

S U M M E R 2 0 1 5



News Letter



Foods To Avoid If you are a Dog or Cat...

1. **Macadamia nuts** - Toxic, and even the shell will cause internal blockages, both can be fatal
2. **Fatty foods** like cheese, chicken skin, sausages, chocolate etc - cause pancreatitis and gastro
3. **Cooked bones** and all chicken bones are bad news (raw wings and necks are OK)
4. **Avocados** and **onions** - toxic for animals

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Season's Greetings

It's Christmas! No need to wait, it is already here. Santa's, Elves, Shoppers and Fleas are out in droves. Anyone with hay-fever will also be aware that pollen is everywhere, and our pets are feeling the allergy heat as well.

But all this is well known - the less obvious dangers for pets at Christmas are the toxic foods like macadamia nuts (toxic for dogs and cats, but OK for humans) and fatty foods like sausages, chicken and turkey skin, cheese, chocolate, bacon and fatty foods in general. They can cause pancreatitis with vomiting and gastroenteritis, and the risks are even higher with smaller dogs.



The greatest risk is still driving on the road, so if you are taking a drive with pets, drive carefully and ensure they are adequately restrained to minimise injury in the event of an accident, and that they do not get tangled in the drivers feet or arms that might cause an accident!

This all sounds like a road safety message, however, if we don't see you before Christmas, we want to make sure all our humans and pets are safe into the New Year.

Merry Christmas and have a very happy New Year!

(Dr. Craig)

Summer is here, are your pets ready?

Paralysis Ticks

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



Microchip

It is now law to microchip your pets. Make sure your contact details are up to date, too.

Heartworm

Heartworms are transmitted by mozzies. Make sure your pet's heartworm prevention is up to date.

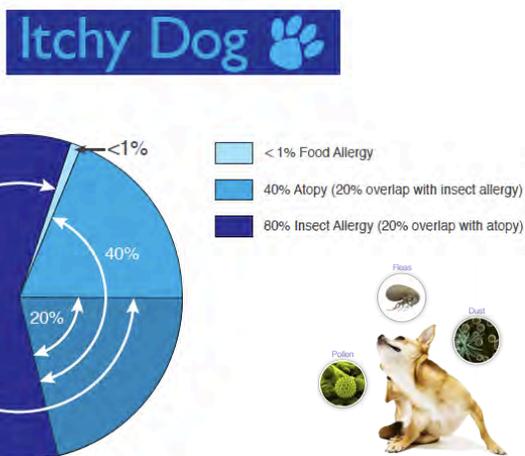


Hot Topic: Canine Skin Allergy

Dogs can show allergic reactions to a number of small molecules called allergens, that can be anything from plant pollens, grass proteins, dust mites (house dust) and insect bites.

While humans experience more respiratory symptoms with allergies (like hay fever and asthma), the main organ that is affected in dogs is often the skin. With chronic and often intense itching, they will scratch, lick or chew, until sometimes they lose hair or progress to skin infections. Because the ears are part of the skin, dogs with sensitive skin may often have ear infections as well.

The following diagram explains the breakdown of 'itchy skin' due to hypersensitivity reaction. There is a significant overlap between insect induced allergy and atopy, so for these dogs the treatment is rather complicated as simple insect control is not quite enough to resolve the itchy skin.



Fleas and other biting insects (80%): Flea-bite allergy is by far the most common allergy for most dogs and cats. Other insects or parasites including mosquitoes, sandflies, lice and mites may also cause allergic reactions in some animals.

Atopy (40%): This is an allergy to environmental factors such as plant pollens, grass proteins, moulds and dust mites. Animals with these allergies may show symptoms all year round or just seasonally. Reducing contact with these allergens may aid in the control of symptoms.

Treatment:

Tight insect control: Because insect bites and fleas represent the vast majority of causes for itchy dogs, it makes sense to eliminate the insect problems first. Using a good quality flea preventative product will reduce the chance of exposure to fleas/insects. Controlling fleas on the animal and in the environment is essential.

Shampoos and conditioners: Medicated shampoos, made by veterinary dermatologists, can help to control the microbes (bacteria and yeasts) present on the skin and also wash off all the offending microscopic materials stuck on fur that can irritate the skin. Applying leave-on conditioners will help to create an extra barrier layer as well as soothing dry, flaky skin.

Omega 3: The benefits of Omega 3 are complex, but include helping with allergies and auto-immune conditions, osteoarthritis, skin and hair coats, eye and brain function.

Antihistamine: Antihistamines can help to alleviate the itch and control allergies. It is often incorporated as part of a treatment plan consisting of insect control, fatty acids and avoidance of the offending materials.

Treatment of concurrent skin infection: Chronically irritated skin often becomes infected by normal skin flora, such as Staphylococcus bacteria, and yeast. It is important to address this as well as treating the underlying allergy. We can perform a cytology test to confirm the presence of infection and assist in starting appropriate treatment.

Immunotherapy: If the response to any of the above is inadequate, referral to a skin specialist may be warranted. Specialists can perform intra-dermal skin tests to determine what the dog is actually allergic to, followed by tailor made desensitising injections.

In conclusion, there are a number of different possible causes for 'itchy skin' in dogs, and various ways to address these issues. The main take home message is the importance of strict insect control, but understanding that your dog may also have concurrent atopy. Secondary bacterial skin infection is also common, especially during the summer season, so if your dog has itchy skin, book in for a skin consultation with one of our friendly vets here at Warner Vet. (Dr. Anna)



Warner Vet's Next Top Pet Model

Every pet has a story, unique personality and something special...

You and your pet can feature in our Facebook page. We would love to share your pet's story with the rest of the Warner Vet community!

So how does this work?

Simple, in a few sentences, tell us about your pet and we'll do a 5min model photo-shoot at the clinic next time you are around. Alternatively, send us the best picture of your pet (ideally you in it too!) to our email with a mini story attached.

Check out our Facebook page to see the awesome photos of you and your pet being featured.



New IDEXX Lab machines



Your pets can now enjoy the instant lab test results from the exciting new IDEXX in-house lab machines. What this means to you and your pet is that we can now have the blood and urine tests in a matter of minutes, not days for the external pathology lab to send results.

Your pet's treatment is now faster and more accurate, with an extensive range of blood parameters measurable immediately, giving a comprehensive picture of your pet's health status in real time.

Caring for our Wildlife



Did you know that we had one of the world's smallest gliding marsupials brought in recently? She's an adult feather-tail glider of only 12grams, and measuring just under 5cm! Fortunately she recovered well and was released back to where she was found. Special thanks to our wonderful network of local wildlife-carers.



Blue Ocean Dragon



This is the *Glaucus atlanticus*, commonly known as the "blue angel" or "blue ocean dragon". They are a type of nudibranch (seaslug) and grow up to 3cm. They can fill up their stomach with air and float the surface of the water upside down. Their beautiful colouration of metallic blue on one side, and starring silver on the other, demonstrate a typical example of 'counter shading', helping to camouflage them from both above, and below, the water surface. Despite their elegant look and small size, blue dragons are the hunters of the ocean, feeding on venomous jellyfish. They can inflict quite a painful venomous sting, so don't pick them up if you find them at a beach. (Dr. Anna)

Meet Our Senior Vet Nurses

Carley Kidd (CVN)

Hi I'm Carley and I'm a cert IV qualified vet nurse. I have been nursing for 5 years and I love my job because it is a wonderful experience to be able to help a sick/injured animal get well and go home to their family. I am currently doing puppy classes, which is very rewarding, as I see them grow into happy well behaved dogs. In my spare time I love looking after my pets, which include dogs, a kitten, chickens, ducks, birds and (lots and lots of) guinea pigs, and going out to dinner with my family and friends.



Stephanie Fink (CVN)

Hello I'm Steph, one of the certified vet nurses at Warner Vet and have been a part of the team for 5 years. Since I was young I knew in one way or another I wanted to work with animals. I also have completed an associate degree in wildlife as I love our native fauna. The thing I love most about my job is working with a great team and creating great relationships with our clients and their pets.



Raylene Bolic (CVN)

Hi my name is Raylene and I have been a part of the Warner Vet team for over 10 years now. I first started in the veterinary industry 22 years ago as a volunteer and gradually worked and studied my way to becoming a certified vet nurse. From early in my career, I have had a keen interest in dog behaviour and I have recently started teaching Nurse Carley what I have learnt over the years, and continue to learn. We are running puppy classes, junior classes, and adult classes and private lessons when the need arises. When I am not at work, I spend my time caring for my 2 year old son and helping look after all the creatures we have at home including snakes, lizards, birds and dogs. In my spare time I enjoy doing renovations on our home.



Is your Pet at Risk? Heatstroke Alert

Heatstroke is a big problem in the hot QLD summer but it is a preventable condition

- Never leave your pet unattended in a car
- Keep your pet well hydrated
- Provide shade and a cool environment
- Avoid walking on hot days
- Ice cubes in water bowl is a great idea
- Seek veterinary attention if you see any problems



Contact Us



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