

SPRING 2014



## News Letter



### Spring is in the air

Spring is sprung, and it is a time for new life and new beginnings! This time of year always seems to find more puppies and kittens than usual in the Warner Vet. With gangly gaits and wobbly waddles, these tiny creatures bring immense joy, and seem never to tire of finding new and mischievous activities. It is easy to forget the woes of the world when such tiny beings take such pleasure in a box, a tissue, or even the whole box of tissues!

Humans tend to get very focused on all sorts of things... things about yesterday... things about tomorrow... things that we often have no control over. The small beings that cohabit our lives have it all over us.

They are 100% totally committed to the here and now. As they embrace the moment, there is little beyond the present, especially when it involves the humans they love. This love of life does not end with "childhood", it grows and matures into something deeper. They are a part of our family. Our lives are enriched and our souls nourished.

Smart humans, as we all are, can learn a lot from the fuzzy, furry and feathered beautiful things that share so much of themselves so freely.

- Dr. Craig Stewart



### Ultrasound

Ever seen your pet's heart in action? Or what their liver looks like? Or their unborn babies? Now you can. Your pets now have access to a full cardiac and abdominal/soft tissue ultrasound unit. Your pet can be ultrasounded for:

- Pregnancy
- Heart disease and failure
- Liver and kidney disease
- Gall bladder stones
- Urinary bladder stones
- Vascular disease
- Retinal detachment



### Spring is here, are your pets ready?

#### Skin Allergy

Is your dog itchy? Spring brings back bugs and allergies. Just call and book in for a skin consultation with one of our friendly vets.

#### Puppy School

Puppy school is on! Give us a call and talk to Carley or Karen to book in or for more info.

#### Paralysis Ticks

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



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# Hot Topic: Fleas



## Fleas: old problem, new ideas

There are many different species of flea in the world but the most common ones we see on our pets are 'cat fleas'. Fleas like to live in warm, moist environments sheltered from direct sunlight. Fleas suck blood from the host animal with their special saliva that makes it easy for them to penetrate the skin for feeding. The saliva of the fleas is what 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 get infested with tapeworms as well (the same applies to humans who accidentally ingest fleas while interacting with their pets!). In this article we'll look into the biology of fleas and how we can apply that knowledge in effectively getting 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 up to six months depending on environmental conditions. Young adult fleas are stimulated to hatch from the pupae by movement, shadows, body temperature of your pet and even exhaled carbon dioxide. The adult fleas then, within seconds, jump onto your pet and start feeding straight away. After 8-24 hours, they are ready to mate and start laying eggs within 24-48 hours. One female flea is said to be capable of producing 50 eggs a day - up to 2000 in her lifetime. They are laid on the pet's fur but then drop off into the environment, as they are smooth and non-sticky. When the eggs hatch, the larvae feed not on fresh blood like the adult fleas but rather skin cells, flea droppings (adult flea's faeces consisting of digested blood) and other organic debris in the environment. After a week or two, larvae form the cocoons and they can remain dormant anywhere between one week up to a year in the pupal form. What this means is that the fleas you see on your dog or cat represent only 5% of the entire flea population and that the other 95% (eggs, pupae and larvae) are actually in your pet's environment.

## 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 on them)
- » **Bathing** and using a **flea comb** is also a good way to remove fleas but make sure to follow instructions when using topical flea control products as to how long to wait before or after bathing your pets.
- » **Vacuum** your home thoroughly on a very regular basis. The vibrations from the vacuum cleaner can actually encourage the pupae to hatch so make sure you empty the vacuum cleaner regularly as well (changing the bag or emptying the canister).
- » **Wash** the towels or blankets your pet sleeps on with hot water and dry in the sun weekly.
- » **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

**Spot-On treatments** – very effective, easy to apply and generally once a month application. Popular products include Advantage, Frontline, Advantix, Advocate and Revolution.

**Tablets** – Effective and easy to administer. Comfortis, Panoramis, Capstar.

**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

**Rinses and sprays** – vary in effectiveness and does not last very long so need to be applied very regularly

**Collars and powders** – cheap and helpful but not the most effective treatment.

If your pet has just 10 female fleas for 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.

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

- Dr. Anna Toma



## - Bella's Story -

I adopted Bella 5 years ago. She was at a pound and was going to be put down. Luckily I found her and was able to save her. She is a loyal, friendly and smart dog. Her best trick is "blowing bubbles" in water with her nose on command. She is such a great companion and I love her very much.

- Dr. Sarah Foreman



*Fur seal spring pup.  
Kangaroo Island, SA*



## Where Pets are Family

### Comfortis for Cats now Available

Comfortis®, a no-fuss, no-mess way to protect dogs against fleas, is now registered for cats too. Comfortis provides rapid relief from fleas for one month and unlike some other flea treatments, it can't rub or wash off.



### Dental Health

Dental health is an important, but often overlooked, part of our pets' lives. Having poor oral hygiene not only causes pain and infection in the mouth itself and blood infection, but can have serious effects on the kidneys and heart too. Symptoms of dental disease may be bad breath, reluctance to eat hard food due to pain, bleeding from the mouth and excessive drooling. If you are concerned or unsure regarding your pets oral health, please contact us to make an appointment for a check up.

- Dr. Bridget Macleod

#### *What does your dog or cat's teeth and gums look like?*

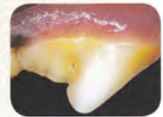
- **Healthy teeth and gums:**

Minimal plaque and tartar on the tooth surface.



- **Gingivitis:**

Plaque, tartar and mild bad breath.



- **Early Periodontal disease:**

Inflammation, swelling and moderate bad breath.



- **Established periodontal disease:**

Pustular discharge, bleeding and severe bad breath.



- **Advanced periodontal disease:**

Bleeding gums, mobile teeth and severe bad breath.



**MARS**  
petcare

### Caring for our Wildlife



Injured or sick wildlife are taken in and treated for free here at Warner Vet, as a service to the community. A vet will initially assess their condition and if possible they are treated and then given to our wonderful community of volunteer, certified wildlife carers for ongoing rehabilitation before being released back to nature.

With more serious problems we will refer them off to the wildlife hospitals in Moggill or Beerwah for further care.

If you find any wildlife in need of care either bring them in to the clinic, if it is safe to do so, or call Koala and Wildlife Rescue on 0401 350 799.

### Grey Nurse Sharks

Grey Nurse Sharks are mainly found in inshore waters around rocky reefs and islands, down the coastline of Eastern Australia, during the winter breeding season. They grow up to 4m long and their dark spots can be used to identify individuals. They are unique in giving birth to live young pups, unlike other shark that lay eggs. There are only 1500-2000 left in the wild and they are considered critically endangered. Despite their ferocious look, they are actually quite placid and are harmless to scuba divers. This photo was taken at Shark Alley near North Stradbroke Island. - Dr. Anna Toma



## New Vet Nurses at Warner Vet

### Renee Dunn (VN)

Hi my name is Renee. I'm one of the newest vet nurses to join the Warner vet team. I'm very passionate about my job and all the little and big animals that come through our door. I enjoy every day at work seeing all the new little faces that come in. I hope to see you all at your next appointment!



### Tamara Boucaut-Calvert (VN)

Hi my name is Tamara, I'm one of the vet nurses at Warner Vet, I enjoy working as a VN as I get to help care for many precious family members of our clients. Having three gorgeous dogs myself (Georgia, Mishka and Mack), I understand how important a role they play within the family, and feel privileged to be able to play a part in caring for them. I look forward to meeting you all.



### Karen Kim (VN)

I have always loved animals and being a vet nurse has been a dream for me. Time and circumstances finally moved in my favour in September 2013 when I was offered a position at Warner Vet. I completed my Cert.2 in Animal Studies in July 2014 and am moving into Cert. 4 in Vet Nursing. The staff are a joy to work with, and the clients and their pets are delightful. I enjoy coming to work every day and am passionate about learning and growing into the best vet nurse I can be.



### Warner Vet OPENDAY Kids Face Paints



## Contact Us



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