



BerryHaven Veterinary Group

BERRY: 1/78 ALBERT STREET BERRY 2535 NSW PH: (02) 4464 3986

SHOALHAVEN HEADS: 2/133 SHOALHAVEN HEADS RD., SHOALHAVEN HEADS NSW 2535 PH: (02) 4448 5621

TALKING ABOUT YOUR PETS **Issue #14**

Hello from Mark



Lynda had proven herself once again at the Australian Squash Masters Tournament, where she won her singles age group championship. My NSW team suffered at the hands of some very handy players - some would have called us "cannon fodder" but I reckon it was the Ballarat hospitality that had something to do with it.

What a great city to visit, but it did put on some very cold and wet weather. I don't know how the gold miners survived living in tents. There was a huge number of dogs in town walking around the lake every day with their owners. We saw a large group training in the Botanical Gardens next to the lake- a very social and enjoyable event.

If you ever go to Ballarat, make sure you spend a day at Sovereign Hill and definitely go to the night show which was awesome.

On the home front, we are in tick season and we are tackling this year head on with a new campaign "No dog should die from paralysis ticks". The old days of spot-ons and tick rinses are gone! More of this later.

BHVG Comes to You FREE!

FREE HOUSE CALL & DROP OFF

BHVG has always run a FREE house call, pet pickup and delivery service, delivery of food and medications to people residing in the 2535 postcode. Vaccination and consultation prices are the same as if you came to the clinic.

Call 4448 5621

**FREE Bravecto Day: Monday 16th Oct 11am-1pm
At Shoalhaven Heads - Promoted by PowerFM
and the Street Beast Cars!**

NOW IS THE TIME FOR A SMART NEW SOLUTION...

NEW BRAVECTO®

THE ONLY ORAL CHEW TO DELIVER 3 MONTHS FLEA AND 4 MONTHS PARALYSIS TICK PROTECTION FOR DOGS IN A SINGLE DOSE.

BHVG's number one flea and tick preventative
Automatic SMS reminders upon purchasing

For 3 years in a row, I saw 3 tick cases in the mid to late winter, and boy were they sick! The toxin appears to be much stronger early in the tick season.

It also appears ticks are around all year. Maybe it's to do with global warming and the milder winter weather.

So, this year, it's my dream that no dog should die of paralysis ticks this season.

And to achieve this, MSD, who make Bravecto, have offered to hand out a FREE Bravecto to each dog who visits us on Monday 16th Oct between 11am-1pm.

That's right! Absolutely FREE. That's a saving of between \$60-\$80!

New pets to BHVG will have their weight recorded so they get the correct sized packet, and their owners will be asked to provide their contact details so we can setup future 3 monthly reminders.

New pets will also get a FREE nail clip. How good is that!

But, it only runs for 2 hours on Monday 16th October between 11am-1pm at BerryHaven Veterinary Group at 2/133 Shoalhaven Heads Rd, Shoalhaven Heads.

**FOR MORE DETAILS
CONTACT BHVG 4448 5621**

SDMA Senior Blood Test Success

Thanks to the brand new SDMA blood test, our recent 6 monthly senior programme detected 7 pets in kidney failure who appeared healthy and had normal standard kidney blood tests.

They have been placed on special kidney failure diets to prolong their life and slow down the spiralling kidney disease process.

During the senior programme, we also detected 2 dogs with Cushing's disease and 4 with urinary tract infections; all now receiving therapy. Quite a number of pets had teeth and gums that needed attention, and a few suspicious lumps were removed.

Our regular patients over 7 years of age all receive a free senior check and nail clip every 6 months to make sure they stay in top shape. Prevention is so much better than cure.

If you missed out, call BHVG on 4448 5621 to book your pet in for a FREE Senior Health Check and Nail Clip.

Symptoms of Tick Paralysis

Sick pets can start off with vague symptoms that gradually worsen over a short time...

- Slightly slow getting up from a rest
- A light huffy “exhaling” sort of cough
- Cats sometimes make a terrible howling/crying out sound like they are being throttled
- Some pets will have a sore area where the tick is attached, so check it out thoroughly
- Ticks can cause local paralysis also. If on the side of the head, the eye on that side may not be able to blink and/or the lip may be drooping.

Note: The tick anti serum works very well in these early cases, but much less so the worse the symptoms become. Start calling BHVG on (02) 4448 5621 now (24 Hours Emergency)

With further delay...

- Weakness in all 4 legs
- Difficulty in breathing with marked effort involved
- Collapse
- Excessive drooling
- Vomiting
- Blue gums (cyanosis)
- Death

In Sydney, some of these serious cases end up on a ventilator and 24-hour emergency care, and quickly run up bills up to and over \$10,000 with no guarantee of success.

Tick Searching

Hopefully, your long-haired pet is no longer long-haired i.e. it's already been clipped in early spring.

Start with Marks Finger Tap Trick

If the tick is on one side of the head, the eye on the same side is often paralysed and can't blink. This is the first thing I check for in a suspect tick case. Do a light finger tap close to the outside

edge of each eye to check the eyelids can blink. If there is no blink, there is a very high chance the tick is on the same side of the head, so start looking.

Tick Searching the Body

90% of ticks are from the shoulders forward where pets can't bite and remove the tick when they first feel it on their skin. Having said that, other areas to thoroughly check are...

- The bottom and genitals (you know, those areas you don't really want to check)
- High up in between the toes where your finger can't go
- Tail (even the very tip)
- Ear flaps and ear canals - a favourite spot for ticks

Position yourself in front of your pet & run your fingers against the fur i.e. from tail towards the head using both hands. Do one section of the body at a time e.g. right side of the neck, top of the neck, left side of neck etc. Straighten out the neck when finger searching as loose skin folds make it hard to feel a tick- it may be easier to lay the pet on its side and have another person stretch out the head so the skin on the neck is nice and tight.

When you Find a Tick

Don't apply metho or other chemicals on it as they aggravate the tick before it dies making it release more poison. Use a Tick Remover (available at BHVG) or a fine pair of forceps. Place the remover as low down as possible to the skin below the tick before giving a quick twisting pull to remove it. Don't worry if you leave the head behind- the tick is dead and is not going to inject more poison.

Is that it once I have pulled out the tick?

No! If the tick has already injected some toxin into the skin e.g. in the last hour, pulling it out does not stop the toxin going on its way around the body. You must keep an eye out for early symptoms for up to 2-3 days as this is how long it can take for the toxin to work. Also remember that if you found one tick, there is a high chance there is another one (or even more) on the body so keep searching.

When to Come to the Vet

The tick anti-serum only works in the first few hours of symptoms starting. The actual antibodies in the serum are really good at destroying tick toxin in the blood stream, but are too big to “seek and destroy” the toxin once it leaves the blood and travels down nerves to paralyse muscles.



**So... DON'T DELAY ONE MINUTE!
CALL BHVG ON (02) 4448 5621
ASAP so the staff can start
getting ready for your pet to go
straight onto treatment EVERY
MINUTE COUNTS!**

First Snake Bite of the Season

Mark had to treat Jack (an inquisitive cocker spaniel) last weekend who had been bitten by a very large black snake. Luckily, the owners phoned ahead, allowing Mark time to setup the IV drip and anti-venom while they were on their way.

The side of his face was very swollen and painful, and he was very weak and had distressed breathing.

There were 2 large puncture wounds on the side of his neck (see photo). He was given snake anti-venom and



placed on a drip and oxygen overnight. By the next morning, he was barking and looking much better and went home on Monday full of beans.

Make sure your yards contain no rubbish that snakes can hide under. If bitten, make sure you phone ahead to save precious minutes.



Worming Reminder

Is it time for your pet's 3 monthly intestinal wormer? Worming is very important as some products do not protect against all intestinal worms. Please check and see which medication your pet is on or ask us for advice on which product is best suited to you and your pet.





Want the Best Food for Your Pets? Hills Vet Essentials (VE) is the Go!

Pet owners often ask me what the best food to feed their pets is. Besides raw bones, not chicken bones though, you can't go past Hill's Vet Essentials (VE) for cats and dogs.

Hill's have combined 5 of their best-selling dry foods into one product giving **EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY.**

Our regular VIP patients receive \$5 OFF small bags (<7kg) and \$10.00 OFF large bags (>7kg) when they purchase any Hills pet food (prescription or VE).

Benefits include:

• **Dental care**

large harder biscuits strip tartar off the teeth

• **Joint health**

lots of glucosamine, chondroitin and fatty acids

• **Healthy digestion**

high in fibre

• **Skin health**

lots of omega fatty acids

• **Urinary health in cats**

prevents crystal formation

NEW!



How to Avoid Buying a Dud Dog from a Puppy Farm



If you have your sights set on a pedigree dog, here's a few tips to ensure you don't run into trouble.

- 1) The breeder will be happy for you to visit the establishment. Absolutely no ordering of pups online with delivery to remote addresses. It's very easy to disguise a puppy farm with a spruced-up webpage, and you will be discouraged from visiting.
- 2) There will be nice clean kennels and surrounds with all dogs (including the parents) being in good shape with plenty of room to run around. Certainly, no caged animals.
- 3) The pup will have had a vet check-up, first vaccines, microchip (compulsory) and have been wormed.
- 4) The microchip details would be transferred to the new owners by the breeder at point of purchase.
- 5) The breeder would give you copies of the parents' hip and elbow x-ray scores to minimise the chance of hip or elbow dysplasia in your new pup.
- 6) If extra good, the breeder will also give you the results of DNA scans on both parents to rule out certain hereditary conditions for that breed e.g. eye disease, haemophilia.
- 7) The breeder will be recommending a high-quality puppy dry food and no supplements and no raw chicken.
- 8) There would be no talk of hip or elbow dysplasia being caused by incorrect diets and the puppy "growing too fast", especially if the breeder has not given you copies of the parent's hip and elbow scores. Walk away ASAP if you hear any of this nonsense.

bhvg BerryHaven Veterinary Group
24 HOUR Emergency Cover
02 4448 5621

Phone Ahead & Save Precious Minutes!

If you have an emergency e.g. snake bite, tick bite, hit by car, CALL BHVG on (02) 448 5621 **FIRST** before travelling to ensure a vet is available and we can start organising drugs, IV drips, oxygen etc. before you get here. This is very important for snake and tick bites. Every minute counts!

Appointment System

Both our Berry and Shoalhaven Heads clinics work on an appointment system. This helps you avoid long queues and allows vets time to do house calls, perform long operations or even duck out to get a bite of lunch.

When it's time to euthanise a pet, we like to have an empty waiting room for our upset clients. To avoid disappointment and distress, please phone ahead and make an appointment.

Emergencies take priority over any routine procedures, but call ahead of you are on your way.



Joke Corner



Q: What do you call Alpacas taking over the world?
A: The Alpacalypse.

Q: What do you call a pile of kittens?
A: a meowntain

Q: What are four hundred rabbits hopping backwards?
A: A receding hare line.

Q: What bird movie won an Oscar?
A: Lord of the Wings.

Aussie Pooch Mobile



Dog need a Clip and Wash?

Contact Julie or Carey at Aussie Pooch Mobile



Carey used to fix up my car when it got a ding. He had a workshop in Nowra but got fed up with insurance companies giving him a hard time. Being a dog lover, he purchased a share in Aussie Pooch Mobile. Carey and his lovely wife, Julie, can come to your home to do a great clip and wash on your hairy dog.

**Call Carey on
0435 899 759**



Contact BHVG

Berry

1/78 Albert Street
Berry NSW 2535
Ph: (02) 4464 3986
A/H Emergency: (02) 4448 5621

OPEN:

Monday-Friday: 8:30am - 1pm
2:00pm - 5:30pm
Housecalls: 1pm to 2pm
Saturday: 9:00am - 10:45am

Shoalhaven Heads

2/133 Shoalhaven Heads Rd
Shoalhaven Heads NSW 2535
Ph: (02) 4448 5621
A/H Emergency: (02) 4448 5621

OPEN:

Monday-Friday: 8:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am - 12:00am

Want to Scratch the Itch in Your Dog?

Try Apoquel

The days of treating skin allergies with long term cortisone or anti-rejection drugs and their associated side effects is near to a close.

Whether it's a flea or contact allergy, or a case of breathing in pollens causing a "skin asthma attack" (atopy), Apoquel has risen through the mist to become the number one treatment worldwide for itchy dogs.

Apoquel has been shown to have similar anti-itching results to cortisone and cyclosporine without the side effects. Talk about great news!

It is more expensive than cortisone

but cheaper than cyclosporine. If you eliminate treating the nasty side effects of cortisone and having repeat visits to the vet, you are probably going to be spending the same amount on a yearly basis.

Apoquel is in stock now at BHVG. Book your itchy dog a skin appointment by calling 4448 5621 and get started on Apoquel.



BHVG Pet Gallery

Each newsletter we feature our very photogenic customers. Is your pet here? Make sure you get a snap shot at your next visit!



Cleo



Harvey



Leo



Little



Maud



Rosie



Smudge



Spike



Sterling