



updates from the field

Farmer's emergency pack



One of the most effective emergency treatments all stock owners should have on hand (and in their vehicles) is Vet-Cal 4-in-1 or a similar product. This is a pack of fluid containing calcium, magnesium, glucose and phosphorous and it's administered by subcutaneous injection in cattle and sheep (ie under the skin).

In cattle, cases of grass tetany, milk fever, transport sickness and other high stress situations can benefit enormously from the fast delivery of several packs under the skin before the vet arrives.

Similarly in sheep, stress situations such as transport, sudden cold weather, milk fever and even pregnancy toxemia will benefit from immediate treatment until more comprehensive treatment is available.

CVH is happy to supply packs to farmers – they can often make a critical difference to survival – but always ring first for advice.

Our new email address:
info@crookwellvet.com.au
Please email us so we can update your contact details.

Foods you really shouldn't feed your pet



Some of our favourite foods are just not safe for pets - 125gms of cooking chocolate can kill a small dog.

Some human foods are just not meant for pets. Chocolate, onions, grapes and macadamia nuts are just a few of the foods that can be fatal in cats and dogs. Felines are fussier eaters so toxicity is more often seen in dogs, but don't be complacent – these foods have the same harmful effects in cats.

Chocolate can be lethal. Like coffee and tea, chocolate contains alkaloids such as theobromine and caffeine that are cardiac and nervous stimulants and diuretics. They cause dogs and cats to become excited and hyperactive, with severe cases progressing to seizures. The diuretic effect leads to the passing of large amounts of urine and intense thirst. Vomiting and diarrhoea are other common symptoms, while the effect on the heart can cause dangerously fast, weak and irregular heartbeats.

Symptoms take several hours to manifest, and large doses can lead to death within 24 hours.

How much chocolate is dangerous to dogs? A 10kg dog – a small to medium terrier – only needs around 250gm of cocoa or 125gm of cooking chocolate to become seriously ill. Cocoa, cooking and dark chocolate are the most dangerous, but a 250gm bar of milk chocolate can also cause illness.

If you see your pet eat chocolate, ring us immediately – there is no antidote to chocolate toxicity, so early treatment is essential for survival. The prognosis improves if the chocolate is removed by inducing vomiting within 2 to 4 hours – we can do this safely and quickly.

Onions – whether dehydrated, raw, cooked or fed as part of table scraps – are highly dangerous to dogs or cats. While considered not as toxic as onion, excessive amounts of garlic can also cause illness.

Both foods contain thiosulphate, a substance that causes red blood cells to rupture, leading to haemolytic anaemia. Vomiting and diarrhoea are the first symptoms, progressing after a few days to weakness, disinterest in food, and urine that is red from the burst blood cells.

One onion feast of 600gms is enough, or repeated small feeds of 150gms can lead to serious anaemia. If onion or garlic is removed from the diet early enough, the pet's condition will improve.

updates from the field

Preventing fly strike

It may still be cool in the Crookwell district, but now is the time to plan your fly strike prevention strategy.

Female blowflies (*Lucilia cuprina*) lay up to 3,000 eggs over 3 weeks. In ideal conditions, L1 larvae hatch out in 12 hours. These first stage larvae cause no problems, but in 3 to 10 days they moult to second and third stage larvae, and it's these that cause fly strike. The L3 larvae pupate in the soil and in 3 to 7 days develop into the adult fly.

Insect growth regulators (IGRs) interfere in this life cycle and are one of a number of chemical groups used to prevent blowfly strike. Crookwell Veterinary Hospital stocks two IGRs – Cyrofly 60 and Klik.

Cyrofly 60 is a spray on that provides up to 11 weeks protection from blowfly strike on long wool sheep (including organophosphate resistant fly strains). Its active chemical cyromazine prevents fly strike by stopping the moulting of the benign L1 into the harmful L2 stage.

Cyrofly 60 is contraindicated for use on open wounds, including mulesing and marking, and its effectiveness is reduced in sheep with less than 6 weeks of wool.

Klik provides 16 to 24 weeks protection. A ready-to-use spray-on/pour-on formulation, Klik (dicyclanil) works in a similar way by preventing the moulting of treated larvae into the next larval stage. Klik is effective on all wool lengths, including off-shears, and is safe to use on mulesing and marking wounds.

Both products are preventative – that is, they should be used before an anticipated fly wave as the first stage larvae are the most susceptible and established strikes may not respond well to treatment.

Tick paralysis can be fatal - be prepared!

We're already treating dogs with life-threatening tick paralysis. If you take your pet on holidays to the beach and warmer climates, make sure you call in for tick control products before you leave. Prevention is easy and inexpensive, treatment is difficult and costly.

Getting ready to tackle fleas

Flea allergy dermatitis is by far the major cause of itchiness in Australian pets. In cold climates like Crookwell, pets have some respite in winter, but guaranteed – fleas will return with the warmer weather. Now is the time to plan for summer flea control.

All pet owners need to accept flea infestation is not a social disease, it's a fact of life for pretty much every Australian pet. And remember: *fleas don't live on your dog or cat – they only hop on to pets to feed*. Fleas live and lay their eggs in dirt, in cracks and crevices of buildings and kennels, and frequently, in your carpet (a favourite spot). They can survive up to a year without a blood meal!

This means both your pet *and* your environment must be treated.

Flea faeces or "flea dirt" is often detected more easily than the flea itself. Check over your pet's rump and back for tiny black specks of dirt (these turn red from ingested blood when you wash your pet).

The average dog lives reasonably happily with fleas, giving an occasional scratch. Allergic dogs and cats, the real sufferers in this disease, are different. They become acutely sensitised to fleas and can develop severe skin problems.

When feeding, fleas inject saliva with irritant substances into the skin. The saliva also contains an allergic protein. Pets with a flea allergy develop antibodies that react to this substance *every single time a flea bites* – the irritation is intense!

We can't yet explain why some pets and not others become allergic to the flea, but allergic dogs and cats chew and scratch constantly, developing wheals, pimples, raw and eventually bald skin in specific areas: over the rump and lower back, the base of the tail and inside the hind limbs. Untreated, the skin becomes grey, hairless and thickened. Even puppies and kittens can become allergic to the flea, and the problem stays with them for life.

Monthly flea control "spot-ons" are effective and simple to use. Treating the environment includes regularly washing your pet's rugs and spraying kennel areas, using "flea bombs" inside the house, or a commercial pest controller in flea plague situations.

Contact us

Opening hours 8.30am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday | 9am – 12pm Saturday

24 hour emergency service

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