



Pip & Pop's Publication

August, 2024

Spring in Australia: where the only thing more surprising than a blooming garden is the fact that we're already sweating through our summer shorts! Spring sees a host of new adventures—and potential misadventures. So, grab your sunnies and let's dive into some springtime tips to keep your pets hopping happy and healthy all season long.

Springtime Hazards: Keep Your Pets Pawsitively Safe from Seasonal Perils!

Snakes

The first few days and weeks of Spring are guaranteed to bring many snakes out of hibernation, often loaded with stored up venom.

This past week we have seen multiple snake bites already! If caught early, snake bites can be successfully treated with antivenom. So, it's important to react quickly in the event of a potential bite. It could mean the difference between life and death.

Symptoms to look out for:

- Vomiting
- Sudden weakness
- Collapse (seem to 'recover' shortly after)
- Twitching of the muscles & seizures
- Hyper-salivation
- Dilated pupils non-responsive to light
- Blood in urine

What To Do

Keep them as quiet and seek IMMEDIATE veterinary attention.

Please

- DO NOT try to catch or kill the snake for ID
- DO NOT apply a tourniquet
- DO NOT wash the bite site
- DO NOT cut, suck or apply any other treatments

Fertilisers

General purpose fertilisers contain the nutrients; nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous, often listed as NPK on packaging. Ingestion may result in vomiting and diarrhea or possibly an electrolyte imbalance and other more serious effects with larger ingestions. Since fertilisers are usually a combination of ingredients, the effects of ingestion may vary.

- Dogs find organic fertilisers highly appetising, so they need to be stored out of reach.
- Water in fertiliser after application where possible – this is especially true for areas with chickens since they are very effective at picking up granules that have dropped to lower soil areas



Call Australian Poisons Helpline 1300 869 738 738, if you think your pet has ingested fertiliser or any possible toxic substance. Alternatively you can read more at www.animalpoisons.com.au

Free helpline open 9AM-5PM AEST 7 days a week*

*After hours consultations with an on-call Poisons Information Consultant are available for \$85 AUD

Three Day Sickness – Bovine Ephemeral Fever

Three-day sickness, or bovine ephemeral fever (BEF), is a viral disease of cattle that is spread by biting insects. As you would all be aware, we've got all the right ingredients for a mozzie buffet: warm weather and plenty of water. Be on watch as we approach the end of the year.

Symptoms

- Sudden onset of fever of up to 41 °C
- Lameness, wobbly, muscle stiffness, shivering, twitching, droopy ears.
- Drooling saliva, watery eyes, runny nose
- Reduced water and food intake
- Unable to stand – “down cow”
- Heavier and older animals are more severely affected because long periods of recumbency leads to muscle damage.

In some rare cases paralysis, muscle damage, abortion and death may occur.
Temporary/permanent bull fertility issues (fever cooks the sperm).

Treatment

- Supportive care with anti-inflammatory and fluids given to ease the fever and prevent dehydration.
- Animals that have gone down should be provided with adequate shelter, water and food, as cattle exposed to hot weather are much more likely to die.
- Maintain blood circulation and avoid permanent muscle damage. It is important to get them back on their feet as soon as possible.
- Nursing care involves lifting and rolling cattle daily.

Prevention

- A vaccine is available to prevent the disease and is usually given in September. An initial injection is given under the skin with a repeat booster injection performed 2 – 4 weeks.
- Bulls are particularly important to vaccinate as infection can cause subfertility during our spring/ summer months.
- Annual boosters are recommended

If you wish to discuss a vaccination protocol to protect against future outbreaks or have any questions regarding 'Three Day Sickness' please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Bravecto Quantum (Fluralaner)

The paralysis tick are the single most dangerous parasite for dogs with just one tick sufficient to cause paralysis and even death. Bravecto Quantum is an injection that provides 12 months protection. It is suitable for administration to dogs from six months of age. We also offer 1month, 3monthly and 6monthly options.

Contact us today to schedule an appointment or for more information on how we can protect your pet from ticks and fleas effectively.

PARALYSIS TICK



Symptoms

- Loss of coordination in the back legs (wobbly)
 - Difficulty standing
 - Laboured or rapid breathing
 - Change or loss of bark
- Coughing, retching or attempts to vomit