



Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our May newsletter. Recently there has been a sharp increase in the number of dogs treated for ratsak poisoning due to the mouse plague.

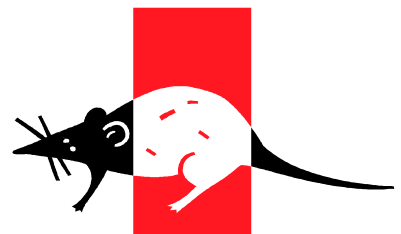
In this months newsletter we are again reminding people to be aware of the dangers if their animals eat rat bait.

RATSAK POISONING

As the weather becomes cooler the rodent population moves into our homes and garages for the winter. As a result baits are placed to control the problem and we see an increased number of rodenticide poisonings at the clinic. Ratsak and its equivalents are the most commonly used poisons for the control of rodents.

Ratsak poisoning is one of the most common seen in dogs. The poison works by depleting the amount of vitamin K available to the animal. Vitamin K is essential for the production of factors responsible for blood clotting.

When there is no available vitamin K the blood is unable to clot properly, leading to blood loss, anaemia and eventually death. A dog poisoned with Ratsak may show no signs of illness for several days, and then it will become weak, lethargic, will have pale gums, may have difficulty breathing, have blood in its urine or bleeding from the rectum or nose. Some of these dogs are found dead, or in milder cases may linger in a weakened condition for several days before showing signs of spontaneous recovery. Early treatment will usually result in a complete cure.





PERMETHRIN HAZARDS FOR CATS

Fleas are a major problem for cat owners. Not only are they a nuisance, they are also the cause of many diseases such as flea anaemia, flea bite dermatitis and tapeworm infestation. Therefore, flea control is often a necessary step in maintaining your cat's health.

CAT OWNERS SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS WHEN USING FLEA PRODUCTS.

FOR INSTANCE, flea products that are labelled "for use on dogs only" should never be used on cats. Cats react very differently than dogs to some insecticides and some products that are safely used on dogs can be deadly to cats, even in small amounts.

An example of such a species difference is permethrin sensitivity in cats. There are many permethrin spot-on products available that are labelled for "dogs only". These contain high concentrations (45-60%) of permethrin insecticide. These permethrin products have a good range of safety when used on dogs, but even a few drops of concentrated permethrin could be fatal to a cat. Cats are most commonly exposed to these products through inappropriate application by their owners. The signs commonly seen with permethrin toxicity in cats include generalized tremors, muscle fasciculations, and seizures. Signs can develop within hours or may be delayed up to 48 hours. Though most cats will recover with appropriate treatment by a veterinarian, the best way to avoid serious problems is by using products strictly according to label instructions. **Revolution** and **Advantage** that are most commonly sold by our clinic do not contain permethrin.

Canine Parvovirus

- Canine Parvovirus is extremely stable and may persist in the environment for many months.
- Infection most commonly occurs through oronasal contact with virus particles shed in faecal material in the environment.
- Incubation period is 4-14 days
- Infects and destroys intestinal epithelium and leukocyte and lymphoid cell precursors, causing gastrointestinal illness (diarrhoea, often bloody, vomiting and loss of appetite), neutropenia and lymphopenia (affects white blood cells).

Early clinical signs are the acute onset of depression, anorexia, high temperature, frequent vomiting and diarrhoea.

With all dogs, but particularly puppies, likelihood of infection is determined by individual patient immunity, virus virulence and infective dose.

Dogs that contract parvovirus are hospitalised, given aggressive intravenous fluid therapy until vomiting stops. Antibiotics are also given to control potentially fatal secondary infections. An analgesic is an important area of treatment as severe intestinal cramping and pain can accompany parvovirus.

Vaccination is the only prevention against parvovirus.

Puppies have a course of three vaccinations that are given at 6-8 weeks, 10-12 weeks and 16-18 weeks and then yearly. Your pup will not be fully protected until after its THIRD vaccination so, for its safety it is best to keep it confined to the safety of the yard until it is fully immunised.

Puppy School, where all the pups are up to date with their vaccinations, will give your pup an opportunity to have plenty of fun and socialisation outside its own yard without being at risk.

COMING SOON

Our new and improved website.

Our website will include an exciting new addition.

We will tell you more closer to its launch.



GROOMING

Our groomer Lana is available on Mondays during winter.

Cheers from the team at Bannockburn Veterinary Clinic

