

In this issue: Pet Disease Alert - Giardiasis, meet Claude the Burmese cat and his strange teeth, our hamper winner revealed, how to brush your pet's teeth, and more!



Turrumurra Veterinary Hospital

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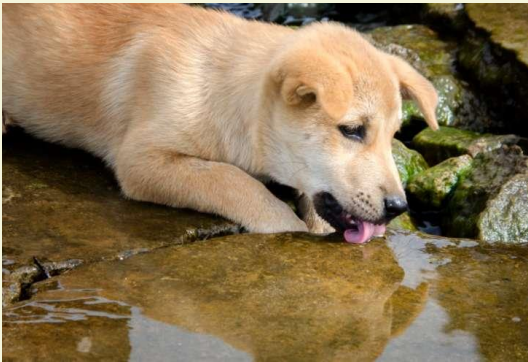
Royal Canin Pet of the Month – Claude the Burmese Cat



Meet Claude – this handsome Burmese boy! He's only one year old but recently had to have two of his teeth removed because they had grown in the wrong spot and were making it difficult for him to chew properly. He was back to eating in no time and can look forward to a life of a pain-free mouth. Malocclusions (abnormally located teeth) can be congenital or they can develop over time, especially during the first year of life. We will always check your pet's teeth when they are here for their check-ups, but it's also a good

idea for you to check your own pet's teeth regularly and if anything looks out of place - get it checked by our experienced vets!

Pet Disease Alert - Tummy Troubles



Pet health warning! We have seen an increasing number of cases of *Giardia* in both dogs and cats the last few months at Turrumurra Vet. *Giardia* is an intestinal parasite of people and pets which usually causes sudden-onset foul smelling diarrhoea, however can also cause chronic diarrhoea, vomiting, tummy upsets and weight loss.

Pets are infected when they ingest the cyst stage of the parasite – most commonly from other dogs' faeces, contaminated ground and contaminated drinking water. Luckily, it is rarely life threatening and usually easily treated if attended to early with appropriate medicine. So limit your pet's access to uncontrolled water sources (ponds, creeks) and if they do show any of the above symptoms, call us immediately to organise an appointment.

Congratulations to our 'Dogs Day Out' Hamper Winners



Thank you to everyone who came to see us at the Dogs Day Out last month. We loved answering all your interesting questions and meeting lots of new faces. It was a great day out and all the dogs that attended had a ball of a time dressing up as their favourite 'Game of Bones' character!

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Collard and their beautiful Schnauzer, the winners and recipients of our pet goods hamper . We hope it goes down 'a treat'!

Dogs and Cats in the War



With ANZAC day having recently passed, it gives us an opportunity to also acknowledge the important roles our companion animals played in the war. Cats were used to hunt mice and rats on ships and in the trenches. Some even became mascots for their ships, such as Togo on the HMS Dreadnought!

Dogs were also used to carry messages, find injured soldiers and unearth explosives. One of the most famous dogs of the First World War was named Sergeant Stubby. He was involved in 17 battles on the Western Front and managed to save his regiment from a surprise mustard gas attack.

How to Brush Your Pet's Teeth - Yes It Is Possible!



Tooth brushing is the 'gold standard' method of keeping your pet's teeth clean and should be done daily for best results. Our pets need to be trained to tolerate having their teeth brushed, so the first step is to work with your pet and try to make it fun for both of you!

- Begin slowly! The initial sessions should be brief and well rewarded. If your pet is highly motivated by food, try just before dinner with the meal acting as the reward.
- Use a lot of love and praise and start by handling your pet's muzzle and lips. Soon you should be able to rub the teeth and gums with your finger. You can put a few drops of water, tuna juice or pet toothpaste on your finger to entice your pet.
- Once your pet is comfortable with this, use an old sockette or pantyhose wrapped around your finger and flavoured as above, to gently rub the teeth.
- Finally, use a soft toothbrush to brush the teeth. We find a finger brush (like a thimble) much easier to use and better tolerated than a larger

HANDIC BRUSH, BUT SILENT IS THE.

- Combining the brushing with using a pet toothpaste helps to improve your impact, but remember – it's the mechanical action of the brushing that is the most important thing!
- Brush the teeth in an oval pattern, making sure to get right up to the gumline where the majority of plaque is. Start at the front of the mouth and work backwards – pets are often much more accepting of this.
- The use of toothpaste helps to make the process more enjoyable for your pet, but it's the mechanical action of the brushing that does most of the cleaning.

By following a consistent program of home-care, you will greatly improve your pet's dental health. This will mean healthier teeth, and a happier, healthier pet.