

COX STREET VETS QUARTERLY

Small Animal and Equine Vet Clinic and Hospital



Merry Christmas!

As you gear up for the Christmas holiday season all of us at Cox Street Vets want to wish you and your pets a very merry Christmas and holiday season!

Photo competition:

Do you think your pet is the cutest pet in Hamilton? This year we are having a photo competition, looking for a summer happy snap captured on camera! Be creative and have fun.

Send in a Christmas photo of your pet by email to us at admin@coxstreetvets.com.au or drop it into the clinic.



Preparing for summer

Top Tips:

- ❖ Hair cut time: It's grass seed season so it's a good idea to get your pooch clipped for summer. Ask your groomer to trim the feet extra short.
- ❖ Get up to date with vaccinations if your pet is going on a boarding holiday this summer or even if not, keep your pet safe and healthy this holiday season.
- ❖ Prevent parasites; fleas, mosquitoes (that may carry heartworm), we keep a range of medications for sale that can help with this.
- ❖ As you have friends and family round for a Sunday cook-up, keep your pets away from the BBQ to prevent burns. Don't let them eat cooked bones as this could make them sick.

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Christmas holiday dates

This year the clinic will close at 5:30pm Christmas Eve and reopen Tuesday 29th December. We will also be closed on New Year's Day. Remember we have a vet on call 24/7 for all emergencies.

At Cox Street Vets we deliver high quality veterinary care as well as exceptional client service.

We care for your pets at Cox Street Vets.

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Puppy School 2016

Puppy school runs over a period of 4 weeks where you and your puppy will learn many skills and have the chance to socialise with other puppies. The next course commences on Thursday 4th February 2016.

Please call us for more details.

Snake bite season is upon us

A serious emergency

As summer draws near, those hot Hamilton days have begun to bring snakes out, about and active. Pet owners need to be careful and aware, looking out for the warning signs that indicate an animal has been bitten.

Snake bite is extremely painful and can be fatal if left untreated. In Australia there are around 3000 pets bitten by snakes every year. Half of these are due to brown snakes and the other half are attributed to tiger snakes, taipans, and death adders. Here in Hamilton we mostly see brown and tiger snakes. It is in the nature of our furry friends to go hunting for prey so we have been seeing a lot of snake-pet interactions.



The signs of snake bite differ between dogs and cats. For dogs the common signs are: vomiting, collapse, dilated pupils (often but not always), wobbly walking, lethargy, or trembling. For our cats, they rarely vomit. It is more common for them to be unable to walk. Of course if you see a snake as well this should increase your level of suspicion.

Treatment

If your pet has been bitten by a snake the best treatment for them is antivenom. This is a very expensive medication due to the complexity of how it is made. For best case survival rates it's the only way to go. The next step is fluid therapy to flush the snake toxins out of your pets system, strong pain relief, and a lot of TLC. We can tell if they are improving by testing the level of muscle damage with a quick blood test here at the

clinic. It can take anywhere from 2-7 days of hospitalisation for them to start improving if treated with antivenom. They then need to be rested and not exercised at all for at least another two weeks. If not treated with antivenom the process is longer and sometimes they don't make it.



There's not much that can be done to prevent your animal from being bitten as they do love to chase snakes. Things that can be done include: keeping your lawn short, elevate water bowls where cats and dogs can get them but snakes cannot, and don't leave dog or cat food out as this encourages rats and snakes to catch rats for dinner bringing the snakes close to the house.

If it's a warm day and your dog suddenly vomits or your cat cannot walk, call us and bring them into the clinic ASAP!