



## BEACONSFIELD VETERINARY CENTRE PET CARE NEWS



September 2011

### IN THIS ISSUE



1. Addy's article
2. In need of loving home
3. Bee and wasp stings
4. Green thumbs and safe paws
5. Alert Alert!
6. Case study: canine coronavirus
7. Where has all the wildlife gone? The extinction crisis in Northern Australia
8. Five good reasons to scoop the poop

#### 1. Addy's article

'There's one day in September, we want to remember!'

Well the ads are going to have to come up with a new saying because the Grand Final is not in September this year. That's right, the AFL Grand Final will be held on the first weekend of October.

Beaconsfield Vet Centre has once again held a footy tipping competition for all of our clients, friends and staff. So how has everyone been going? I have not had much luck this year, but then again, I am choosing my team based on food.

To celebrate the AFL Grand Finals I would like to encourage everyone to get dressed up in their footy team's colours and even get your pets involved. If you or your pet wears your footy team colours on Grand Final day you will get 10% off your Consultation or Vaccination.

[Back to top](#)

#### 2. In need of loving home

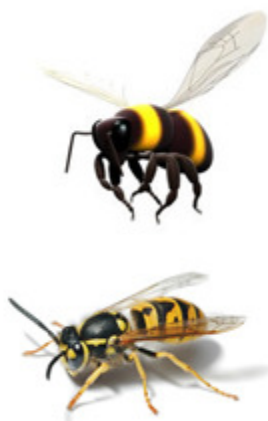


At the clinic we have an energetic and cheeky 6 month old kitten 'Cougar' looking for a loving home. Cougar has been vaccinated, microchipped and desexed. If you are looking for a new member for your family and have the space for him to play then 'Cougar' may be the right kitten for you. Please contact the clinic for more details.

[Back to top](#)

#### 3. Bee and wasp stings

As we come into spring and the warmer weather there are more



insects, like bees and wasps around. Our pets are also more likely to be outside and sometimes their paths may cross resulting in our pets, particularly our dogs getting stung by an insect. If an insect stings your animal it is important to seek veterinary advice.

#### What will I see if my pet is stung by a bee or wasp?

Bee and wasp stings usually cause localised pain and swelling, and only rarely cause severe toxicity.

#### **Local reactions:**

- Immediate pain, which the animal may show by barking or yelping
- Irritation at the site, which the animal may show by rubbing or pawing at the area
- Redness
- Inflammation/swelling around the site of the sting

If the sting is on the tongue or in the mouth the local swelling can potentially cause difficulties breathing. Stings to the facial area may also prevent panting and therefore a dog's ability to control its own body temperature.

#### **Toxic reactions:**

Toxic reactions usually occur if an animal has suffered multiple stings. They may include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Low blood pressure
- Fever
- Very rarely more severe effects

#### **Allergic reactions:**

In animals that are sensitised to stings breathing difficulties and collapse may occur.

#### What does the treatment involve?

If your pet appears to be stung by a bee or wasp it is important to seek veterinary care.

If the sting is from a bee and the stinger is still present the stinger should be removed by flicking or scraping it away (eg. with a piece of card). It should not be squeezed or pulled out from the skin as this may release more venom into the wound.

Treatment of local reactions usually is only supportive. It may involve use of anti-histamines if deemed necessary and steroids if there is severe local swelling or the sting involves the mouth or face.

Toxic reactions are usually treated with supportive care also. In some cases IV fluids and antibiotics may be required.

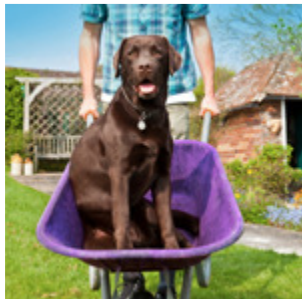
Acute allergic reactions causing severe breathing difficulties may require more intensive treatment like adrenaline.

With prompt veterinary treatment your pets will usually make a full recovery and soon be back to playing outside again. If you suspect

your pet may have been stung by an insect or if you have any other queries related to your pet please do not hesitate to contact us.

[Back to top](#)

#### 4. Green thumbs and safe paws



With the buds blooming and the sun sparkling it is a good time to get out in the garden. Your pet may wish to help out with you but remember there are many hidden dangers:

**Snail and Slug Bait:** On the garden or in the box, these are very attractive to pets. Ingestion of small quantities can be rapidly fatal. Products that claim they are pet safe are bitter and only act as a deterrent. Some pets will *still* eat these highly toxic baits so consider if these baits are necessary in your garden

**Fertiliser:** Pets love the smell and taste of some fertilisers and if eaten, these can prove rapidly toxic or even fatal



**Compost:** The garden compost heap is very attractive to your pet but the contents contain bacteria, moulds and toxins all of which can make your pet very sick

**Rat and mouse baits:** These are very toxic and unfortunately very attractive to pets. Ingestion causes internal bleeding and your pet can become unwell before you are even aware

**Insecticides and weed killers:** These are toxic to pets and should be safely stored and locked up

**Avoid poisonous plants** such as rhododendrons and azaleas, daffodil bulbs and daphne. Lilies, if ingested are poisonous to cats so it is best to avoid these too

**IF YOUR PET INGESTS ANY OF THE ABOVE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY**

Does your pet like to help out in the garden? [Click here](#) to see a dog that does!



[Back to top](#)

#### 5. Alert Alert!



Recently there has been a rodent plague in many parts of Australia and our pets are at risk. Rat and mouse baits have been placed in many areas, around houses, sheds, factories and shops. As a result, vets are seeing many poisoned pets, often some time after the bait has been eaten.

Dogs that are let off leash and allowed to scavenge are particularly at risk but cats that ingest poisoned rodents are also in danger.

Rat and mouse baits, also known as rodenticides are anticoagulants. Ingestion of even a small amount of a rodenticide

can cause internal bleeding and eventually death if not treated immediately.



Signs of toxicity may occur 4-7 days (or longer) after ingestion and *might* include:

- Lethargy and weakness
- Nose bleeds
- Bruising
- Blood in the stools or in urine
- Profuse bleeding from wounds
- Seizures

Call us if you think your pet is displaying any of these signs.

If you see your pet ingest bait you should visit us immediately. If we can induce vomiting before your pet shows any signs of toxicity, the outcome is likely to be better.

### **ANOTHER ALERT!**

The potentially fatal paralysis tick is out and about again especially along the *east coast of Australia*.

If you are travelling with your pet to a tick prone area or live in one of these areas make sure you have tick prevention under control.

Ask us about the best prevention for your pet.

[Back to top](#)

### **6. Case study: canine coronavirus**



Patient: Max  
 Species: Canine  
 Breed: Pug  
 Age: 9 months  
 Signs: vomiting, diarrhoea and loss of appetite

A veterinary examination revealed that Max was very dehydrated. He was immediately admitted for intensive rehydration via an intravenous drip. Tests of a faecal sample at the laboratory confirmed that Max was infected with canine coronavirus.

This disease is highly contagious and is spread via the faeces of infected dogs. The virus invades the intestine and damages the brush like "villi" that are responsible for normal function of the gut.

In most cases, the signs of this disease are only mild and death is rare. There are however potential risks for complications as infection with coronavirus makes the intestinal cells more susceptible to canine parvovirus infection, a very serious and potentially fatal disease.

Thankfully Max was not infected with parvovirus and made a slow but successful recovery to a happy and healthy dog.

There is vaccine available to help prevent against Canine coronavirus. Puppies are more susceptible to the virus as are the dogs that are at increased risk of exposure (such as breeding dogs or show dogs).



Ask us for more information and if a vaccination is required for your dog.

[Back to top](#)



## 7. Where has all the wildlife gone? The extinction crisis in Northern Australia

There has been a catastrophic decline in the diversity and abundance of small mammals across northern Australia. Even iconic areas, such as Kakadu National Park, have not escaped this extinction crisis with the abundance of small mammals in Kakadu having declined by 75% in the last 15 years.

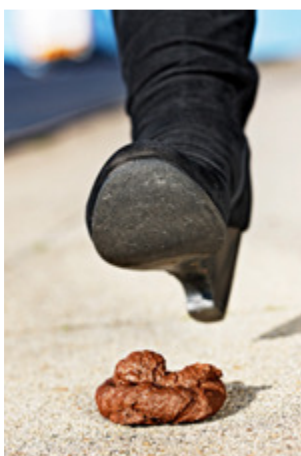
The precise causes of the decline are likely to involve the interaction of altered fire regimes, feral herbivores and feral cats. Urgent intervention is required if we are to reverse this decline and prevent further extinctions.

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) is securing the future of Australia's threatened wildlife through its commitment to science and practical approach to on ground conservation. Their Mornington Wildlife Sanctuary in the Kimberley is the only protected area in northern Australia to have recorded an increase in native mammal populations.

AWC is now seeking to replicate its success at Mornington with its Northern Mammal Recovery Project by carrying out a series of large-scale land management interventions at sanctuaries in key regions across northern Australia. You can read more in their latest newsletter [Wildlife Matters](#).

September is Biodiversity month and AWC needs your help. To donate and to read more about the AWC visit [www.australianwildlife.org](http://www.australianwildlife.org).

[Back to top](#)



## 8. Five good reasons to scoop the poop

1. Rainwater washes pet waste directly into our river systems and the sea which can affect our flora and fauna
2. Dog poo may contain harmful organisms (such as E.coli and Giardia, roundworms and hookworms) that can be transmitted to humans and other animals if ingested
3. It is the law in most urban and suburban areas
4. Cleaning up daily in your yard can help prevent odours
5. No one likes to step in dog poo and your neighbours will appreciate you!

[Back to top](#)



Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre  
14 Wood St  
Beaconsfield 3807  
ph 9769 8777

[www.beaconsfieldvet.com.au](http://www.beaconsfieldvet.com.au)

**Your registered email address is:**  
**Please do not reply to this newsletter.**  
**To unsubscribe from this newsletter [click here](#)**  
**To change your email address [click here](#)**  
**To contact the clinic, refer a friend or report a technical issue [click here](#)**

This email contains comments of a general nature only and is not intended to be a substitute for professional veterinary advice. It should not be relied on as the basis for whether you do or don't do anything.  
© 2008 PET PACK Pty Ltd.