

AUTUMN 2023



WANGARATTA VETERINARY CLINIC

Eggscuse me puppy, don't steal my chocolate!

The Easter eggs hit the shelves less than a week after Christmas. Easter is a fun time for the family but can be very dangerous for your pets. There are a few things you need to keep off limits!

Chocolate is definitely a no no for our pets however many of them have a sweet tooth and will find it. Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine to which dogs are extremely sensitive. Symptoms of toxicity include vomiting, diarrhoea, rapid breathing, seizures, cardiac arrest and coma. If your dog eats chocolate it is important to work out if they require treatment. This can be done by phoning the clinic during business hours or Vetchat after hours (1300 104 620).

Remember when the Easter Bunny comes it is best to keep your pets in a secure area away from the stash!

The raisins and sultanas found in hot cross buns can potentially cause kidney failure which can present as vomiting, drinking excessively and lethargy amongst other signs.

The beautiful Easter lillies are also unfortunately a toxic hazard to cats. The leaves, petals, stamen, stem or vase water are all poisonous. Ingesting this can cause kidney failure (signs include excessive thirst, vomiting and lethargy).

If your pet ingests any potential toxins over the Easter break please call the clinic for advice.



Jo's Jabber

We are underway!!

Renovations got cracking in January and I am so impressed and grateful for how well you guys and our team are coping with it all. We are currently working out of 3 different structures at work and while there is a bit more walking, so far we have been able to continue to work relatively normally. Special shout out to our fgnamus builders led by Jonno Rea who have been really accommodating with our requests to reduce noise at times when we have been looking after particularly anxious patients. We are looking forward to moving back into the front half and then the back works will begin...

In other exciting new year developments, Freya and Felix welcomed baby Torfinn to the world! He and his parents are all going really well! We have had a few staff changes this season also – nurses Claire and Claudia have headed off, and we have welcomed new trainee nurse Gaby, new vet Emily and receptionist Sarah is back! Say hi to them if you get the chance! We have also been fortunate to have vet Floss working a couple of days each week for the past few months however she will finish up at the end of March.

And in our household Clare is trying to convince me to invest in a metal detector – I was impressed with the first business plan she presented to me, less so with the large printed photos of her face looking sad with typed text over the top begging for money. Oliver discovered caving at a recent school camp, and he enjoyed that almost as much as the food (which I'm told was better than what he gets at home). That is definitely not my memory of school camp food – although I did love Tang, anyone else remember that stuff? And Joshua continues to work on creative ways to hide Fantales in his bedroom where he thinks his mother won't find them...

Enjoy the autumnal weather!

Case of the Quarter

Dr Lorna and Nurse Nicole attended a farm call recently where a cow was lame on one leg and presumably had a foot abscess. After cleaning the foot and on further investigation Lorna found a rubber seal cutting into the cows hoof, which she promptly removed. The seal was acting like a rubber band around the hoof.

This a reminder on the importance of veterinary examinations on your livestock.





Awesome Angie!

ANGIE PEARSON - RECEPTIONIST

If you could only choose one song to play every time you walked into a room for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Electric Blue - Icehouse

If you were an animal, what kind of animal would you be and why?

Octopus, as they live in the ocean and get to swim around everyday.

Where is home?

Wherever my beautiful Matthew is. I could go anywhere with him by my side.

What keeps you out of trouble?

Riding my bike, tending to my veggie patch, sitting in the sunshine with a book/cup of tea.

What would your best friend say is your best quality?

My bubbly personality

Pets at home:

Lola & Dapple, the 2 most spoiled Dachshunds in Wangaratta.

Favourite...

Lolly: Redskins

Vegetable: Mushrooms

Singer/Band: Icehouse

Movie: The Goonies/Labyrinth

FUN FACT

Snakes don't have eyelids.

EYE ROLLER

What do you call a sleeping bull?
A bull-dozer!

Colic in horses

DR JOANNE WILLIAMS

You have probably heard of colic in horses, but what is colic really?

Well, colic means a pain in the tummy and can be caused by a number of things, including:

- Gut problems (this is the most common cause), blockage (impaction, twisted bowel, strangulation of bowel), worms, ulcers, cancer, sand ingestion
- Kidney or Liver disease
- Urinary tract issues
- Snake bite
- Toxin ingestion
- Back pain
- Poor recovery after strenuous exercise
- Pregnancy related issues

SIGNS OF COLIC

Quiet, reluctant to move, unable to stand still, stretching out, tucking in tummy, not eating, pawing at ground, turning head to look at flanks, sweating, repeatedly lying down and getting up, rolling, trembling, looking 'tight' in the face.

TREATMENT

While you wait for us, get a halter and lead on your horse. If they are standing quietly, or lying down and getting up, that's ok. Let them do that—they are trying to get comfortable. BUT if they go down and start rolling from side to side you need to get them up and if necessary try to keep them walking as there is a risk of them twisting their bowel when they roll (which can cause death quite quickly). One of the first things we will ask you when we arrive is if you would consider referral to an equine specialist centre, this is because some of the causes of colic can only be fixed with surgery and we want to get your horse there as quickly as possible to give them the best chance of survival.

So how do we know if a horse needs surgery? Well this can be tricky. The heart rate, gum colour, temperature and gut sounds (or lack of) help give us a picture as to the severity of the colic and chances of survival. Sometimes we'll use a needle to try to see if there is fluid accumulating in the abdomen.

Medical management is aimed at pain relief and ensuring the gut is moving in the right direction.

- Intravenous injections of pain relief, often several different types
- Sometimes stomach tubing with electrolytes and/or paraffin oil.

Further investigation as to the cause may be needed which may include blood tests, faecal tests and more.

PREVENTION

- Good quality feed, including plenty of roughage (ie hay), grass—but be careful of laminitis!
- Regular worming
- Regular dental care
- Access to good quality water
- Plenty of opportunity to move. Horses are made to roam long distances with other horses. Stabling and isolation can lead to many health problems.

