

Anthrozoology first appeared in 1987 and is the study of human-animal relations. The human animal interaction has changed over the years from a time in which animals were recognised as threats or potential food sources to today where the focus is on companionship or food production and profit from livestock. Anthrozoologists seek to improve human physical and psychological health and animal welfare from studying their interactions.

It has become established that pet ownership has positive benefits for their owners via increasing activity levels, reducing obesity and facilitating social interactions just to list a few benefits. Recent studies incorporating guinea pigs and children with autism showed significant improvement in these children's social skills and social functioning. Other studies involving cat-ownership shows a reduction in the number of bad moods though currently the way in which companion animals influence our moods is not fully understood. The most critical feature determining the link between pet ownership and human health outcomes depended on the quality of the relationship.

Dogs for many years have been trained and used as assistant dogs for the sight and hearing impaired, recent research is revealing further possibilities in other health related areas. Studies are revealing the possible abilities of using dogs to detect odour changes signaling a hypoglycaemic event in diabetics, odour's of melanoma cells on human skin and bladder cancer from human urine. There is also the suggested use of 'alert-dogs' for people with epilepsy, as it has been shown that trained dogs may respond to subtle behavioural or physiological changes that occur prior to seizures.

The field of anthrozoology is a rapidly evolving area for scientists, and is currently trying to find ways of accurately measuring the benefits of these human-animal relationships. If they can find ways of measuring the benefits

accurately and understanding specifically how, why and when the human-animal interaction is useful it opens another approach to disease prevention, treatment and management.

Source: Associate Professor Pauleen Bennett. (2014). *Anthrozoology: Can animals benefit our health?. InPsych – The bulletin of the Australian Psychological Society Limited, 26-27.*

Australian Veterinary Nurses Day

By Dr Rebecca Nilsen

Australian Veterinary Nurse Day will be celebrated on Friday the 10th of October nationwide. It is a day to celebrate and recognise the contributions of veterinary nurses to the veterinary team, their patients and clients.



Veterinary nurses are an integral part of the veterinary team and fulfill a wide variety of roles, ranging from receptionist, cleaner, administering medications, caring and attending to patients in hospital and anesthetic monitoring just to list a few. The majority of a nurse's job often remains unseen from the public eye but without them the veterinary clinic could not function.

Here at Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital we pride ourselves on our wonderful veterinary nurse team and their dedication to the job. Each and every nurse attends to patients as if it was their own, full of compassion and care. They ensure the hospital is kept to a high standard of hygiene and stocked. They answer your calls and ensure your questions are answered and your concerns taken care of. From admitting surgical patients, ensuring their needs are met from toilet breaks to food and water and discharging them home their days are always busy and never the same. Our veterinarians rely on their

trained and skilled animal handling skills in order to perform diagnostic testing and procedures. Our veterinary nurses pride themselves on continuing education and ensuring their skills are current and best practice. This allows for extra services to be available for your beloved pets like our weight loss clinic.

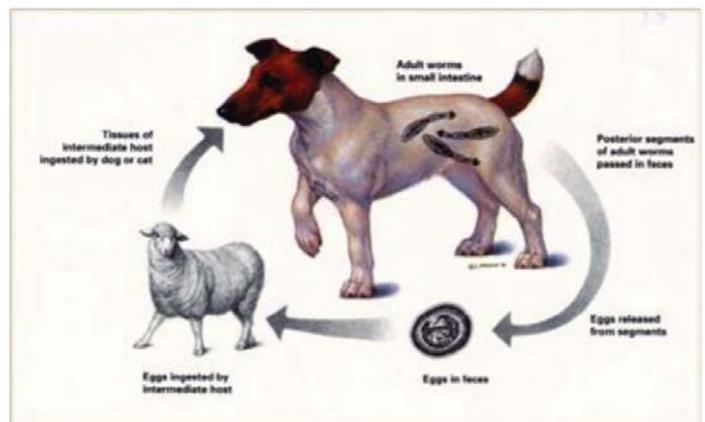
So please take the time the next time you see one of our lovely veterinary nurses and thank them for the wonderful job they do and help us celebrate and acknowledge their dedication and passion for quality animal care and welfare.

Parasite focus – The Tapeworm

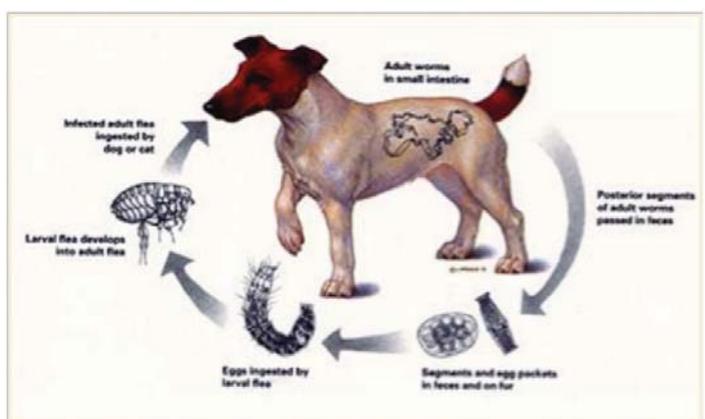
Tapeworms (cestodes) are common parasites of the small intestine of dogs and cats. They are flat and measure a few millimetres (*Echinococcus*) in length. They attach to the dog's intestinal wall and live on the contents, which are absorbed through their integument (skin).

How Tapeworms are Transmitted

Example 1: Echinococcus granulosus



Example 2: Dipylidium caninum





Adult tapeworms live in the intestines of dogs and produce eggs that are shed in the environment via faeces. These eggs contain first stage larvae. When the first larvae are eaten by an intermediate host, development proceeds to the second larval stage. Intermediate hosts include ruminants (any animal that brings back food from its stomach and chews it again) for *Echinococcus granulosus* and *Taenia*, and parasitic insects (fleas or lice) for *Dipylidium caninum*. These second larvae are infective for the dog. If ingested, they attach to the wall of the dog's intestine and become adults within a few weeks.

Disease

Adult tapeworms are aesthetically unpleasant but generally cause little harm in dogs. Severe infections may cause intestinal damage due to the physical presence of the worms. However, there is the zoonotic potential with some species which can cause serious disease in humans.

Treating Tapeworm Infection

Many products available for the treatment and control of the most common and dangerous intestinal worms, offering complete pet protection. Be sure to give your pet the product that best suits your needs, in terms of ease of use, efficacy and safety (especially if very young puppies are to be treated). Source: Novartis Animal Health Australia

Case Study – “Squid” – Foreign Bodies...

By Dr Rebecca Nilsen

Squid is an 18month old blue heeler who presented to PKVH for 3 days inappetance and vomiting. During the physical examination Squid regurgitated a large quantity of brown/green foul smelling material. Poor Squid was very painful on abdominal examination and very dehydrated.

Squid was admitted into hospital and was given pain relief and intravenous fluid therapy. We performed some xrays of her abdomen, which showed a questionable area of gas near her stomach and high up in her small intestine.

This questionable area could be a foreign body so Squid was placed under close observation. After another episode of regurgitation and a discussion with her dad the decision to take her to surgery was made.

Squid was anaesthetised and an exploratory laparotomy was performed. This surgery involved an incision made along the middle of her abdomen and a thorough examination of all her abdominal organs. A foreign body

was located within her small intestine in the area known as the duodenum. The foreign body was removed by making an incision into the small intestine – it was compacted cloth material. The good news for Squid was that her intestine had not ruptured and it still had good blood supply and was viable. Her abdomen was flushed with sterile saline and closed up.



Squid remained in hospital on fluid therapy, pain relief and antibiotics. The next day Squid was very bright and much happier which was a relief for all involved. Squid spent 2 days in hospital with food slowly being introduced again and was discharged home once she was back eating and drinking well. Squid has recently returned for her sutures to be removed and her dad reports he is finding it hard to keep her rested as she feels so great and is back to her normal happy active self.

Foreign bodies are an example of an emergency that are very involved and can be very expensive due to the intensity of the treatment required. In the case of Squid, her dad made use of a payment option known as VetPay. VetPay is a financing option offered at PKVH, with prior arrangement. For more information, please contact the clinic or you can take a look at www.vetpay.com.au.

