

Hello and welcome to our winter edition of Snippets. We're past the shortest day now, so spring is on the horizon! In this newsletter, we bring you some good advice in the case of a medical emergency, some tips for your middle aged cat and a great special from Frontline. So here's your excuse to put the kettle on and take a break. Happy reading!

## WHAT CONSTITUTES AN EMERGENCY?

### WHEN should I call the vet?

There are some conditions that we deal with that are truly life threatening. If your pet has any of the below conditions, it should receive **immediate attention**. If possible, phone the clinic to let us know you are on the way so we can have the appropriate equipment and material ready for your arrival. If the emergency occurs after hours, call the clinic to be directed to the after hours veterinarian.



Signs that may indicate an emergency:-

- Male cats trying to urinate a lot
- Respiratory distress
- Whelping difficulties (giving birth)
- Vehicle accidents
- Suspected poisoning - try to bring the product ingested with you
- Severe bleeding/loss of blood



## GASTRIC DILATATION VOLVULUS - WHAT IS IT?

There is a condition seen where the stomach literally does tie itself in a knot. This is a syndrome known as gastric dilatation/volvulus. It comes on very quickly, and if not diagnosed and treated immediately, the dog may well die an agonising death. Sounds a bit theatrical? I don't think so, this condition is a killer!

The condition comes about when the stomach fills up with gas, and then twists on its axis (see diagram).

The results are dire. The dog is in a large amount of discomfort, and there can be major chemical upsets within the body, leading to death.

The symptoms can include

- a swollen abdomen
- gagging, salivation
- agitation (such as pacing)
- trying to vomit
- panting
- pounding heart

**Causes?** The condition is most commonly seen in deep chested dogs such as

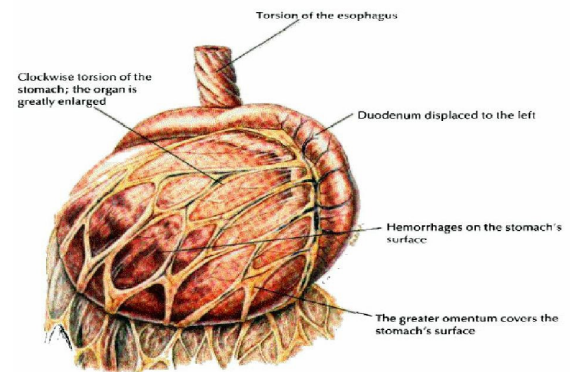
German Shepherds, Bull Mastiffs, Huntaways and Great Danes, but can occur in any breed. One of the common predisposing actions is eating a large meal just before vigorous exercise. There is also some evidence that anxiety, and even weather events may have some causal effect on this condition.

As mentioned earlier, this is a true emergency and a vet should be contacted immediately. The diagnosis is often by clinical signs, but an x-ray is may used to confirm the diagnosis.

**Treatment** for this condition is to control the bloat. Often it is possible to pass a stomach tube through the mouth into the stomach. If this doesn't work, a large needle can be inserted through the abdominal wall.

Once the animal is stable, surgery may be indicated. During this surgery, the stomach will be untwisted, and then a procedure called a gastropexi is performed where the stomach wall is permanently attached to the abdominal wall so it cannot twist again.

Unfortunately, just because the condition has been diagnosed doesn't guarantee a good outcome. Statistically, something like 40% of cases may have complications, sometimes leading to death.



# ARTHRITIS IN CATS

**\*\* Arthritis is a condition that affects up to one in three cats \*\***

There are many different types but the most common is caused by "wear and tear". In a healthy joint the bones are covered by a thin, elastic layer called cartilage. This acts like a shock absorber, cushioning and protecting bones.

But in arthritis the cartilage becomes worn, exposing the bone underneath. So when your cat walks the bones rub against each other. It's as painful as it sounds!

There is a product licensed for the treatment of arthritis in cats. Metacam® Cat is an oral suspension that has been formulated especially for cats. It is a non steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) given once daily on your cats food.

If you notice any of the following symptoms

- ✓ Loss of interest in playing
- ✓ Reluctance to jump
- ✓ Decreased grooming
- ✓ Increased sleeping

Make an appointment to see us. We will give your cat a full examination, find any problems, and if we think it is indicated, discuss the use of Metacam® Cat or other treatments that may be indicated.



## RAT BAIT!

Its that time of year when rats and mice start migrating into buildings to seek warmth. Many people will lay poisonous baits, and unfortunately we are seeing the usual autumn increase in rat bait poisonings.

We urge you to use a proper bait station which is pet-proof, and secure the storage place. Most baits act by stopping the blood from clotting, leading the animal to bleed to death. The treatment is long and expensive. Secondary poisoning from eating dead rats and mice is unusual as the number required to cause illness is large compared with direct ingestion.

The symptoms vary depending on where the bleeding is occurring:

- There may be blood in the urine or faeces
- Blood in the saliva or small haemorrhages in the gums
- Rapid breathing or a cough due to haemorrhage in the lungs
- Lethargy or poor exercise tolerance



If you suspect your pet has eaten bait, treating with an emetic to induce vomiting is important - and needs to be done ASAP! Contact the clinic and arrange to see your vet for further treatment.

## WHY DOGS ARE BETTER THAN WOMEN....

10. A dog's parents will never visit you.
9. A dog loves you when you leave your clothes on the floor.
8. A dog limits its time in the bathroom to a quick drink.
7. A dog never expects you to telephone.
6. A dog will not get mad at you if you forget its birthday.
5. A dog does not care about the previous dogs in your life.
4. A dog does not get mad at you if you pet another dog.
3. A dog never expects flowers on Valentine's Day.
2. The later you are, the happier a dog is to see you....And the number one reason why a dog is better than a woman:
1. A dog does not shop!



## The Cat



This is what society thinks I do



This is what my human thinks I do



This is what my human's friends think I do



This is what the dog thinks I do



This is what I think I do



This is actually what I do

facebook

We'd love you to join our Facebook page!

Share pictures of your animals and follow all the latest goings on at T&C



**Special!**  
**Frontline!**  
**FREE CARRY CAGE!**  
**With every cat 6 pack**  
While stocks last!

