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4th Annual Open Day “For the Love of Animals”

Animal lovers are in for another treat as Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital hosts its 4th Annual Open Day – “For the Love of Animals” on Sunday, 29th November 2015.



The annual open day fundraiser, which first took place in 2012, provides vital support for the organisations that care for sick, lost and abandoned animals.

With thousands of animals in need of a caring home, we would be overwhelmed and have more sick animals without proper care were it not for the dedication of these animal lovers.

The day will be filled with informative displays, dog bathing, veterinary advice and many fun activities including pony rides, face painting and balloon twisting, sausage sizzle, slushies, raffles and pet photos and more.



Activities are at a gold coin donation with proceeds going to the participating charity organisations on the day to help support their life-saving work.

Come and join us and our local shelters for a day of food, fun animals and much more....!

PKVH OPEN DAY “For the Love of Animals”

When: Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015

Where: 9 Fielden Way,
Port Kennedy

Time: 10 am to 2 pm



Fleas Love Summer

Humidity and warmer temperatures create the perfect setting for fleas to finish their breeding cycle – and trigger an outbreak in your home.

The adult fleas you can see on your pet represent only 5% of the total flea population. The other 95% lurk in the pet's home environment as eggs, larvae and pupae, waiting for the right conditions before they hatch and wreak havoc.



Although they may not be visible, fleas can lay up to 50 eggs a day. These eggs are shed from your pet into the home environment. Eggs hatch into larvae which could be hiding in your carpets, rugs or cracks in the floorboards.

Larvae develop into pupae which may be lingering in your couch until the summer weather prompts them to emerge as adult fleas.

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Without prevention your home may be at risk of a flea infestation, and it may be from causes beyond your control. Fleas thrive in damp, shady areas found in your garden and especially under your house. Their eggs can be shed from neighbourhood pets, rodents or native animals that have access to your garden or home.

To prevent your home becoming a summer breeding ground for fleas, it's crucial to treat your pets regularly during the summer season – and every season. Missing just one monthly treatment can quickly lead to a re-infestation. For complete protection against infestation, you need a treatment that combats every stage of the flea life cycle.

Source: www.merial.com.au

Heartworm & Other Parasites

Heartworm is a parasitic disease that can affect any dog regardless of age, sex or habitat. Heartworm is spread by mosquitos, and tends to have a higher incidence in areas heavily populated by mosquitoes. Dogs are considered the most common host to heartworms, however, heartworms may also infect other animal species, including foxes, cats and ferrets.

Symptoms of Heartworm Attack

- Breathlessness
- Cough
- Lethargy and weakness
- Low energy levels
- Decrease in weight
- Uneven and coarse fur coat

The heart worm life cycle is dependent on local and climatic conditions, so it is very important to get a prescription from your vet before you give any medication to your pet. Self-medication of your pet is not wise as only an expert can guide you as to the phases of the heartworm life cycle and transmission order followed in your particular area. You also need to observe the health and activity levels of your dog, paying attention to any changes.

When medicines are given for prevention purposes, dogs should be checked to see if they are carrying adult heartworms as these medicines can cause serious side effects in dogs who are positive carriers of adult heartworms. Routine tests are also suggested for dogs on prophylactic

To stay on top of your monthly flea and parasite treatments, join one of our Wellness Programs and receive your monthly flea & parasite treatments for free!

To enquire, call us on 9524 6644 or check our website for further details: www.portkennedyvet.com.au



medicines to check the defence profile if in any case the dose has been missed.

Other common parasites include hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms and whipworms.

Source: <http://www.animaldocs.com.au/pet-care-news/dog-care-info/heartworm-intestinal-parasites/>

Cats, Dogs and Snakes Do Not Mix

Snakes are beginning to emerge along with the warm spring weather and we are beginning to see an increase in the number of pets treated for snake bite. Each year during spring, Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital treats an average of one animal per month, excluding the pets that



die before owners become aware of the problem and get them to a vet. However, during the first week of October, Port Kennedy Veterinary Hospital has already treated three snake bites. At the beginning of summer, snakes' venom glands are fuller and more concentrated. Therefore, their bites are much more severe.

A snake bite for a dog can be lethal in less than 30 minutes depending on the type of snake, amount of venom injected and the site of the snake bite. Cats have a greater resistance to snake bites, but will succumb to bites within 12 to 24 hours. It is also more common for cats to have an allergic reaction to a bite.

Tiger snakes and brown snakes have a bite that can be fatal to not only pets but humans. Brown snake venom acts differently to the tiger snake's venom. Brown snakes have a toxin that causes paralysis (neurotoxin) and also have an agent in them that uses up all the clotting factors that helps to stop your pet from bleeding (procoagulant).

Therefore there is a chance that your pet could subsequently bleed to death. Tiger snakes have a toxin that breaks down muscle causing damage to the kidneys, neurotoxin and procoagulant).

Signs of snake bite

- Sudden weakness followed by collapse
- Shaking or twitching of the muscles and difficulty blinking
- Vomiting
- Loss of bladder and bowel control
- Dilated pupils
- Paralysis
- Blood in urine.

The effects of a venomous snake bite can be extremely painful and fatal. Look out for the warning signs and should an animal be bitten. So, react quickly!

The Ticking Clock after a Snake Bite

If you think your pet has been bitten by a snake you should keep them calm and quiet and take them to a vet immediately. The chances of recovery are much greater if your pet is treated early, with some pets making a recovery within 48 hours. Pets left untreated have a much lower survival rate and many die. If your vet is some distance away, if practical, you can apply a pressure bandage – a firm bandage over and around the bite site – to help slow the venom spreading to the heart. Do NOT wash the wound or apply a tourniquet.

If you can identify the snake, tell your vet what type of snake it is – but don't try to catch or kill the snake. If it is dead, bring the snake with you, otherwise there is a blood or urine test that can identify whether your animal has been bitten and the type of snake responsible.

Once the snake has been identified your vet can administer antivenom.

With early detection and prompt treatment about 80% of pets survive snake bite. The survival rate is much lower if the pet is left untreated, and death can occur. Provided the pet has received prompt veterinary attention and the snake bite is not severe, recovery from a snake bite usually takes 24 to 48 hours. However, some pets will take substantially longer to make a full recovery due to tissue damage to internal organs and will require intensive and prolonged nursing care.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-09-15/cats-dogs-and-snakes-do-not-mix/5740712>

http://kb.rspca.org.au/my-pet-has-been-bitten-by-a-snake-what-should-i-do_444.html





Dog Training Tips

by Sonya Bevan "Dog Charming"

Teaching Silly Dog Tricks: Gateway to Human-Dog Communication

I recommend everyone with a dog should teach their dog silly dog tricks. I don't think they are silly at all. There are so many reasons to teach tricks.

1. Your dog doesn't know the difference between a trick and any other training task. To your dog, "sit" and "stay" are no more important than "shake hands". So teaching tricks gives your dog more practice in how to learn. It makes teaching the important tasks easier due to this history.

2. If it makes learning easier for the dog, it also makes the trainer a better teacher simply by providing more practice in training the dog. Hopefully practice improves technique and creates more efficient results.

3. The really neat thing is that when people train tricks they are usually happier and less stressed than when they are teaching the important tasks. Think, "stay" on your bed while we are eating and stop jumping on us. How frustrating can that be? Or to stop pulling on lead? Compare this to "roll over" or "speak". When the teacher thinks it's fun, it's more fun for the dog. A relaxed, calm teacher who is smiling and patient is so much nicer to learn from than the frustrated, "you have to learn it now because it is very important" instructor.

4. Time spent training tricks is invaluable time to create a connection between human and dog. If this time is positive and rewarding for both participants, this is an investment in a positive relationship. The same is true of time spent frustrated or resorting to punishing techniques. This depletes the relationship bank balance.

5. Training tricks stimulates the dog's mind and is one way to provide stimulation. It's part of providing an enriching environment for the dog and reducing problem behaviours that result from boredom. Dogs who are satiated don't have such a pressing need to amuse themselves.

6. Dogs who can't exercise due to illness, poor exercise tolerance or anxiety benefit greatly from the time spent teaching tricks. It fills a void and can be a way of providing carefully monitored and safe exercise.

7. I've saved my favourite for last. Teaching tricks using positive reinforcement can open up a wonderful world of communication between the guardian and the dog. Communication the dog is empowered to initiate.

I emphasize the way training takes place because using techniques involving aversive stimulation, which are unpleasant things, results in avoidance or escape. They seldom lead to increased motivation to interact. Dogs will usually only do the minimum required to escape punishment or avoid pressure. In contrast, dogs taught with positive reinforcement of desired behaviours tend to continue to offer behaviours with increased vigour compared to just offering enough to remove pressure and bring back the status quo.

Communication is a two-way street. It requires interaction between both parties. That's why a dog who has learnt to interact with fun methods and then chooses to interact spontaneously is well on the way to communicating.–

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