CAMPERDOWN VETERINARY CENTRE

Small Animal Newsletter Autumn 2022

CVC CLINIC NEWS

Our CVC family is expanding! We would like to welcome back two familiar faces to our team…. after working here in a locum role over the past two years, both **Dr Carolyn Simpson** and **Dr Bec Farris** are back again at CVC, this time to stay as part of our ongoing dedicated small animal team. In addition, we are excited that **Nurse Shanae** and **Trainee Nurse Nikita** have also joined our ranks. They are all very welcome additions to our team and bring with them a wealth of knowledge and passion. Meanwhile, **Nurse Zoie** is preparing for maternity leave at the end of March to start feathering the nest and duck home for a quick family visit before her baby arrives.

Keep an eye out for our new team members and say hello—as you know, we all love a chat!

Camperdown Veterinary Centre

1 Leura Street , Camperdown

Ph: (03) 5593 1077

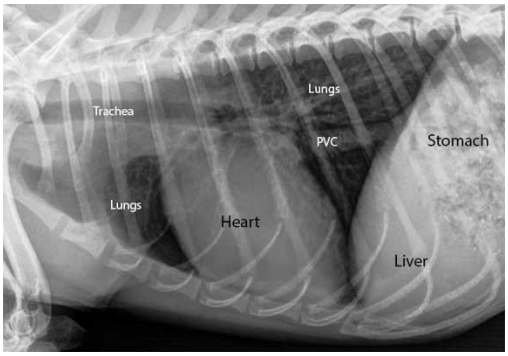
Hours:

- 8:00am – 5:30pm (Monday – Friday)
- 9.00am – 12:00pm (Saturday)

Medication and food collections only on Saturday mornings

24-hour emergency service available call 5593 1077

WE HAVE GONE DIGITAL!



More exciting news for the CVC clinic – we have recently upgraded our x-ray machine to **digital radiography**. This is a state of the art machine that sends the x-ray taken by our staff directly to the computer for analysis.

We're sure you can appreciate the benefits for our staff but what does this mean for your pet?

Digital radiography is much **faster** and **clearer** than previous forms of radiograph technology. This enables a much quicker and more comfortable turnaround for your pet which means less stress and less radiation exposure than before. It also produces a much clearer image than our old x-ray system, allowing us to identify irregularities more easily. With this diagnostic tool, we can create more specific and detailed treatment plans for your pets.

Since all radiographs are sent directly to our computer, we can also now show you your pet's radiographs in consult—facilitating discussions between our vets and our pet owners thus aiding and improving understanding and treatment of various conditions in your pets.

All images are able to be stored on your pet's individual file allowing future comparisons to be made. It also allows easy access if we need to send your fur-baby to a specialist for a second opinion or referral.

While we hope your pet never requires x-rays, we are very pleased that we can now offer such a fantastic diagnostic service to our CVC family.

OUR DERRINALLUM CLINIC IS BACK!

Our Derri Clinic is back and operating on the first Thursday of every month. Appointments will be available from 9:30AM and bookings are essential.

Please call the clinic on 5593 1077 to make an appointment.

RAT BAIT TOXICITY

With winter comes mice, and with mice comes the use of rat bait (rodenticides). Rodenticides contain anticoagulants which impair the ability of blood to clot.

In healthy dogs when bleeding occurs, the coagulation cascade is activated which allows blood to clot so your pet does not haemorrhage. However, rodenticides stop the production of the coagulation cascade which means that even small injuries such as hitting their tail on the door can result in life-threatening haemorrhage.

CLINICAL SIGNS

Lethargy, pale gums, bleeding from nose, mouth, ears, or in urine or faeces, coughing blood, difficulty breathing, bruising or unusual swelling, collapse.

Often clinical signs will not develop immediately following ingestion. It can take up to 7/10 days for clinical signs to develop.

The earlier we can intervene, the better the outcome for your pet. If you suspect your pet may have eaten bait, for example, if you find an opened packet or disturbed bait, **contact your vet immediately**. We may be able to treat before clinical signs develop, avoiding a life threatening event.

What to do if you see your pet eating rat bait:

This is a medical emergency, and you should **call the vet clinic immediately.** Vomiting can generally me induced if consumption has happened in the last 1-2 hours. The vet will then assess if further treatment is required.

What to do if you suspect your pet has eaten rodenticide over the last few days:

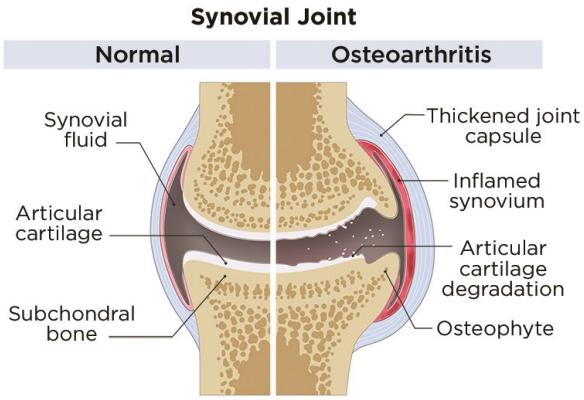
Call the clinic immediately. Your vet will be able to measure your dog or cat's clotting ability to assess if a toxic dose has been consumed.

Treatment:

Treatment for rat bait ingestion will vary depending on how long ago the bait was consumed. If your pet has consumed rat bait within 1 hour of presenting to the clinic, then vomiting will be induced to help reduce absorption of the poison. If your pet already has clinical signs, Vitamin K therapy will be administered. In severe cases, intravenous fluids and plasma or blood transfusions may be required.

As always, prevention is better than cure! If you choose to use rat baits, ensure they are not placed anywhere that is accessible to your pets or that they cannot be dislodged or moved by vermin into accessible areas. Baits are designed to be highly palatable and enticing for vermin and as such are extremely tasty to dogs and cats. **Unfortunately, it is not unheard of for some patients to be 'repeat offenders' once they get a taste.**

OSTEOARTHRITIS



Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis in dogs and cats. It is a chronic disease of the joint characterised by loss of joint cartilage, thickening of the joint capsule and the development of new bone around and within the joint's space. This results in decreased range of motion and joint pain.

DIAGNOSTICS

Diagnosis of arthritis can generally be made through a combination of consultation with your veterinarian, physical examination and radiographs.

TREATMENT

The best treatment for arthritis is prevention. While arthritis can come hand in hand with aging, there are things you can do to help prevent or prolong the onset of arthritis as well as minimising severity. The best prevention method is to ensure your pet is not overweight. Excess weight puts unnecessary wear and tear on joints fast-tracking development of arthritis.

CLINICAL SIGNS:

Exercise intolerance

Pain when exercising

Slow to rise in the morning

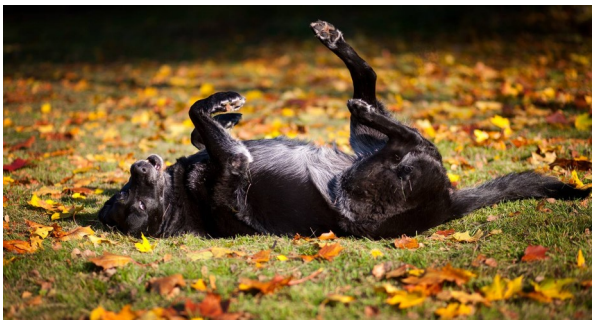
Stiffness

Lameness

Inability to jump

Changes in gait such as bunny-hopping

There are a range of medications that can help improve quality of life in patients with arthritis. Our clinic offers cartrophen injections which act to improve the quantity and quality of synovial fluid (fluid that lubricates joints). It also promotes cartilage repair to help improve range of motion in joints. Cartrophen can be given to dogs as a preventative measure or in combination with other medications to help treat arthritis. Other treatments for arthritis include joint supplements, anti-inflammatories, and pain relief. If you think your pet might have arthritis and you want to help them get that spring back in their step, talk to your veterinarian about what treatment options are appropriate.



FLEA TREATMENT

While the months are starting to get cooler it is important to maintain flea prevention in our pets. Fleas are not only annoying to our pets, they can be responsible for a range of diseases including anaemia and flea bite dermatitis, a severe allergy resulting in hair loss and severe itching.

Our clinic stocks a range of products for the treatment and prevention of fleas in both cats and dogs. As always, our friendly and informative staff are always happy to have a chat with you to work out the best product for your pet.

MEET THE TEAM

CAROLYN SIMPSON

Caz grew up on an orchard in Bacchus Marsh and spent time working on their sheep farm at Meredith. Along with a number of childhood dogs and cats, they had a 40 year old pet turtle Herbie, which was her fathers as a child. She graduated from Charles Sturt University at Wagga in 2012 before moving back to Bacchus Marsh for her first job in Mixed Practice.

She moved over to the South West in 2014 after purchasing the old Garvoc Pub with husband Gavin. Over the last 8 years, between stints at Terang, Hampden and CVC, they have outnumbered themselves with 4 young children; Charlie, Sophie, Millie and finally Archie completing their family in December 2020. They have two dogs Ned and Nellie, Fergus the cat and growing flocks of sheep and chooks. Since returning to CVC in 2022, Caz is keeping busy in the clinic in a small animal vet role. She has a keen interest in small animal surgery and is always up for a challenge.

In her "spare time", Caz loves boxing in Warrnambool, tending to her large veggie garden, preserving her own fruit and veggies and meeting new people when holding cooking classes as a Thermomix Consultant. She is also a passionate blood donor and advocate, accomplishing her 100th donation in 2021.

BEC FARIS

Rebecca Faris recently joined our team as a small animal vet. Bec knows Camperdown Vet Centre well after spending much of her student placements with us almost 20 years ago!

She brings a range of experience with her, from a childhood on a sheep farm in NSW through 10 years of mixed practice where she focussed on dairy medicine and successfully gained Membership of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists.

Since 2013 she has balanced raising a family with small animal vet work and brings a passion for preventative care including dentistry.

Never one to stop learning, in 2019 she completed post-graduate studies in Applied Positive Psychology and we are excited to share her wisdom in coaching our team to promote their own wellbeing so they can continue to support your pets' and farm health.

Outside of work Bec loves to grow her own food, bake cakes and go on "family adventures" in the hills, forests and beaches of our diverse region.