

In this issue: Christmas greetings! What NOT to feed your pet this Xmas, Tiger eye exams and more!



Turrumurra Veterinary Hospital

December 2016

Christmas Greetings from Turrumurra Vet



Ho Ho Ho! We wish all of our clients, their families and pets a wonderful Christmas and New Year holiday period. Our opening hours over the Christmas-New Year time are as follows:

We will be open until 1pm Christmas Eve (this Saturday) and New Years Eve Saturday 31st until 1pm.

We are only closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day and public

holidays. Otherwise we are open normal hours as per our website.

<http://www.turramurravet.com.au>

For any emergencies outside of these hours please call Northside Emergency Vet Service (NEVS) on 9452 2933, located 335 Mona Vale Rd, Terrey Hills NSW. <http://www.nevs.net.au>

Christmas Food Warning



Christmas is a time for celebration among family and friends and this often means celebrating with lots of food. Our pets often find these foods delicious, but they are not always safe for them.

Onions and garlic can cause severe anaemia and chocolate can cause heart problems, seizures and vomiting. Macadamia nuts can cause severe muscle cramps and grapes/sultanas can cause acute kidney failure. Cooked bones should never be fed to your pet.

And, be careful not to give your pet too many fatty leftovers. What looks like a small amount to us, can be a lot to a dog. A lot of fatty food at once can cause pancreatitis or stomach upsets.

Also watch out for skewers used for kebabs which can be a choking or digestive obstruction hazard.

Christmas toys. Looking to stuff your pet's stockings full of goodies? Choose gifts that are safe!

- Dogs: Stick with chew toys that are indestructible such as Kongs. These can be stuffed with healthy foods that are safely digestible.
- Cats: Long, stringy things are a feline's dream, but are also the most risky. Ribbon, yarn, tinsel and loose little parts can get stuck in the intestines. Surprise your cat with a stuffed catnip toy or a new ball that's too big to swallow.

Tiger gets Eyes Checked at Sydney University



A very exotic feline has made an appearance at Sydney University's veterinary campus at Camden. 'Indira' is a 15-year-old bengal tiger but also a hollywood star! She made appearances in the films 'Anaconda' and 'George of the Jungle', but now spends her time at Zambi Wildlife retreat in Western Sydney. Recently her eyesight has been deteriorating and she had been having difficulty navigating her sanctuary.

A variety of tests performed by specialist ophthalmologist Dr. Kelly Caruso (including an MRI and a high-frequency ultrasound of her eyes) diagnosed her with cataracts and strabismus (cross-eyed). Indira is scheduled for corrective cataract surgery in 2017 once artificial lenses are available – what an amazing experience for all those involved!

Does your pet have a phobia of storms?



It's now the summer storm season and it's not just us that can get a bit scared of the loud booms and the lightning flashes! Storm phobias are quite common in our companion animals, especially dogs. Would you know if your pet has a phobia of storms?

Some of the more common signs seen are:

- Escape (sometimes resulting in self injury).
- Inappropriate toileting.
- Vocalising, trembling, hiding, pacing and salivating.
- Destructive behaviour.

Many animals that have storm phobias may also have a fear of loud noises such as fireworks, music and gunshots.

So how can you manage storm incidents?

1. Provide a den or hiding place where your pet can feel safe and comfortable.
2. An Adaptil collar or diffuser releases pheromones (similar to those released by a mother dog when her pups are feeding) which can increase your dog's feeling of security.
3. Make sure all windows, doors and cat flaps are securely closed during the storm. This will reduce the chances of your pets escaping.

4. Avoid picking up, cuddling, stroking or trying to soothe with words. Anxious dogs often see this sort of attention as their owner being concerned as well and become more concerned. Instead, provide distractions such as new toys or chews while the storm is active. Play games and use an upbeat, excitable voice. Draw the curtains and switch on the TV for some background 'white noise' to mask the outside noise.
5. Try not to leave your pets alone when the storm is approaching and in full swing
6. DO NOT punish your pet for the behaviour. This will only make your pet more distressed!
7. Longer term management strategies such as desensitisation, counter-conditioning, relaxation training or anti-anxiety medications are best discussed with us at the clinic through an appointment with one of our veterinarians or Katie Bedrossian, one of our nurses with extra qualifications in behaviour training!