

S P R I N G 2 0 1 5



Newsletter

Spring is in the Air

It is with a heavy heart that I write this, after a month of tumult in the animal world with the very sad death of Cecil the lion just outside Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe. As vets, we spend our young lives dedicated to learning the art and science behind the treatment and care of animals. We then spend our adult lives in the pursuit of animal health and the relief of suffering. Cecil's lingering and prolonged death is an affront to everything I, my wife Narelle, and all the staff of Warner Vet, stand for. Despite this dark cloud, there is a silver lining. Importantly, there has been a heart-warming response by the general public around the world, although anger should be directed not so much at a single person, but the root cause of the problem - apathy. As humans, we simply struggle to find time in our busy lives to take action. If we really want to do something, it is action that is needed, and not just for lions - our Koalas are at risk, and other species are in dire trouble.

ACTION!

In what is the most globally momentous event in the history of the human-animal relationship, New Zealand has legally determined the sentience of animal life.

New Zealand has taken action!

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing". EDMUND BURKE

What can you do? Adopt a Northern White Rhino? – there are 3 of them to choose from. Petition government to acquire existing koala habitat? Volunteer at, and/or Donate to, Wildlife and Koala care groups? Save some Orangutan forest?

Find out and get involved. It's easy! TAKE ACTION NOW!

Dr. Craig Stewart



Allergy season

You know it's coming....skin allergy season is here again, and many things cause skin allergies. Most of them are in abundance during Spring and Summer.

Fleas and insects cause three main types of reaction. The acute and dramatic insect bite or sting allergy reaction that causes swelling and anaphylaxis within minutes and is luckily rare. The second type is localized to the bite site and is called Insect Bite Dermatitis, and causes a small red itchy spot only at the bite site, much like a mosquito bite or sand-fly bite in humans. The third type of allergy reaction is the chronic long-term itch caused by insects even with a very low exposure (a few bites a week is enough). This allergy causes the whole skin to react, and the rump, thighs and belly react - even if they were bitten on the left front paw! This third allergy type includes your classic Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD) and Insect Allergy Dermatitis.

Before our modern insect controls this was a bane of our lives, now an easy fix. Call us now on 3882 2288 to find out all your options.

Dr. Craig Stewart

Spring is here, are your pets ready?

Flea Season

Spring & allergy season would not be complete without the old enemy FLEAS! Get in early and beat them! Call us on 3882 2288

Paralysis Ticks

Is your pet's tick prevention up to date? Paralysis ticks are deadly and tick season is June to January

Tam's Weight Loss Program

Our lovely vet nurse Tam runs a free weight loss program for your pets. Call for more info.



Hot Topic: Fleas



Fleas: old problem, new ideas

Did you know that there are many different species of flea in the world? But the most common ones you see on your pets are ‘**cat fleas**’, and they live on dogs and cats - they are not fussy at all. Fleas like warm, moist environments sheltered from direct sunlight. They suck blood from the host animal with their special saliva that makes it easy for them to penetrate the skin for feeding and prevents the blood clotting. It is the saliva of the flea that causes irritation and allergic reaction, which in severe cases can lead to **flea allergy dermatitis (FAD)**. Fleas are not just an itchy nuisance - flea larvae can eat tapeworm eggs, and adult fleas may be carrying the tapeworm. If your pet swallows an infested flea while grooming, they can be infested with tapeworms as well, and the same applies to you! Humans who accidentally ingest fleas while interacting with their pets get tapeworm! Do you want to know how to stop this? You’ll find out now. First we’ll look into the biology of fleas and how we can apply that knowledge to effectively get rid of them.

Life-cycle of fleas

Fleas have four stages of their life cycle: eggs, larvae, pupae and adults. The total flea life cycle can range from two weeks to six months, depending on environmental conditions. Young adult fleas are stimulated to hatch from pupae by movement, shadows, body temperature of your pet and even exhaled carbon dioxide. Within seconds the adult fleas jump onto your pet and start feeding straight away. After 8-24 hours, they are ready to mate and start laying eggs 24- 48hours later. One female flea is said to be capable of producing 50 eggs a day - up to 2000 in her lifetime. They are laid on your pet’s fur, but then drop off into the environment, as they are smooth and non-sticky. When the eggs hatch, the larvae feeds not on fresh blood like the adult fleas but rather skin cells, adult flea droppings (consisting of digested blood) and other organic debris in the environment. After a week or two, larvae form cocoons (pupae) and they can remain dormant from one week to one year. So what you see on your dog or cat represent only 5% of the entire flea population, the tip of the ice-berg - the other 95% (eggs, pupae and larvae) are actually in your pet’s environment.

If your pet has just 10 female fleas in a month, with simple math, they can potentially get close to a quarter of a million fleas! It’s never too late to start flea control, get them under control today.

5 Tips on effective flea control

- » Treat your **pets** and their **environment** simultaneously - treat all of your pets at the same time, even if others are not showing any signs of fleas.
- » **Bathing** and using a **flea comb** are also a good ways to remove fleas, but make sure to follow instructions when using topical “spot-on” flea control products, as to how long to wait before or after bathing your pets. Tablet controls bypass this problem.
- » **Vacuum** your home regularly. The vibrations encourage the pupae to hatch so make sure you empty the vacuum every time.
- » **Wash** your pets bedding with hot water and dry in the sun weekly. Fleas hate the sun.
- » **Mow** your lawn and rake any leaves or other plant debris from the yard. This will reduce the type of environment that pupae like to live in.

Flea products

New generation oral flea and tick preventatives for dogs - Bravecto (3 months protection) and Nexgard (monthly) are easy to administer, reliable and inexpensive options to manage fleas and ticks. They come in tasty beef flavoured chews.

Spot-On treatments – very effective, easy to apply monthly for fleas though not all do ticks. Popular products include Advantage, Frontline, Advantix, Advocate and Revolution.

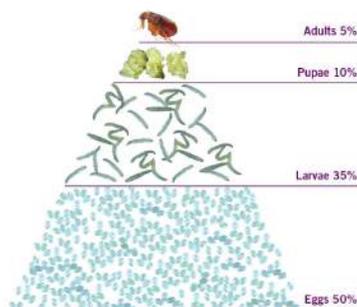
Flea Tablets – Effective and easy to administer. Comfortis, Panoramis, Capstar. (none of these do ticks though)

Flea shampoos – kills fleas on your pet at the time but once rinsed off, has no protective property against new fleas that are ready to jump on your pet - a “rinse” will last longer.

Collars – cheap and can be helpful, just don’t get them wet!

Call us on 3882 2288 and see what products are best for your pets :)

Dr. Anna



What's New?



New Dental Program

Do you want the best for your pets teeth? Warner Vet is now providing a dental program for all pets who have undergone a dental procedure with us over the last 3-6 months. The shorter time-frame between procedures means less tartar, which means FAST, and FAST mean SAFE. SAFE is our goal, and it happens to be less expensive too. Our experienced nurses will also provide you with a dental plan and chart, as well as a free checkup for your pets ongoing dental health 2-3 months after the initial procedure. You want to learn more? Call our friendly staff on 3882 2288.

Greenies



(Model: "Indi" Lowe)

Does your furry pal suffer halitosis? To help with smelly breath and dental health, Warner Vet is now stocking **Greenies FreshMint** canine dental chews. Chewing helps to physically remove plaque and tartar on teeth and helps to maintain healthy gums. Along with dental chews, raw bones and brushing can also help keep your pets pearly whites bright and sparkly and avoid bad breath.



Senior Pet Health Care

Just like us humans, our little fluffy companions need a little extra TLC as they start to get to their senior age. A good quality nutritious diet, gentle exercise routines and regular visits to the vet are all very important to keep your beloved four-legged friends healthy and happy for longer. We recommend half-yearly vet check ups for dogs and cats older than 7 years. We will be shortly starting a senior pet health program where your pet can benefit the regular vet check and comprehensive blood tests much more affordably. Ask our friendly staff for more detail.



(Model: "Lilly" Williams)

Flinders Reef



Flinders Reef is located just at our doorstep of 5km north-west of Moreton Island. The reef is protected within the Moreton Bay Marine Park and known for having the highest number of coral species of any sub-tropical reef system along Australia's east coast. Some of the local marine life include large schools of Wrasse, Sweet-lip, Trevally, Parrotfish, Moreton Bay bugs, colourful nudibranchs, sea turtles and, depending on the seasons, manta rays, leopard sharks. Add the migrating humpback whales and this all makes the area one of the most popular snorkeling and scuba diving sites in Queensland.

Dr. Anna

Meet our Staff

Dr. Suzanne Standen BVSc (hons)



Hello, my name is Suzanne and I have recently joined the Warner Vet team. Since graduating from the University of Queensland in 2003, I have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work in a number of practices both here and in England.

During my career so far I have developed a keen interest in small animal medicine and I am currently studying for my Masters Degree in Veterinary Medicine. I find veterinary practice to be a wonderful and rewarding challenge and I enjoy it immensely.

Outside work I enjoy cycling, hiking, sailing and spending time with my dog Maggie. Maggie (pictured above) is a Greyhound cross-breed and although she is quite an elderly lady she still enjoys evening walks and visits to the beach.

It is exciting to be working with a passionate, dedicated and caring team here at Warner Vet and I look forward to meeting you and your fur family when you next visit the practice.

Danielle Dicken Junior Vet Nurse



Hi my name is Dani. I have been working with the Warner Vet team for just over two years and I have completed my certificate II in Veterinary nursing last month, August 2015. With my future studies I am planning to undertake a bachelor of Veterinary Technology at the University of Queensland after finishing my high school later this year.

I am very passionate about large breed dogs, and I have a beautiful chocolate Labrador called Salli. In addition to being a part of the Warner Vet Team I like to spend my time with friends, keeping fit and traveling to new places. I look forward to meeting you and your pet!

Where Pets Are Family



“Serving the friends of humanity, those that keep us warm and safe and sane, our best mates, our confidantes, our furred, feathered and scaled companions”

- Warner Vet -



Contact Us

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