



The Warner Vet Gazette

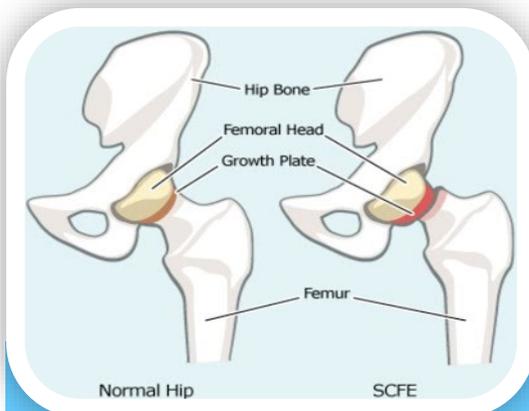
Winter 2017 Edition

We hope that you and your furry friends are enjoying the cooler weather and are staying cosy. In this edition, we have a case report about one of our lovely patients and some information about how to beat fleas once and for all. We hope you are all well and look forward to seeing you and your pets soon.

Case Report: Bilateral capital physal dysplasia

One of our sweet feline patients was unlucky enough to present recently with this condition. 'Capital physal dysplasia' is seen in young, male neutered cats typically under the age of 2 years. While the cause is mostly unknown, it is generally seen in this age group and in male cats in particular. Typically, these kitties have painful hips, and with x-rays we can see thinning at the top of the femur and sometimes a fracture. Because the area of bone is thin, it cannot support normal weight and so a fracture can result. X-rays are used to diagnose the condition and the treatment is surgical removal of the damaged area of bone.

Surgery provides a good return to normal function, with few complications. During surgery, the femoral "neck" (thinner portion) and "head" (round end of the femur) are removed. Amazingly, the body creates a "pseudo joint" in its place, which performs just like a normal joint would. Our little hero has had surgery on both of his hips and is currently recovering well, walking around and comfortable after his big ordeal.



Ph: (07) 3882 2288

OPENING HOURS

Mon-Friday : 8am - 8pm

Saturday: 8am - 2pm

Sunday: 9am - 12noon

www.warnervet.com.au

Dr Craig Stewart BVSc, MVS

Dr Cara Baade BVSc (hons)

Dr Suzanne Standen BVSc
(hons)

Dr Alan Lin BVSc (hons)

Thinning of the femoral neck



Removal of the femoral head and neck



WHY DOES MY PET STILL HAVE FLEAS?

This is a very common question asked of veterinarians. You have treated your pet with a recommended product and yet you are still seeing live fleas on your pet. This is something that most people (understandably), do not expect. Unfortunately, the reality is often that it will take some time to completely eradicate fleas from the home environment, particularly if fleas have been present for some time. Winter is a great time to get on top of a flea problem, as the lifecycle is slowed down during cooler weather. Flea treatments which are applied to your pet require the flea to pick up enough chemical to be killed, with each product having a variable kill time. To understand why you may continue to see live fleas on your pet after application of a product, we need to look at the lifecycle of the flea in more detail.

Fleas are insects and have an egg stage, a larval stage, a cocoon stage and a parasitic adult stage. Adult fleas are the only stage of this cycle which are found on the pet, and they don't survive off the pet once they have fed. The egg, larvae and cocoon stage are all found in the pet's environment. Each female flea produces on average around 30-50 eggs per day, which fall off the pet and seed the surrounding environment. The eggs hatch into larvae and then they eventually form a cocoon after one or two weeks. These cocoons can survive happily in the environment for at least 6 months before emerging as adult fleas.

Adult fleas emerge from the cocoon in response to nearby vibration (i.e. pets and humans moving around). They emerge from the cocoon and jump towards this vibration to seek a host. The cocoon stage is generally the source of all your flea problems, as this is the hardest stage to kill. Reinfestation is often the reason that you will find live fleas on your pet after application of a product. There is a continual day long process of new adult fleas arriving on your pet. These newly arrived fleas will die within 24 hours of contact with an adulticide chemical (flea treatment), but there is always a population mix of new arrivals, actively feeding fleas, and sick and dying fleas on the pet.

So how do we manage the problem?

Step one: kill all the adult fleas on **all** your pets

- ALL PETS must be treated with an appropriate flea treatment.
- Please be advised that some products are NOT safe for use in cats – please read all product information carefully
- Even if you are only seeing fleas on one of your pets, all cats and dogs in the household must be treated with a species-appropriate product
- The efficacy of some topical applications can be reduced with frequent bathing
- Flea products need to be applied consistently for a number of months, not just until you stop seeing adult fleas
- Longer acting products which are now available for dogs (such as Bravecto or Nexgard) may help reduce the need for frequent treatments

Step two: Remove flea eggs and pre-emerged adult fleas from inside the house

- Daily vacuuming is the most effective way to reduce immature flea populations in the house, removing 40-80% of flea eggs and up to 90% of pre-emerged fleas. Focus on areas near and under beds, furniture and skirting boards
- Emptying the vacuum bag after use to avoid eggs developing the vacuum.
- Professional pest controllers can sometimes be warranted to help reduce the environmental burden
- Flea bombs may also be of use for small spaces. Please remove all pets (including birds and fish) from the premises prior to use and read directions carefully.

Step three: Prevent access to high risk outdoor areas

- Some areas outdoors (where pets prefer to sleep) will harbour large numbers of pre-emerged fleas – fence off or block access to these areas

Step four: Prevent exposure to fleas from other animals

- Visiting cats and some dogs (and some rodents) carry flea eggs onto the property. When your pet is visiting homes with pets (and where fleas are present), administer a Capstar tablet to your pets before returning home to the property. This will immediately kill any “hitchhiker” fleas before they are able to contaminate your property with flea eggs.