



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 #15

Hello from Mark



Mark, Graham, Catherine and their 2 dogs in the French Pyrenees

Well it's been an exhausting last few months starting with the FREE BRAVECTO day in October where we handed out over 120 FREE packets to dog owners in the area. Many thanks to MSD who provided the \$7,000 worth of product and sent their experts down for the day to answer any questions and promote the event.

We hope to repeat the exercise this year at both Berry and Shoalhaven Heads, so keep your eyes on these newsletters.

Lynda and I had a great time in October taking a break to visit overseas and catch-up up with some old friends in the UK and France. One of my best mates "Graham the Pommie vet" has a practice in the French Pyrenees and conducts butterfly tours in the warmer months. He and his wife, Catherine, and the 2 dogs took us on an extraordinary mountain walk and showed us the local sights- a real highlight.

I have been working 7 days a week and been on call every night for 7 years now (except for the odd break). I have been trying my best to ensure our clients see the same vet. We have had quite a number of new clients who are either disgruntled with seeing many different vets every time they visit, or are fed up with extortionate prices being charged by "corporatized vet hospitals" or Sydney based vets with higher overheads.

Many "holiday clients" or those who have moved to the area from the "big smoke", are pleasantly surprised to see the same vet each time and not be charged ridiculous prices (especially if the pet is found to be insured and then gets "super-sized").

New Team Members



Glynis and Philippa

Tony and Glynis Kuipers and Philippa Dakin Join BHVG Making Close to 100 Years of 100% Small Animal Experience

To help Mark with this substantial growth, he has, wait for it... finally taken on another 2 vets to help him out. But these are not just ordinary vets. Tony and Glynis Kuipers are VERY experienced vets who established South Nowra Vet Hospital in 1993 and sold last year. They have decided to lead a more relaxed work life and work just part time.

In addition, Philippa Dakin who was their head nurse for over 10 years, will be working part time at BHVG and conducting puppy and adult dog training classes (see later).

Tony is excellent at orthopaedic operations. In fact, I used to send my tricky cases down to him on a regular basis. Glynis is an extremely talented internal medicine vet who will also be on the scene.

So please make Tony, Glynis and Philippa feel welcome to BHVG. I am sure you will be absolutely impressed with the very high levels of medicine and surgery we can offer small pets, as all 3 vets are 100% Small Animal with close to 100 years of experience between them.



Tony Kuipers

FREE Senior Health Check-up



In the last 4 years, we have been running regular FREE SENIOR HEALTH CHECKS.

Pets, who are 7 years or older, get a FREE VETERINARY EXAMINATION of their body e.g. heart, abdomen, ears, eyes, lungs, teeth, skin.

How good is that! PLUS...the pet gets a FREE NAIL CLIP!

It's a great time for owners to mention something that may be on their mind e.g. slow to get up, losing weight, drinking more. Should we find a problem, early attention to it is a lot better than too late, especially with things like kidney and heart disease.

If you would like your pet to have one of these FREE CHECKUP & NAIL CLIP, call us on (02) 4448 5621 and we will book you in.

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

DOGGY DAY OUT



**22nd April
Shoalhaven Heads Pub
12.30pm**

**Come along with your
puppies & dogs**

**Celebrate LEWIE'S
16th birthday PAW-TY**

Activities include...

VET TO THE RESCUE

Local vet Sian Potter, from BERRYHAVEN Veterinary group, will be available from 1.30 to 2.30 to answer any questions regarding your furry friend's health.

**Sian will have a
BRAVECTO HAMPER
for a lucky dog to win in the
FREE RAFFLE DRAW.**

**♥ BEAUTIFUL DOG ♥
HAPPY DOG**

HAPPY FEET GROOMING
Princes Highway Bomaderry

**Meet Nicole & Tegan
From 1.30 to 2.30
For grooming tips.**

Your dog will love this!

**Join us - enjoy the music,
delicious food, fun activities
& competitions including**

- ♥ Best dressed dog
- ♥ Best dog/owner look a like
- ♥ Most obedient dog
- ♥ Best trick by a DOG
- ♥ Doggie disco

Philippa's Puppy and Adult Behaviour Training at BHVG

**We are holding regular Puppy
School at BHVG Shoalhaven
heads Clinic.**

Between 8 and 12 weeks is the perfect time to join a puppy lifestyle training class.

From 8 – 16 weeks puppies learn patterns and behaviours that stay with them for life. They pay attention to you as their leader and want to please. This is a time when they start to experience the environment in all its diversity.

The aim of good puppy coaching is to encourage your puppy to become a well socialised and well-mannered member of your family as you embark on your lives together.

The present class is held on a Saturday at 4pm-5pm and a weekday class will be offered as needed.

Puppy School is held over a 4-week period. Each week is a progression from the previous week.

It's a great time to hang out with your new puppy, meet other puppies and their humans, and develop a sound communication with your new puppy.

Philippa is an experienced and qualified veterinary nurse with a special interest and additional qualifications in animal behaviour and training. She has been running very successful Puppy Schools over the past 6 years.

For more information or to book your puppy into a class call BHVG on 4448 5621, drop in and see us or call Philippa on 0410 309 776.



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.



REPEATS



**Need a repeat prescription? Avoid
disappointment.**

Rebecca and Veronique tell me they would love our clients to phone ahead when their pet needs a repeat on their medication e.g. special foods, tablets etc.

We only order from our suppliers once a week. If we get advanced warning, we can have the medication all labelled and priced up ready to go. It saves everyone time and avoids disappointment for you.

So please phone well ahead 4448 5621 before you are about to run out.

No Dog (or Cat) Should Die of Paralysis Ticks

It's my main aim in life to get to a point where I don't have to treat another paralysis tick case. That's why I push Bravecto to the max and organise the FREE Bravecto days.

**Well, the big whisper
is something is just
around the corner for tick
prevention in cats.**

Boy am I going to be queuing up for that! It's a spot-on that lasts for 4 months against ticks and 3 months against fleas in cats. The first time ever that we will have an effective and safe product for cats.

SO watch this space and checkout our Facebook page to see when it is available.



Hidden Danger of Chronic Low-Grade Pancreatitis

I had a run of 5 pancreatitis cases in the last few months. It's a very painful and possible life-threatening condition in dogs (and humans too!).

The pancreas is a very important organ that makes strong chemicals that enter your intestines when you have a meal to start to digest the food. The pancreas also makes insulin, essential for life.

Dogs fed fatty foods often get inflammation of the pancreas- it only has to be over 7% total fat in the food. Many dogs are low grade chronic sufferers with occasional un-explained vomiting, abdominal pain or discomfort and sometimes diarrhoea.

The worst cases occur when dogs are fed fatty scraps e.g. fat off the ham, BBQ scraps, bacon or BBQ chicken. The pancreas can be so inflamed it leaks the strong digestion chemicals into itself, which destroys more pancreas and causes more inflammation (a vicious circle).

These dogs are in extreme pain and can die from the severe vomiting and diabetes brought on by total destruction of the pancreas's ability to make insulin.

Treatment can be very expensive and not without the risk of death at the end of it.

Prevention is much better than cure:

- Don't feed fatty scraps
- Make sure any workers around the house don't give their scraps to the dog
- Don't let guests or neighbours at a BBQ give their scraps to the dog
- Don't feed cheap fatty commercial foods to your dog
- Check the fat content of your dog's dry, tin and rolls - aim for less than 7% fat at all times.

If you think your dog may be a chronic low-grade sufferer, let us know and we can do an accurate blood test to confirm your suspicions.

Raw Chicken Danger



Raw Chicken Causing Paralysis in Humans and Dogs

Here I go again about raw chicken. I mentioned, on both my website and newsletter 2 years ago, information on a bacteria called *Campylobacter* found in raw chicken that can cause paralysis in humans and dogs. A recent article in the Illawarra Mercury highlighted this as it has been shown to be the causative agent in a previously vague illness in dogs called Coon Hound paralysis.

Some raw chicken has *Salmonella* and *E.Coli* bacteria which cause massive upset stomachs with severe vomiting and diarrhoea – often with blood in it. It can spread easily to adults and kids handling the dog too!

So please don't feed your pets raw chicken. It's not worth the risk of endangering pets or your family.

Fractured Teeth from Big Bones

I don't like dogs chewing big bones.

I used to think it was fun as a kid to see my Great Dane dragging a dinosaur bone round the yard and giving it a good chew. That was until I became a vet and had to deal with the hundreds of fractured teeth I have seen over the years.

Quite often it's the very important upper rear molars that shatter when the dog bites down too hard. Once the root canal is exposed, food gets pushed up the inside of the tooth and it's not long before we see a really painful and nasty abscess appearing under the eye socket requiring surgery.

So stick to softer bones if you must feed them e.g. brisket bones. To keep the teeth clean, also try Dentastix (Pedigree Pal), rawhide chews and pig ears. Avoid soft tin food, dog rolls and scraps as the soft food sticks to teeth leading to tartar build-up.



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 if you are on your way.



Joke Corner



You would think that taking off a snail's shell would make it move faster, but it actually just makes it more sluggish.

**Q: Where do orcas hear music?
A: Orca-stras!**

**Q: Where did the sheep go on vacation?
A: The baaaahamas**

NEW
BRAVECTO



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



Available at BHVG

Hurry before it's too late!

**SAVE AN
INCREDIBLE 20%
ON BRAVECTO**

For our loyal customers who support local business, we are pleased to repeat last year's fantastic offer on Bravecto.

Buy 4 same sized Bravecto packets between Jan to Dec 2018 and receive ONE PACKET FREE!
That's an incredible 20% off the overall purchase price.

For all year-round tick and flea prevention, give Bravecto once every 3 months



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

Six Monthly Dental Checks?

They're FREE at BHVG!

Most people visit their dentist every 6-12 months and have a scale and polish. I know that despite my own efforts at brushing and flossing, the dentist always finds tartar on my teeth and mild pockets of inflamed gums.

So how often do you get our pets teeth checked?

Well, 6 human months is the same as 3&1/2 pet years (remember 1 human year is approx. 7 pet years). Because of this, 6 monthly dental checks are very important to a pet's overall health.



But what about the cost?

Well, the good news is the dental checks are **FREE at BHVG**

PLUS, you get an overall health check and nail clip for **FREE**

Just call BHVG on (02) 4448 5621 and book your pet in for a **FREE Dental Check**

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!



Cooper



Dinnigan



Freya



Lily



Louie



Pep



Rabbit



Rosie



Zach