

WINTER 2023

WANGARATTA VETERINARY CLINIC



Knee Injuries

Knee injuries are common in both big and small dogs and cause a lot of discomfort for your fur baby.

Patella luxation (dislocated knee cap) is seen most commonly in small breed dogs. Sometimes laxity in the knee is detected when they are young but a lot of the time the condition rears its head as they get old or after a traumatic event. Affected dogs may show intermittent lameness. They may run with the leg held completely off the ground and then appear normal a short time later.

Another traumatic knee injury seen in all sizes of dogs is a ruptured cruciate ligament. (The same injury as a footballer doing their ACL.) Through stopping quickly, sudden turns or trauma a dog can rupture their ligament. The cruciate ligament provides stability in the knee. When this ligament is torn there is significant pain and often dogs will not weight bear on their leg.

For both injuries most cases require corrective surgery. Generally after any of the surgeries, with good rehab, we expect the dog to make a full recovery.

Never ignore your dog's limp as there may be more going on than just a bit of soreness.



Jo's Jabber

Not long to go now.... At this stage it looks like we will be able to welcome you back into our new building from mid-July!! Then our fgnamus building team will start working on the back half... Woo hoo! Over Autumn we've had people away at courses and on holidays to sunnier climates (and plenty of colds and flu keeping our team at home too).

Some of our team tackled the Grand Traverse in March – walking 32km from Falls Creek to Mount Hotham. Adam and Peta ran it in just over 4 hours!

We are excited to welcome Freya back from her maternity leave in June – she'll be back on deck in a part time capacity. We will also be welcoming a new vet, Grace, starting at the end of August. And Maddie has become a home owner – but not sure she and kelpie Lexi will want to leave Adam and Jo's little unit!

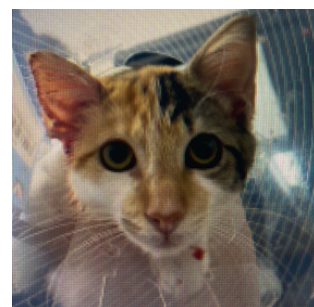
At home, Clare's sports are in full swing and she's thrown an umpiring job into the mix – after her first game she called her older brother (with no greeting or sign off) to announce: "I have a job before you do." Boom. Meanwhile Oliver spent Autumn collecting aluminium cans to melt down to make a chassis. For something. However he hit a hurdle and is now working out how to make his furnace produce more heat. He has been instructed no flames inside the shed...

I hope you get your moccasins out and enjoy this winter.



Case of the Quarter

Dr Emily saw Belinda when she was just 5 months old for a head tilt and large mass growing out of her right ear. To remove the mass that was growing from deep in her ear, Dr Emily and Dr Adam performed a total ear canal ablation. This surgery removes the ear canal and associated structures but leaves the pinnae (ear flap) unchanged. Surgery went well and Belinda is now back to her playful cheeky self!





Get to know Gaby!

GABY APARICIO - VETERINARY NURSE

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?

I feel love - Donna Sumer

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

A capybara - they spend their days hanging out in the sun & have no issues making friends.

Where is home?

Wherever my partner is and El Salvador.

What keeps you out of trouble?

I try to do the right thing, even when people aren't watching.

What would your best friend say is your best quality?

I'm a good listener.

Pets at home:

Benny, my beautiful cat and Duchess, my crazy 10 month old Clumber Spaniel.

Favourite...

Lolly: Anything other than liquorice!

Vegetable: Broccoli

Singer/Band: Kimbra

Movie: Paprika

A deadly Winter - Grass Tetany

DR JOANNE WILLIAMS

Lush grass pastures and lactating cows are unfortunately the perfect combination for dead cows! The loss of just 3 well-conditioned cows could mean \$3500 out of your holiday fund!

Over Winter and into Spring grass tetany (hypomagnesaemia = low magnesium) will be the cause of many sudden deaths in cattle. Cold, cloudy and rainy conditions see a rise in the number of cases particularly when this is followed by a warm period. There are many predisposing factors for grass tetany which include lush pastures that have been heavily fertilised with nitrogen or potassium, an episode of reduced feed intake as seen with bad weather (although my intake tends to go up - comfort food!), low calcium diets or infectious diarrhoea.

Clinical signs relate to nerve and muscle issues including ear twitching, grinding of the teeth, muscle tremors and aggression. These cows are usually highly responsive to noise and other stimuli and will charge anything!! The most acute cases show spasms, convulsions, frothing and death within minutes.

Treatment involves giving magnesium and calcium solutions (such as 4in1) intravenously. Sometimes the really aggressive girls need sedation first. The IV treatment needs to be given slowly due to the risk of death and their heart is generally monitored throughout.

Initial treatment is followed by oral magnesium (such as hay with Causemag) for 1-2 days, as relapses are common.

Hay treated with Causemag is also the most common preventative. Other options include magnesium in water, magnesium licks or rumen bullets. Most importantly minimising the risks such as reducing stressful periods in late pregnant and lactating cattle. If grass tetany is a big problem on your farm, prevention should include pasture management to ensure cattle are receiving adequate magnesium.

There are a number of reputable grass tetany resources online including the agriculture Victoria website.

As always our veterinarians are available to answer your questions or help find a solution for your problem.

FUN FACT

A common garden snail has 14,000 teeth

EYE ROLLER

What do you call dental x-rays?
Toothpics!

