



WELCOME TO OUR FINAL NEWSLETTER FOR 2010, WE HOPE THEY HAVE BEEN INFORMATIVE; YOUR FEEDBACK HAS BEEN APPRECIATED. WE WISH YOU AND YOUR PETS ALL A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY. PERIOD



CLINIC CHRISTMAS HOURS

THE CLINIC WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS FROM FRIDAY DECEMBER 24TH AT 4.30PM UNTIL WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29TH AT 7.30AM.

WE WILL BE CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR FROM FRIDAY DECEMBER 31ST AT 4.30PM UNTIL TUESDAY JANUARY 4TH AT 7.30AM.

THERE WILL BE A VETERINARIAN AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCIES OVER THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BREAK. CONTACT THE CLINIC ON 5281 1221 AND YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE VET ON CALLS PHONE NUMBER WHICH IS 040781 1222.

TIPS FOR A SAFE CHRISTMAS

- ❖ WATCH OUT FOR POTENTIAL TOXINS WITH CHOCOLATE, NUTS, GARLIC OR ONIONS.
- ❖ AVOID COOKED BONES FROM THE BARBECUE AND WATCH OUT FOR LEFT OVER MEAT SKEWERS, OFTEN THE SKEWER IS INGESTED TOO.
- ❖ DON'T FEED THE LEFT OVER'S FROM YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER.

THESE FOODS CAN CAUSE TUMMY UPSETS, DIARRHOEA AND IN SEVERE CASES PANCREATITIS. THIS IS VERY PAINFUL CONDITION AND OFTEN REQUIRES THE DOG TO BE HOSPITALISED FOR FLUID AND ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY AND PAIN RELIEF.

BONES ONCE COOKED BECOME BRITTLE AND SPLINTER. THESE SHARDS OF BONES CAN CAUSE A LOT OF DAMAGE, EITHER BECOMING LODGED IN THE DOG'S MOUTH, PASSING THROUGH THE STOMACH, OR TRYING TO PASS BONE FRAGMENTS IN THE FAECES. THIS IS VERY DISTRESSING AND PAINFUL FOR THE DOG AND USUALLY REQUIRES VETERINARY TREATMENT.



PREVENTING DEADLY HEATSTROKE

ON A HOT SUMMER DAY OUR PETS CANNOT CHANGE THEIR WARDROBE OR TURN ON THE AIR CONDITIONING TO KEEP COOL. CONSIDER THESE POINTS TO AVOID HEATSTROKE IN YOU PET.

- ❖ IS SHADE AVAILABLE ALL DAY?
- ❖ IS FRESH, COOL WATER ALWAYS IN REACH? PROVIDE MORE THAN ONE SOURCE IN CASE OF SPILLAGE.
- ❖ FOR INDOOR PETS, IS THE HOUSE COOL THROUGHOUT THE DAY?
- ❖ **NEVER** LEAVE YOUR PET IN THE CAR; EVEN A QUICK ERRAND CAN BE DANGEROUS.
- ❖ **NEVER** EXERCISE YOUR PET IN THE HEAT OF THE DAY.
- ❖ ALL ANIMALS ARE AT RISK BUT BE EXTRA CAREFUL OF BRACHYCEPHALIC BREEDS (DOGS WITH SHORT NOSES SUCH AS PUGS AND BULLDOGS), HEAVY COATED OR OVERWEIGHT ANIMALS, AND PETS WITH HEART OR RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS.

SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE:

- ❖ EXCESSIVE PANTING AND DROOLING
- ❖ BLUISH OR BRIGHT RED TONGUE AND GUMS
- ❖ STAGGERING OR SEIZURES

FIRST AID FOR HEATSTROKE:

- ❖ COOL YOUR PET IMMEDIATELY; IMMERSING YOUR PET'S BODY IN COOL WATER IS BEST OR USE A HOSE
- ❖ PROVIDE AIRFLOW OVER YOUR PET WITH A FAN
- ❖ SEEK VETERINARY ATTENTION RIGHT AWAY, PLACE A COLD DAMP TOWEL OVER YOU PETS AND USE THE CAR AIR CONDITIONER WHEN TRAVELLING TO THE CLINIC.

INTENSIVE CARE MAY BE REQUIRED TO SAVE YOUR PET'S LIFE. ASK US FOR MORE INFORMATION IF YOU ARE CONCERNED.

SLIP, SLOP, SLAP – SUN SAFETY FOR PETS

SLIP, SLOP, SLAP, ISN'T JUST FOR HUMANS – IT'S ALSO A MESSAGE WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND FOR OUR FOUR LEGGED FRIENDS. THEY MAY BE COVERED IN FUR BUT THE SUN CAN STILL DO SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE. ANY DOG OR CAT CAN GET SUNBURN, BUT HAIRLESS DOGS, WHITE AND PINK SKINNED PETS AND THIN HAIREP PETS ARE PARTICULARLY SUSCEPTIBLE. THE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE AREAS ARE THE EARS, NOSE, LIPS, SNOUT, EYELIDS AND CHEST. SOME DOGS LIKE TO LIE IN THE SUN ON THEIR BACKS, AND CAN GET BURNT ON THE BELLY AREA AND INNER THIGHS.

JUST LIKE HUMANS, SUNBURN ON PETS CAN HAVE NASTY CONSEQUENCES. UV RADIATION IS A FACTOR IN SOME ANIMAL CANCERS SUCH AS SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA, A MALIGNANT CANCER WHICH CAN SPREAD TO OTHER PARTS OF THE BODY. ANOTHER CANCER THOUGHT TO BE UV-INDUCED IS DERMAL HAEMANGIOSARCOMA.

IF YOUR PET IS UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO BE DIAGNOSED WITH A SKIN CANCER, IT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN A DEATH SENTENCE. JUST LIKE HUMANS, WE TREAT EACH ANIMAL AND ITS SKIN CANCER ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

PROTECTING YOUR PET FROM THE SUN CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS MAKING SURE YOU KEEP THEM OUT OF THE SUN DURING THE HOTTEST PARTS OF THE DAY – EITHER BY BRINGING THEM INSIDE OR PROVIDING A SHELTER OR SHAD TO WHICH THEY CAN ESCAPE IF YOU'RE NOT AT HOME.

THERE ARE ALSO A NUMBER OF PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET TO MAKE THE JOB OF KEEPING YOUR PET SUN SAFE A LOT EASIER. PET SPECIFIC SUN SCREENS AND DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR ANIMALS AND ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT SHOULD BE USED.

DON'T USE A HUMAN SUNBLOCK. SOME SUBSTANCES IN THESE CAN BE TOXIC TO ANIMALS AND DOGS AND CATS TEND TO LICK SUNSCREEN, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS APPLIED TO THEIR FACE. THERE'S ALSO A TECHNIQUE TO APPLYING SUNSCREEN TO YOUR PET. JUST LIKE KIDS, DOGS CAN GET A LITTLE EXCITED WHEN ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON THEM. WHEN YOU ARE READY TO APPLY THE SUNSCREEN, TRY TO DISTRACT YOUR PET SO IT WON'T LICK IT OFF STRAIGHT AWAY. HAVE A LITTLE PLAY OR OFFER A TREAT.

CRITTER CHRISTMAS

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING YOUR FURRY FRIEND FOR CHRISTMAS? THE LIST IS ENDLESS BUT HERE ARE A FEW SUGGESTIONS.

- ❖ QUALITY TIME: THE BEST PRESENT YOU CAN GIVE A PET.
- ❖ JUICY BONE: AVAILABLE FROM ANY GOOD BUTCHER, GIVE A FRESH **RAW** BONE THAT IS BIG ENOUGH TO CHEW ALL DAY.
- ❖ CAT DANGLER: CATS LOVE ANYTHING THAT DANGLES AND FLUTTERS AND WILL GO NUTS OVER A TOY MOUSE.
- ❖ SLIPPERY BRICK: A FROZEN ICE BLOCK (SUCH AS AN ICE-CREAM CONTAINER) USING BEEF OR CHICKEN STOCK CAN BE A GREAT TREAT ON A HOT DAY.



CHEERS

[HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS FROM THE TEAM AT BANNOCKBURN VETERINARY CLINIC](#)

