



Welcome to our August Newsletter,

We hope you are surviving this cold weather. In this newsletter we have written about topics that have been requested by clients. If you have any requests for information feel free to contact us by e-mail at bannockburnvet@netspace.net.au

The clinic has been informed by The Department of Primary Industries that as of July 1, 2010 it is compulsory for all Victorian horse owners to have a Property Identification Code (PIC) identifying the properties where they keep their horses. If you need any more information regarding the new requirements the contact number is 1800 678 779 or you can collect the forms from any DPI office or down load them from the web. Please note it is FREE to apply for a PIC.



Separation Anxiety

You come home from a long day at work to a spinning, jumping whirlwind of energy. Your dog follows you, or wants to follow you into your living room, where you find that he has chewed on your favourite pair of shoes. Your neighbour comes by to tell you that, once again, your dog has been driving the neighbourhood crazy by howling and barking while you were away. Is this scenario familiar? Your dog may be suffering from Separation anxiety. In nature, dogs are almost never away from their pack. It is our job to help make this unnatural situation less stressful!

Before you leave, go for a walk. Start the day by providing vigorous exercise. Then reward your dog's calm-submissive energy with food and water. Some dogs may need to rest before eating, but all dogs can benefit from hydration. The idea is to leave your dog in quiet, resting mode while you are away.

No touch, no talk, no eye contact. Don't make a big deal when you leave for the day or when you return. This way, you are communicating to your dog that the time apart is no big deal. It's just business as usual! Depending on the severity of the case, you may need to practice the rule for five minutes or up to an hour before you leave and when you get back.

Say goodbye long before you leave. If you are having difficulty practicing “no touch, no talk, no eye contact” Take a moment to share affection and tell your dog that you will miss him or her way before you actually leave. Keep in mind that this display is for you - not your dog! Your dog won't have his feeling hurt if you didn't say goodbye.

Stay calm and assertive! When you are ready to go to work, leave those guilty, nervous, and concerned feelings behind. Instead, let your dog know that everything is going to be okay by projecting the confident energy of a pack leader.

Start out small. Leave your dog alone for five minutes. Then, extend the time to twenty minutes; then an hour. Continue to increase the time you spend away until you can leave for a full eight hours with no problem.



AUGUST IS PET DENTAL MONTH

Periodontal disease is a ‘silent’ disease, often progressing without overt clinical signs to the pet owner. Left untreated, periodontal disease may cause oral pain, discomfort, dysfunction, and eventual tooth loss. Behavioural changes may include changes in eating habits, reluctance to groom and socialise and subtle signs of depression. Clinical signs you as an owner may notice are bad breath, red or bleeding gums, yellow brown crust on teeth or abnormal drooling.

As part of your dogs annual check-up and vaccination our vets will check their teeth and gums, but should you notice any of the signs above please make an appointment for a dental check. Foods that will assist in keeping your pets teeth healthy are: **RAW** chicken wings and **RAW large** bones, there are also specialised foods and treats to assist with your pet's dental health. These foods such as T/D diet are specially formulated so that the patented fibre matrix technology holds the kibble together longer to clean each tooth like a toothbrush. These foods provide complete and balanced nutrition for your pets. Please talk to the nurses if you want anymore information on these foods and treats.

We have recently purchased new dental equipment that includes an ultrasonic scaler and polisher, and high speed drills.

During August buy any bag of Hills prescription T/D or Hills Science Oral Care from the clinic and go in the draw to win a Hyundai Gets. The entry forms are at clinic.

Relative Age of you Pet in Human Years

Pets, on an average, age five to eight times faster than humans. By age two, most pets have already reached adulthood. At age four, many are entering middle age.

By age seven, many dogs, particularly larger breeds, are entering their senior years.

Because pets age so rapidly, major health changes occur in a short amount of time. The risk of cancer, diabetes, obesity, arthritis, heart disease and other serious conditions all increase with age. Also, as today's pets are living longer than ever, chances are many can experience a potentially serious illness during their lifetime.

At least once-a-year health checks can help your veterinarian diagnose, treat or even prevent problems before they become life-threatening. They are also a great opportunity to ask your vet about nutrition, behaviour, and other issues.

Here are a few examples of how your pet ages in comparison to humans:

<u>Pet Age</u>	<u>0-9kg</u>	<u>9-23kg</u>	<u>23-41kg</u>	<u>>41kg bodyweight</u>
7	44	47	50	56
10	56	60	66	78
13	68	74	82	101

Cheers from the team at Bannockburn Veterinary Clinic.

