



# 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 #11


### Hello from Mark



Lynda, some helpers and I, recently ran a NSW Masters Squash Tournament at the Bomaderry Squash and Fitness Centre. There were 95 players from all over NSW and the ACT, including 5 from Wagga Wagga (over 400 km away) and 6 from Bega. There were ten 60-70 year olds and five 70-80 years olds getting in to the swing of things (not always their squash racquet). Very inspiring! A great weekend thanks to the sponsors: Nowra Toyota, Nowra ex-Serviceman's Club, P&R's Bakehouse and Albatross Coolrooms.

Lynda and I have moved into our new home at Shoalhaven Heads, and both agree it's our very last move. We are very close to the clinic, so after hours check ups are going to be a breeze. A great job by Tristo, Ray and Scott Vincent.

I recently had my first holiday in 2 years with my 18 year old daughter, Margot. It was great to have a father/daughter get away, except she sped past me after the first day and ended up waiting for "Easy-does -it-Dad" coming down the slopes. Hugh is close to finishing 4th year Chemical Engineering at NSW Uni. with year 5 being a compulsory honours year. He turns 21 in a few months time. It was not that long ago I had my own 21st! Time is flying by.

 BerryHaven  
Veterinary Group  
**24 HOUR  
Emergency Cover**

**02 4448 5621**

### Tick Season Extended (actually all year)

After this winter, where I saw 2 cases in early July and 3 in mid August, it appears ticks are now around all year. Maybe it's to do with global warming and the milder winter weather. Drop into BHVG to discuss the latest in tick prevention for cats and dogs. Our computer programme will generate SMS reminders so you don't forget the next dose. How easy is that!

#### 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  
(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 Mark's 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 Mark checks 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 and 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.

*continued...*

## 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...

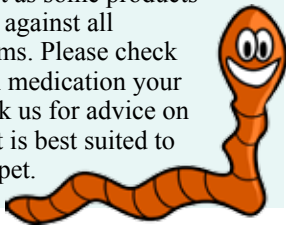
**DON'T DELAY ONE MINUTE!**

**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!**

## 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.



If your pet has any signs of dental disease or you are unsure, call us on

**4448 5621**

**for a FREE dental check & FREE Nail Clip**

**But hurry as this is limited to the first 15 patients each month. That's right; it's FREE and gives you peace of mind knowing your pet's oral health is in great shape.**

## Our Number One Health Problem in Pets DENTAL DISEASE

Surprisingly, it was not until the 1970's in human medicine that dental care gained a much needed boost with the simple finding that... **Plaque Causes Dental Disease.**

OK, that sounds simple, but what's *plaque*? Well, when you wake up late on Sunday morning and feel your furry teeth with your tongue, that's '*plaque*' (not a hangover...well, maybe part of one). Someone close to you (often your kids) may pluck up the courage to say either "your breath stinks" or "you need to brush your teeth". I know this because my kids aren't shy in coming forward. *Plaque* is a thick liquid that coats your teeth & gums every day, and is made up of millions of bacteria and food particles. You can't stop it forming- it's natural! Saliva contains calcium which 'binds' with *plaque* and turns it into '*tartar*' (the tough brittle brown stuff that coats untreated teeth).

## Tartar, Plaque and Gingivitis

*Tartar* is a mixture of minerals and salts, food particles and *plaque* that combine together to form a solid, firmly attached yellowish layer on the surface of the teeth. *Tartar* traps more food particles between itself and the gums. The food particles start to rot causing *gingivitis* (inflammation of the gums). As a result, the gums bleed very easily and cause a lot of pain when eating. Eventually, the inflamed gums move away from the decaying area, exposing the tooth roots. Once the tooth roots and bone sockets are exposed, bacteria from the rotting food destroy the bone holding the teeth in place (a very painful experience in humans).



Before Dental Treatment

## Importance of Healthy Teeth and Gums

*Gingivitis* and loose rotten teeth are a very painful problem. Bacteria from infected teeth, gums and bone sockets easily get into the bloodstream by entering the tiny blood vessels in the mouth. They love to form colonies in vital organs (e.g. kidneys, liver & heart valves) leading to major health issues.

## When is it Time for a Dental Check-up?

It's vitally important to the overall health of pets (and humans) to have nice healthy teeth and gums. Both vets and dentists aim to not let their patients get to the stage of pain on eating, bad breath and bleeding gums. By this time, permanent damage may already have occurred.

If my dentist said to me... "Hi Mark. Your teeth are not too bad, just a small amount of *tartar* there (grade 1 dental disease)." "Tell you what, come back when those teeth and gums are really sore and sensitive (grade 2 dental disease), and I will give them a good scale and polish then." ... I'd be wanting the treatment straight away. I would not want to wait until things got much worse. So when is it time for a dental check-up?

**We recommend 6 monthly Dental checkups for all pets - just like humans**



After Dental Treatment

In fact, we are so determined that all pets be pain free and have nice healthy teeth and gums, we offer a

**FREE DENTAL CHECK AND NAIL CLIP for the first 15 pets to book in each month (value \$75.00)**

But hurry, as these FREE DENTAL CHECKS FILL UP FAST.

**Call BHVG NOW ON (02) 4448 5621 and make an appointment to have your pet's teeth checked and toe nails trimmed.**

## FREE House Calls

**BHVG offers house calls at no extra charge, and a FREE pet transport & drop off service for food, merchandise and medications for patients residing in the 2535 postcode.**

**Call (02) 4448 5621**



## Do you know how to perform CPR on a pet?

There are some basic first aid skills for pets that can make all the difference when faced with an emergency. They are the same skills we are taught in human first aid.

- What do you do if there is blood around? Is it from the injured pet or from someone who got bitten and may have an infectious disease?
- How much do you compress the chest by when performing CPR?

- Are you putting yourself at risk by going to the aid of an injured pet e.g. powerlines down, fast traffic?

All these questions and others are answered at [www.berryhavenvet.com.au](http://www.berryhavenvet.com.au) type 'CPR' in the search box and follow the links to see the following topics:

- CPR
- Choking and the Heimlich manoeuvre
- Dealing with bleeding injuries
- Shock
- Transporting injured pets

## Welcome Tiffany

Tiffany has recently moved to the south coast from Tasmania to be with her partner who is in the Navy. She was a vet nurse in Tassie for 3 years. She is currently studying towards her certificate 4 in vet nursing. She lives at Culburra Beach and plays soccer for the Culburra Cougars (not their best year in 2016). She owns a pet bird, "Teik" who moved with her. He is 2 years old and shares the same birthday.



Tiffany started working at BHVG in June, and is really enjoying the work.

## Hill's T/D and VE only Dental Approved Food

The Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) performed numerous tests on many brands of pet foods to check their effectiveness against *tartar* and *plaque* ('remember *plaque* causes dental disease').

The only pet food that passed their stringent testing was Hill's T/D and Hill's Vet Essentials (which has T/D in it).

**Our loyal VIP pets receive the following discounts on these foods**

♥ **\$5.00 on bags under 7kg**



♥ **\$10.00 on bags over 7kg**

## Own a Horse? Call Illawarra Equine Centre for all your Needs



Mitch and the team at Illawarra Equine Centre have relocated their office to 1 Belinda St, Gerringong and their reproduction unit to 'Boysenberry Farm', 199 Princes Hwy, Broughton Village.

Along with the rest of the team, Mike, James and Kate, they are all looking forward to the upcoming breeding season and the challenges that await.

**For all your equine needs please call the office on 02 4448 6488.**

## Lethal Compost Toxicity in Dogs

There are lots of nasty toxins in compost. If eaten by a greedy pet, expect to see some pretty serious symptoms such as:

- Agitation
- Hypersensitive to noises and bright

lights

- Panting and drooling
- Tremoring/shaking all over
- Vomiting
- Convulsions and death

So make sure your compost areas are safely fenced off



## Joke Corner

**Q: Where do orcas hear music?**

A: Orca-stras!

**Q: What do you call a cow that eats your grass?**

A: A lawn moo-er.

**Q: What is the snake's favorite subject?**

A: Hiss-story

**Q: Why did the lamb cross the road?**

A: To get to the baaaaarber shop!

## 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.



## Beware!

### Dangerous Household Chemicals

- Dettol is highly irritant to pets, and can cause severe skin reactions
- Many pets are allergic to Tea Tree and Eucalyptus oils in shampoos
- Onion and garlic can cause severe life threatening reactions in dogs
- Paracetamol is very toxic to cats

**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!*

## Incredible Bravecto Offers

### OFFER 1 - SAVE 20%

For our loyal customers who support local business, we are able to make this **INCREDIBLE OFFER**.

**B**uy 4 packets of the same sized Bravecto BETWEEN 1st Sept 2015 and 31st Dec 2016 from BHVG, and receive the 5th one FREE. We can print up your older invoices so you qualify.

**BUT HURRY AS THIS OFFER FINISHES DEC 31ST 2016**

### OFFER 2 - FREE SCRATCHIE

**P**urchase a Bravecto dose from BHVG and receive a FREE scratchie card with a one in 4 chance of winning a prize including a free Bravecto packet and gift vouchers.



For Full terms and conditions visit [www.bravectopromotions.com.au](http://www.bravectopromotions.com.au)

*The Artist's Beagle Jamison George*



### Pet Portraits

**By Local Artist Nicole Grimm-Hewitt**  
Capture your pet's personality in Art  
A unique gift or memento of our furbabies immortalised on canvas.

**Grimm Hewitt**  
ART GALLERY

[www.grimmhewitt.com.au](http://www.grimmhewitt.com.au)  
[art@grimmhewitt.com.au](mailto:art@grimmhewitt.com.au)

### Contact BHVG

#### Berry

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

#### OPEN:

Monday-Friday: 8:00am - 11am  
3:00pm - 6:00pm  
Housecalls: 11am to 3:00pm  
Saturday: 9:00am - 10:30am

#### 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  
Sunday: 10:00am - 12:00am

## 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!



Alice Buckingham



Bella Tomkins



Caro Collins



Chesney Vincent



Chewy Gow



Heatar Sheridan



Jack Petrou



Pari Andrews



Smuttley Horton