

VetVan

Veterinary House Calls

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Mon - Fri: 8am - 5pm
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NEWSLETTER ISSUE NUMBER 5

Greetings...

Hello to all clients, please find enclosed a brochure detailing my services, a lot of clients will have only trialed one or two of my services but the brochure outlines all of my available services. The brochure complements VetVans new internet site: vetvan.com.au The site has taken many months to develop and its aim is to provide a detailed description of the business, my qualifications, the business services as well as information about emergencies and booking procedures. I am proud of this site; I believe that it stands out from other professional's internet sites and encourage all clients to have a look.

Scientific article published

Late last year I had my first scientific article published in a peer reviewed journal: The Australian Veterinary Practitioner. This study analysed risks for dogs developing tick paralysis. The study took three months to plan, three months to conduct and six months to write, I estimate well over 250 hours were spent on this study. The study discovered some interesting facts, no dog that suffered from tick paralysis was on preventive medication, dogs were more likely to be affected if they came from a family whose pets had previously suffered tick paralysis

and walking the dog through scrub, bush or waterways increased their risk of developing tick paralysis by greater than five times. If you believe your pet fits into any of these high risk categories please call me for a seasons supply of Frontline and a tick collar – delivery is free and a discount of 5% off the total will be given.

Elvis' Teddy

Did you here the news in early August about the guard dog that was looking after Elvis' teddy bears? No. Well, staff came into the museum in the morning to find all teddies destroyed. Of course the dog didn't know how valuable they were. I didn't even know that Elvis kept teddy bears.

Anyway, it's good to hear that you cannot take the puppy out a dog, no matter how well it's trained.

Feline FIV Vaccine

I have a keen interest in keeping pets healthy and that's why for the last 12 months I have been talking to people about FIV infection which leads to feline aids. Recent research that has come to my attention shows one in 14 cats with dental disease have FIV infection. I believe that this infection is an emerging problem and that vaccinating all outdoor cats is prudent. A series of 3 injections is required and if all 3 vaccinations are paid at the initial consultation a 20% discount is given.

Thursday and Friday Bookings

Thursday afternoon and all day Friday are my surgery times and I do not normally make routine bookings for these days. If it is an important problem your pet will still be seen but available times are restricted by the surgery and it is advisable to call as early as possible with any problems.

Ear Infections



Recently there have been high numbers of pets suffering from chronic ear infections. All suffering pets were flicking or shaking their head, scratching their ears or had dark waxy material in their ear canals. Some of these pets had been suffering for months and even with medication, fixing the problem took a long time. I approach ear problems by looking for underlying causes, discussing ear cleaning and bathing and by collecting samples from the ear and using the microscope to identify what is growing in the ear canal. Appropriate treatments are then implemented. If your pet is displaying any of these signs please call for an appointment as if left too long a cure may not be possible.

Kennel cough



Does your dog visit the kennels or off lead parks regularly? If so, I recommend twice yearly kennel cough vaccinations, usually with an intranasal vaccine for added protection. I use this on our family's pet dogs and although they are regular visitors to the kennels they have never had kennel cough even though their kennel has had outbreaks of the disease.

Please let me know prior to your appointment if your pet visits kennels or off leash parks so that I can give your pet the intranasal vaccine.

Kennel cough is a combination of viruses and bacteria that invade a dog's upper airway, leading to a thick mucous production which causes the dog to hack and cough whenever they run or move around.

Treatment consists of combinations of antibiotics, airway dilators and cough suppressants. Kennel cough is a serious but non fatal disease. Nevertheless it can make young pups very sick and I have had a few cases in older dogs that have lead to pneumonia and irreversible lung disease. These dogs have required life long treatment with very expensive antibiotics.

Prevention better than treatment



According to an old story, a lord of ancient China once asked his physician, a member of a family of healers, which of them was the most skilled in the art.

The physician, whose reputation was such that his name became synonymous with medical science in China replied, "My eldest brother sees the spirit of sickness and removes it before it takes shape, so his name does not get

out of the house. My elder brother cures sickness when it is still extremely minute, so his name does not get out of the neighbourhood. As for me, I puncture veins, prescribe medicine and massage skin, so from time to time my name gets out and is heard among the lords." ¹

This story serves as continual motivation for me. I firmly believe that the earlier a problem is dealt with, the smaller it is and the easier it is to manage and alter.

Will I call or will I wait and see?



It never hurts to have your pet examined and if no problems are detected the peace of mind will outweigh the cost of the visit. So if you are unsure please call for advice or an appointment.

Web Photos



On my internet site vetvan.com.au there is a photo of me examining the teeth of a 14 year old Staffy called Grumpy (by name only). This dog was originally owned by my sister but she moved into a flat and gave him to my parents (a familiar story I know) who were initially hesitant about taking on an escape artist but now adore the little fellow. I know and love Grumpy dearly as I used to take him for runs through the bush and he always snuck onto my bed during the night when I babysat him. Grumpy is a persistent little dog and even though I kicked him off my bed he would try again and again until I gave in. Wanting to be close to their master and being persistent are breed characteristics of Staffy's.

¹The Art of War, Shambhala editions