



Sydney Mobile Vet Service

Welcome to VETaround's first newsletter and the first, hopefully, of many more to come. It's been a great start to my new mobile veterinary service and I've travelled wide and far to bring vet care to a diverse group of people. I've really enjoyed meeting all of you and your pets and feel really pleased that I have been able to provide a service that seems to be so well received.



I want to draw your attention to my website and specifically to some of the more featured sections on www.vetaround.com.au. I have several photo galleries that I would like to fill with photos of my patients, as long as their "parents" are happy with the exposure! So if you would like your pet in this gallery, please

email me a photo. Ensure it is no bigger than about 200kb. I also have a memorial gallery for those of us that have lost our loved and loyal companions, sadly some of which I have been involved with too. If you would like to honour your late pet/s in this, please also email me a photo with the dates

of their life and a little blurb if you wish. The "Pet Care" page is still being built and will have

information about general health and illness in our pets. These documents will be ready soon so keep an eye out.

Enjoy the rest of this newsletter, I hope it is interesting. Feel free to give me feedback about anything, or request any items for future newsletters.

Inside this issue:

- Featured Pet
- Pet Insurance - Is it worth it?
- 3 Yearly Vaccine - Fact or Fiction?
- Flea Control - Is it Possible?

Featured Pet:

Introducing Sam....

Sam, the Cavoodle, is not only a gorgeous little puppy but a really big deal to his new family. They have had a long standing fear of dogs and they decided to finally



address this fear and brought Sam home. He had a bit of a rough start developing occidial diarrhoea and needed to be hospitalised but has made a great recovery and is now the playful, sweet little puppy the family were hoping for. Sam and his new family are learning to trust each other and I can see a beautiful relationship developing. We wish you good luck with your new puppy, and years of joy and friendship. I know your fears will be behind you very soon.

PET INSURANCE - A MUST FOR ALL WITH PETS

When pets get sick or suffer serious trauma it is very distressing to all the family. They may need significant vet care and this can attract large veterinary fees. Some families have to consider euthanasia when facing a large veterinary bill, and struggling to pay for the veterinary fees makes the emotional trauma much worse. Pet insurance policies that cover ill-



ness and accident or trauma are worth the monthly premium as you won't be hit with a large veterinary bill at times when it matters most. In many instances this may save your beloved pet's life. Go to [Our Friends](#) page for links to the various insurance companies and check out what is available. Or feel free to call Ari at any time to discuss this further.

3 YEARLY VACCINATIONS - FACT OR FICTION?

There has been a fair amount of attention in the media in the last 2 years or so regarding the recommendations by vets on the frequency that vaccinations are required. Most of this attention has been negative suggesting vets want to derive as much income as possible from their clients and so are recommending annual vaccinations when evidence suggests that less often is fine.



Left: The canine vaccines that I use in my practice. The green one (core) is registered for 3 yearly use. The blue one (canine cough) still has to be annual.

Unfortunately the media hype is generally biased toward the “sensational” and most “marketable” story. The reality gets lost and everyone (vet & client) suffers as a consequence.

Currently there is mounting evidence showing that for the core canine vaccines (distemper, hepatitis and parvovirus), at least 3 yearly vaccination is adequate under “normal” circumstances. This is similar for the core feline vaccines (herpes & calicivirus or “cat-flu”, and panleucopaenia).



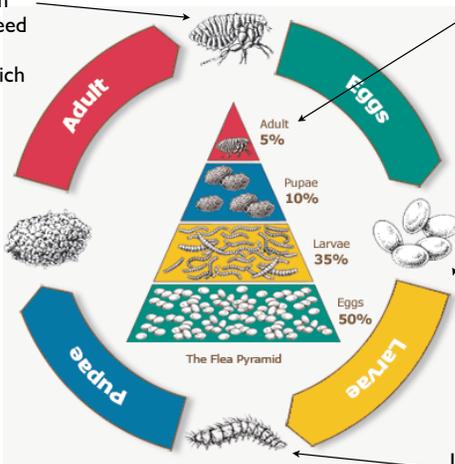
The recommendation by international vaccine advisory panels is to follow a 3 year protocol for core vaccines but this is to be assessed on an individual needs basis. Some animals or circumstances may require a more or less frequent vaccination program. The Australian Veterinary Association also endorses a similar protocol.

It is very important to note that the vaccination consultation consists of a full physical exam and health checkup as well as the injections themselves and so is far more comprehensive than simply vaccinating your pet. These annual health checks are still a very important part of maintaining your pet’s health and well being and so are still strongly recommended regardless of how often you choose to vaccinate your pet.

Take Home Message
Annual health checks are strongly recommended regardless of the frequency that you vaccinate your pet.

FLEAS - CAN THEY BE CONTROLLED?

Adult fleas live and breed on the pet. They must bite to feed and some of our pets are allergic to the flea saliva which can cause mild to severe dermatitis and itchiness.



Pupae are the final stage where adults develop and are surrounded by a cocoon. Emergence can be delayed many months during which these can lie dormant until spring comes around.

As you can see from this pyramid the adult fleas that you see only represent 5% of the entire flea population. The rest (pupae, larvae, eggs) are in your carpets, couches, floor board cracks, dirt in the garden and under your house. Regular adult flea control monthly or even fortnightly over time should break this cycle but it can take months if this is done alone. You can speed up this process by killing all the other stages as well. This is best done with flea bombs (that kill juvenile stages), flea sprays for under the couches and side boards, vacuuming and cleaning the house and bedding. Also all animals in a household must be on flea control. Finally a professional pesticide company can be used but make sure they use an “insect growth regulator (IGR)” otherwise choose a different company.

The adult fleas lay thousands of eggs and these fall off the pet into the environment. These eggs represent the biggest portion of the life cycle and hatch usually very quickly (2-5 days).

Larvae go through 3 moults before they emerge from the pupae into adults.

Fleas are probably our pet’s biggest pest. They often seem impossible to control and we lose faith in the flea products that we are sold. The first important thing is to ensure you keep your pet on the flea product all year around. If you don’t then you will find it much harder to get on top of the problem come



spring. Secondly you must understand that controlling the fleas is not simply killing the adults you see on the pet but you must ensure the whole life cycle is disrupted. See the above diagram for more details. Call Ari if you wish to discuss this further.