

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2011

STAFF NEWS

In February Heather resumed her studies in Veterinary Science at the University of Queensland and will continue working with us on weekends and during University holidays. Anita Savvas (a CanAussie) commenced with us in late February. Anita's profile can be found in the staff section of the website.

Anne is making another attempt to visit friends in Holland and the UK this winter, after her attempt last year was aborted three hours short of Heathrow, due to Icelandic volcanic activity.

David has been forced to work longer hours due to the continued demise of Test cricket and the form of our national team over the last 18 months. The resurgence of the Queensland REDS rugby team has helped soften the blow.

STRANGE CLIMATE

Maybe age is catching up and the imagination creeping; however the spring/summer weather pattern in the district was abnormal last year. From memory we had approx 300mm rain per month from October to January, the temperature in the week leading up to Christmas dropped to 14 degrees (it was 17 at 5pm on Christmas eve). Beaches were deserted and black umbrellas were the norm on the streets. Summer finally arrived in March and Ballina recorded a maximum of 34 on the autumnal equinox. The annual tick "season" started later and was prolonged due to the climatic vagaries, with peak tick activity associated with the warmer spring/summer spells. The local annual flea "plague" is now at its peak, some two months later than normal.

CPD (BACK TO SCHOOL)

David Jayne and Anita attended the AVA veterinary dental conference and workshop held at the Ballina RSL 18th-20th March. Veterinarians from as far away as Perth and Melbourne attended. The latest in small animal dental techniques and research were thoroughly covered during the conference. An overview of common small animal dental problems can be found in the topics of interest section of the website.

ADVERTISING FEATURE
LOCAL PET ADVICE

FLEAS AND COMFORTIS

In the local area fleas cause major skin problems and discomfort to our pet dogs. COMFORTIS (a palatable beef flavoured tablet used monthly) was released in the summer of 2009/10. The manufacturers claimed that controlled trials demonstrated 100% effectiveness four hours post- treatment, lasting for 28 days. At Shaw's Vet Hospital we are happy to report that in a period of 18 months, having prescribed COMFORTIS in over 500 cases, these claims have been met, and the product has filled a much needed niche in our treatment of flea related skin problems. CPD (Back to school). David, Jayne and Anita attended the AVA dental conference and workshop held at the Ballina RSL last weekend. During the two day event, the latest in small animal dental techniques were taught. An overview of current small animal dental problems can be found on our practice website www.shawsvet.com.au in the topics of interest section. Anita Savvas recently joined the staff at the hos-



David Shaw - Veterinarian

pital. After finishing her schooling in Canada, Anita travelled the world for six years, meeting her husband on the Gold Coast. While spending time working in Los Angeles with Cesar Milan (The Dog Whisperer) she decided to pursue veterinary nursing as a career, completing her studies in 2003. Anita worked in Canadian Vet hospitals before returning to Australia, working at Alstonville Vet Hospital in 2009/10. Since joining us Anita has become a valued member of staff and is also a wildlife carer with WIRES

David E.M. Shaw
B.V.Sc. (hons),
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