

VetVan

Veterinary House Calls

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NUMBER 02

Andrew Parker Veterinary Surgeon

BVSc MVSc MACVSc

Phone: 3300 9272 • 0403 281 020

Email: vetvan@bigpond.com

Monday – Friday 7am – 5pm Saturday 8am – 2pm

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Emergencies

I recommend that all clients call my mobile if there is an urgent problem. During working hours I normally conduct an examination and if required, refer patients to the 'BVSC Centre' at Albany Creek. If I cannot be contacted after hours (i.e. my mobile message informs you that the phone is switched off) please call the Pet ER on 3359 5333.

VetVan regularly manages non-urgent and semi-urgent animal health problems; acute emergencies are normally referred to a veterinary hospital.

Lumps

I approach the diagnosis of lumps in a systematic manner. Firstly the patient's breed and age is noted, along with an estimate of the lump's growth rate. Next, the size, shape, colour and position of the lump is described, it is also palpated to determine its mobility. The lump is next characterised as part of the skin, subcutaneous tissue, muscle or skeleton. With this information I will often have a short list of likely diagnoses. The next step in the diagnosis is taking a fine needle aspirate or biopsy. I usually analyse the sample immediately as I have tissue staining equipment and a high-powered microscope in the VetVan. If a diagnosis is still not clear, a surgical biopsy might be taken or a pathologist consulted.

Please note that potentially dangerous cancers are not normally painful.

Welfare

Did you know that all female pigs are kept in a steel stall that does not allow them to turn or roll, their heads are tethered near their food and they can only lie or stand – no walking or moving is allowed! This issue has received some publicity recently with some protesters ‘sitting in’ at the university piggery to highlight the problem. Economics and the cost of losing piglets to accidental death by rolling is the primary issue for piggery owners. I understand that economics are important to the country and thus all people but I don’t understand why it is illegal to chain a dog and not walk it, illegal to amputate puppies’ tails without anaesthetic, yet legal to amputate pigs’ tails without anaesthetic and legal to tie them without exercise?

Flea Control Tips

Numerous clients have commented to me that their pets’ spot on flea control has topped working or only works for two or three weeks not the usual four. This common problem is remedied by firstly making sure all pets in the house are being treated with the product at the recommended intervals. Even if other pets are not itching or scratching they can still act as flea carriers and breeding reservoirs. Next, vacuum the bedding and all places where pets sleep or lay in the house. In the yard, flea eggs and larvae will not survive direct sunlight but will happily survive for a year or more in areas of shade or where there is leaf or mulch, so if your yard has any potential breeding sites, try and restrict your pets access to them or remove them from your yard. This is not always possible, so an environmental spray will solve the problem. It is best for a licensed Pest Control operator to apply these products.

If there is a consistent and ‘whole’ approach to flea control, these parasites can be controlled.

Home Deliveries

To assist in the control of fleas, for the next 3 months VetVan offers a free home delivery service for Advocate, Advantage, Revolution, Sentinel and Frontline. Orders are normally delivered on a Saturday. Credit card orders can be placed over the phone and receive a 5% discount, clients paying by cash or cheque receive a 10% discount off the RRP on all six packs. Clients purchasing these products during a consultation will receive 10% off the RRP regardless of the payment method. If you have been meaning to buy any of the above products but haven’t got around to it – take advantage!