

In this issue: A furry donation, An almost fatal case of fleas, winter time blues and how puppy brains work!



**Turramurra Veterinary Hospital**

# June 2016

## **Royal Canin Pet of the Month – Ginger and a nearly fatal case of fleas!**



We often think of fleas as 'just' a nuisance, but in young or small cats and dogs, a flea infestation can quickly lead to severe illness or even death. 'Ginger', this 8 week old kitten (*pictured after treatment at home with her loving human sister*), was brought into us by her new owners after being rescued from a relative's farm the day before. Ginger was weak, hypothermic, was having difficulty breathing and was covered in fleas and flea dirt. A quick test of her blood found that she was severely anaemic (a low red blood

cell level) because of the large amount of blood all the fleas had taken from her while feeding!

Dr. Jim's cat, Kelly, kindly provided blood for a blood transfusion to be able to save Ginger (*scroll down to the bottom of the newsletter to see Ginger receiving her life-saving blood transfusion!*). Within a couple of hours, she started to perk up and become more playful. One of our incredible nurses, Rebecca, took Ginger home for the night after her blood transfusion to continue her treatment and plenty of TLC. By the next morning, Ginger was eating and acting like a kitten again!

So remember, especially if your pet is young or small, that fleas can be much more than just annoying! Keep up to date with regular flea prevention, and if you need any advice on this, then please ask one of our highly knowledgeable staff.

### **An Extremely Furry Donation**



We all know that children love animals and it's important to learn how to appreciate and take care of them from a young age. Last week, Turrumurra Vet Hospital provided Earthkids Early Learning Centre (also in Turrumurra) with two extremely cute 12-week old guinea pigs and a freshly constructed hutch! The children will learn how to handle, house, feed, and clean up after the guinea pigs with a user-friendly checklist, and as a bonus

they'll get to appreciate how cute they are at the same time!



Three of our nurses – Emily, Rebecca and Beth – gave the children a talk on the importance of animal care and brought along some of their own pets for an interactive demonstration which all the children were very excited about. We hope that the guinea pigs enjoy their new living arrangements!

**Earth Kids Staff Say:**

"It was an amazing day enjoyed by all. Words cannot describe how appreciative we are here at Earth Kids for all that you and the team have done for us. The children learnt so much and the new arrivals are so cute, we are still working on the names for the new ladies, lots of ideas flying around."

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**Winter is Coming - and Arthritis Could be Too!**

Arthritis is a sneaky condition! It tends to creep up over time and our pets won't always show any obvious signs until they are in considerable pain. The onset of the colder months of winter can often 'unmask' painful problems that weren't so obvious over summer.

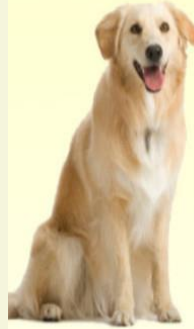
The disease is caused by wearing down of the cartilage that covers the bones at the end of a joint, causing the ends of the bones to become exposed and rub together.

*It is very important to understand that your pet won't necessarily limp or yelp or whimper if he is in pain. Our pets don't want to be seen as the 'weak link'!!*

Thankfully, there are now a number of things we can do to slow the progression of arthritis and help to keep your pet as pain free as possible.

Phone our friendly receptionists on 9988 0198 to arrange an arthritis checkup and we'll be able to work out an effective treatment plan for your pet!

## Does your pet have these symptoms?



### Your Dog

- > Licking affected joints
- > Falls behind on walks
- > Reduction in muscle tone
- > Slight stiffness on rising/lying down
- > Mild swelling heat in the joints
- > Somewhat reluctant to climb stairs
- > Walk stiffly
- > Limp or favor certain limbs



### Your Cat

- > Lethargic-decreased appetite
- > Slight limping or favoring on side
- > Slight difficulty getting in or out of litter box
- > Less inclination to jump or climb
- > Reduced grooming

Some cats become quite good at hiding their pain.

**So You Have a Puppy - What Now?**



Most people are aware that the most important time in your puppy's life is during the first 4-5 months – but why is this? Socialisation at this time with other dogs of all sizes teaches your puppy how to demonstrate proper behaviour and doggy social skills!

**Puppies have brains like sponges** (though at times we admit it can seem more like sieves in there!). The more they are introduced to, the better. Future outings and visits to the park will be much more pleasant if they learn how to behave properly around other dogs and people.

**Puppy preschool** is one of the easiest and most effective ways to meet other dogs and their owners. Remember, your puppy must be up to date with all their vaccinations to attend.

**Puppyhood is also a good time to introduce your dog to different noises and experiences.** Get your dog used to the lead, car trips, being at home alone, having the nails clipped and their teeth brushed! Remember to reward your puppy for his good behaviour!

Remember to feel free to ask us for more information on puppy school or for some advice if you have any questions!

## **For those readers that made it this far...**

Here is Ginger receiving her life-saving blood transfusion. We are very pleased to report that Ginger is thriving and growing extremely fast! Thank you to all our



dedicated staff who helped Ginger throughout her treatment.



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