

In this issue: Our Easter opening hours 2017, wheezing cats, an update on Roxie the poisoned dog, and more!



## Turrumurra Veterinary Hospital

# March 2017

### Easter Opening Hours



Our opening hours over Easter are:

Good Friday - Closed.

Easter Saturday - 9am - 12pm.

Easter Sunday - Closed.

Easter Monday - Closed.

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> April (at the conclusion of daylight savings) our general hours will be:

Monday to Friday: 7:30am-7pm.

Saturdays: 8am-2pm.

Sundays: 10am-12pm.

## Did you know your rabbit needs vaccination too?



That's right! Many readers with pet rabbits will already be aware of the presence of Rabbit Calicivirus in Australia, but for those that don't, it is a virus regularly released to control the feral rabbit population and can kill in as little as 3 days. It can be spread to your pet rabbit by mosquitoes, direct contact with infected wild rabbits, or even if an infected rabbit has passed through the same yard as your rabbit.

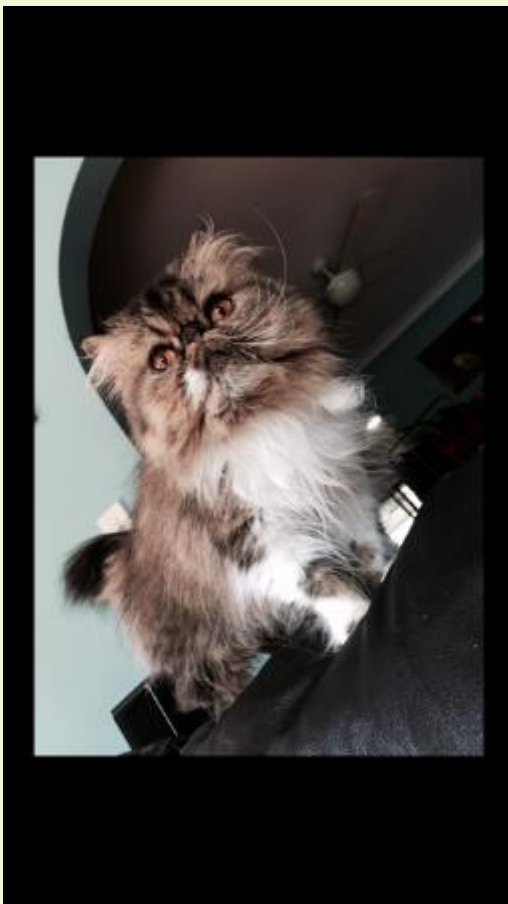
Fortunately we can vaccinate our pet rabbits against this virus to provide them the best protection possible against infection. Young rabbits under 6 months of age are given 2 vaccinations 1 month apart, and from then on it is repeated every 10-12 months. Due to the recent release of a new strain of Calicivirus, some pet rabbits will benefit from vaccination every 6 months depending on their individual risk of infection (i.e. feral rabbits frequenting your back yard) – this is best discussed with one of our staff on 9988 0198.

Unfortunately, there is still no access in Australia to a vaccination against Myxomatosis (the other main virus used to control feral rabbits). So as well as vaccination against Calicivirus, rabbit owners should also implement strict bio-security measures including:

- Prevent direct and indirect contact between your pet rabbits and wild

- Avoid cutting grass and feeding it to your rabbits if there is the risk of contamination from wild rabbits.
- Good insect control will help reduce the risk of infection – we would recommend mosquito proofing the hutch or keeping the rabbits indoors.

### **Pet of the month - Pancakes and her troublesome coughing!**



Meet Pancakes, this beautiful 4 year old Persian who suffers from feline asthma. Her owner noticed she had always coughed a bit, but recently it had become much more frequent. Asthma is an allergic, inflammatory disease of the lower airways and affects between 1% and 5% of cats. When Pancakes inhales particles she is allergic to, her immune system reacts and causes swelling and constriction of her lower airways.

Cats like Pancakes that suffer from asthma may show symptoms such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, rapid breathing or coughing. During an asthma attack, many cats hunch their body close to the ground and extend their necks

radiographs of her chest and a small sample of her airway mucus to confirm the diagnosis of asthma.

So how do we treat asthma? Interestingly, the treatment of feline asthma is very similar to treating human asthma! We use both bronchodilators such as ventolin, and corticosteroids such as flixotide. Pancakes is so well behaved that she takes her medications via a puffer and her coughing attacks are much less frequent now., For cats that are not so compliant, we can also effectively treat asthma with oral (tablets) cortisone. Do you ever see your cat coughing? If so, best to book a checkup with one of our experienced vets. Call 9988 0198.

## **Chocolate Toxicity**



With Easter fast approaching, so is the chocolate season. However, while many of us love chocolate, it is toxic to our furry friends.

The level of toxicity can depend on the size of your dog or cat as well as the type of chocolate, however individuals can vary in their sensitivity to it.

The compound in chocolate that our dogs and cats react to is Theobromine. Theobromine causes an elevated heart rate and dilates blood vessels in people without ill effect, however causes vomiting, diarrhoea, restlessness, increased heart rate, muscle tremors and seizures in dogs and cats (depending on how

Make sure chocolate is kept in a secure location that your pet can't reach (at all times of the year) and if you suspect your pet has ingested some chocolate, treatment may be required, so contact us straight away (treatment is not effective if delayed).

---

### **An Update on Roxie**



Readers of our February e-news would have seen the story of Roxie, the 2 year old Beagle who was poisoned with rat bait while in her own backyard. She was thankfully able to be discharged home after two days in intensive care and is now back to her usual playful self!

Her family are all extremely relieved to have her healthy and back home with them, and we look forward to seeing Roxie next time she drops by Turramurra Vet – hopefully for just a routine visit!