

## **SPRING NEWSLETTER 2011**

This is the first of our quarterly website newsletters that we have e-mailed directly to clients. The aim of these quarterly communiqués is to update you with any topics of interest, product information and specials as they come to hand. We'll do our best with our limited computer (or is it I.T?) skills to keep them brief and informative. Should you wish not to receive the newsletters- send a polite one-liner and you will be deleted from our listing.

Tori Groom has joined the staff on a part time basis. Tori hails from Suffolk in the UK, and is doing a course in Vet Nursing at Grafton. Tori's bubbly personality has made her an instant hit with clients (It's just a pity we can't understand what she is saying). Winter was busier than usual. After more than 30 years in practice we still have difficulty working out how the peaks and troughs occur in Vet Science. Traditionally spring and summer are our busiest periods due to the increased presence of fleas, ticks snakes, and the warmer humid weather is a factor in skin and ear conditions occurring.

### **TICK ALERT**

The tick "season" has started and our recommendations remain the same. If you live in or your pet visits an area where ticks are found, the following are essential recommendations

- A) **DILIGENT** use of a tick preventative agent is strongly advised
- B) **OBSERVATION** of your pet's behaviour on a twice daily basis is essential ie response to being called- speed at which your pet gets up-climbs stairs-gets in or out of the car- changes in breathing/ eating patterns-retching-vomiting- in fact ticks cause an endless list of differing and often bizarre presenting symptoms.
- C) **DAILY SEARCHING** of your pet with your fingertips- especially the head neck and shoulders
- D) **EARLY VETERINARY TREATMENT** is mandatory if your pet shows any symptoms.

**TICK PREVENTION-** What's working-What's not. The following summary is based on local experience and client feedback and input.

**CATS-**Frontline Spray is the only product registered for control of paralysis ticks on cats. It is used every 3 weeks during the season. We have found Frontline Plus also to be effective when used fortnightly.

**DOGS-**The efficacy of products is variable due to the fact that many of our dogs swim, wade or are washed regularly during the tick season. Proban tablets are no longer available, so if your dog is a 'swimmer' Frontline spray every 3 weeks or Frontline Plus fortnightly are the only reliable products on the market. If dogs are kept dry between treatments we have found Frontline spray and Frontline Plus at the above frequencies to be effective. We have found a combination of monthly Frontline Plus with Bay-o-Pet KILTIX Collars replaced every 6 weeks to work excellently.

KILTIX collars are very effective when used as a sole method of prevention on 'dry' dogs. Unfortunately we have seen many cases of failure of ADVANTIX and PREVENTIC collars over the years to feel comfortable in recommending their use for paralysis tick prevention.

Adherence to the above will hopefully ensure a tick free season for your pet.

**HILLS PETFOODS** (or lack thereof)

The frustrating and ongoing lack of Hills and other brands of premium petfoods continues. The problem has been caused by AQIS (the government quarantine agency) carrying out an analysis and re-registration of imported petfoods. This process was initially expected to have been completed in April then May then June etc. Many lines have been returning to supply, and we are hopeful that the full range is shortly available.

That's all for now, best wishes from the staff of Shaw's Veterinary Hospital.



# Comfortis® (spinosad)

## Special

all sizes - pack of 6



**\$59.90 - \$73.90**

(RRP \$77.40 - \$93.80)

Month-long flea protection in a chewable tablet

### CAN'T WASH OFF

Comfortis can't be washed or shaken off, making it ideal for dogs that are washed or swim regularly

### FAST ACTING

Comfortis starts killing fleas in 30 minutes, providing fast relief from fleas for your dog.

### FAMILY-FRIENDLY

Comfortis can't rub off on you, your family. Clothing or furniture.

### CONVENIENT

Comfortis is easy to offer. Your dog will love the taste of the beef-flavoured chewable tablet.

## DENTISTRY

• Gaseous anaesthetic • Ultrasonic scale & polish  
**Cats \$149.50 Dogs \$174.50** (inclusive fee)

- Nylon leads & collars from **\$3.95**
- Beach Frisbies • Ball throwers **\$3.95**



## Bay-O-Pet KILTIX collars

Reliable control of paralysis ticks for 6 weeks.

RRP: \$15.90

Buy 3 for \$40

