

St Bernards Buzz

Merry Christmas!

Christmas is time that can be enjoyed by both two and four legged family members. Please check out our Facebook page this month on how to WIN a Christmas Hamper, and hints and tips to keep your pets safe over the holiday season.



Opening hours over Christmas/New Year:

Saturday 23rd December - 8am-1pm
Sunday 24th December - Closed
Monday 25th December - Closed
Tuesday 26th December - Closed
Wednesday 27th December - 8am - 6.30pm
Thursday 28th December - 8am - 6.30pm
Friday 29th December - 8am - 6.30pm
Saturday 30th December - 8am-1pm
Sunday 31st December - Closed
Monday 1st January - Closed
Tuesday 2nd January - 8am - 6.30pm

We hope the festive season brings you and your pets lots of joy this year and would **like to thank you all** for your ongoing support of your veterinary clinic!

From all your family at St Bernard's Road Veterinary Clinic, we wish you, your friends and family, a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Please Stay Safe!

Leo and the Christmas Ham!

Leo the ten year old schnauzer usually loves Christmas. And it isn't because of all the new toys he finds in his stocking, it's because he usually gets some leftover ham! That was until last Christmas.

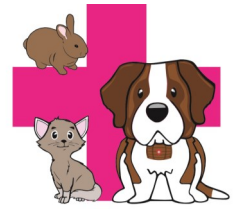
On Boxing Day last year, Leo developed a painful and potentially life threatening condition known as pancreatitis. Leo's pancreatitis came on very quickly. He was vomiting, hunched over in pain and was becoming dehydrated. He was admitted to hospital and treatment was started immediately. Blood tests would confirm that he was suffering from pancreatitis but early treatment was vital. This involved restricting food, pain relief, antibiotics and rehydration via an IV drip.

When a meal is eaten, the pancreas secretes enzymes required for digestion. In some cases, an overly fatty meal (such as leftover ham) can trigger a "leakage" of these enzymes and the pancreas starts to digest itself. This can happen either all of a sudden (acute), or over time (chronic). In both cases, a pet can end up very unwell and in some cases, the condition can be life threatening.

After a few days in hospital, Leo was discharged with strict feeding advice and a low fat diet. The likelihood of pancreatitis striking again is high so there will be no more leftover ham for Leo this Christmas. He will be getting a low fat treat and lots of toys instead!

It is not uncommon for us to see pets with pancreatitis and other gastric upsets over the festive season so please take extra care around meal times and don't let your pet overindulge!

If you are worried about your pet you should always phone us for advice.



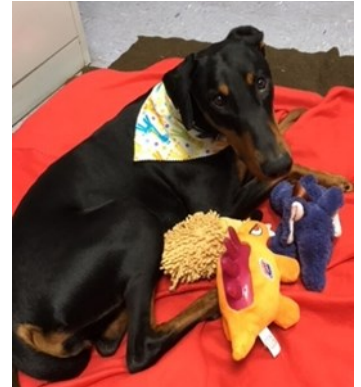
ST BERNARDS ROAD
Veterinary Clinic

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2017

www.stbernardsvet.com.au

Patient of the Month



Zara is a very energetic female Doberman pinscher puppy that came in for spaying. She was a very brave throughout her procedure and during her recovery period. Her surgery went well and she has made a full recovery. After waking up she spent her time investigating the clinic, playing with toys and attempting to steal treats from the Reception area.

Desexing our furry friends is important as it prevents unwanted pregnancies, prevents the likelihood of them roaming (some instincts are hard to stop) and prevent other medical diseases such as mammary neoplasia (breast cancers) if females are spayed before they had had their first heat or perineal hernia in males.

If you have any inquires, please ring 8364 4545.



 Find us on:
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Traveling with your pet!

Are you travelling with your pet these summer holidays? It can be lots of fun and your pet will love being included in the adventure but you should consider the following before hitting the road:

How healthy is your pet? You don't want to take your pet on a road trip if they are unwell. Arrange a check up with us if you are worried.

Check vaccinations and parasite prevention are up to date before you leave. Are you visiting a paralysis tick area? (these ticks can be fatal). Is your pet protected against heartworm, fleas and biting flies? We can help you when it comes to using the right protection.

Pets can easily become lost in an unfamiliar area. **Is your pet microchipped and are the details (appropriate phone numbers) attached to the chip up to date?** It's a good idea to put a collar on your pet with your details on a tag - this allows you to be reunited ASAP if your pet becomes lost.

Don't forget to **make sure your pet is securely harnessed or secured in a travel crate for the trip**. The laws for restraining your pet differ from state to state so check the laws before you leave. Unrestrained pets are dangerous and can cause, or be severely injured in an accident.

Things to pack: food, fresh water, travel water bowl, dog lead, dog poo bags, bedding. A basic first aid kit is also a good idea - ask us for more information.

If your pet gets nauseous in the car, you should ask us about the medication we have available to help reduce motion sickness. We also have a pheromone spray available for both cats and dogs that can help reduce anxiety on car trips. Ask us for all the details.

Happy travels!

When to take your pet to the vet ASAP!

The Christmas period can be a busy time for everyone. It can be easy to get swept up in the festivities and not realise your pet is unwell.

Here are ten situations when you should seek veterinary attention immediately:

Trouble breathing - respiratory problems can be life threatening

Weakness and collapse - can indicate internal bleeding, heart problems, poisoning

Seizures - can be caused by toxins and other conditions

Panting, restless, unable to get comfortable - can indicate bloat, heat stress

Profuse haemorrhage - bleeding externally is obviously an emergency but if your pet has suffered trauma such as being hit by a car, or falling from a height you should see a vet ASAP

Struggling to urinate - this can be life threatening, particularly in male cats

Not eating or drinking - some pets may skip a meal here or there, others may always clean up their food bowl so if they stop eating it's an indication something's not right

Vomiting and diarrhoea - a one off vomit and episode of diarrhoea may not be an emergency but if it persists over the course of the day, dehydration can quickly set in so you should get your pet checked out asap

Pain - if you think your pet might be in pain, you need to seek veterinary attention. Your pet might not always show a limp or vocalise when they are in pain and may simply be inactive or quieter than usual

Known exposure to toxins - don't wait until it's too late. See a vet ASAP if your pet has ingested something he shouldn't (think chocolate, snail bait, rat bait, grapes, raisins, human medication just to name a few)

There are many more reasons you might need to seek urgent veterinary attention. If you think something's not right with your pet you should always phone us for advice.

