

AutumnNewsletter 2016

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Opening Hours

Monday - Friday
7.00am - 7.00pm

Saturday
8.00am - 2.00pm

Sunday
10.00am - 2.00pm

Public Holidays
Closed



Uterine Adenocarcinoma in Rabbits

Uterine adenocarcinoma is a malignant type of tumor that arises from the tissue of the uterus, is one of the most common forms of cancer in rabbits. Up to 60 percent of undesexed female rabbits over three years of age can be affected.

Clinical signs

You may notice blood in your rabbits urine. Behavioural change is also common and may include aggression and/or lethargy. Often affected rabbits have a decreased appetite. You may also notice cysts in the mammary glands. Rabbits may become anemic so blood tests can help identify the disease as can diagnostic imaging such as x-ray or ultrasound.

Treatment

A surgical ovariectomy (spey) can be curative if the cancer has not spread to other parts of the body, although unfortunately it quite often has.

Prevention

Speying juvenile rabbits eliminates the risk of this common and serious disease. In general all rabbits not intended for breeding should be desexed.



Brain tumours

Brain tumours occur uncommonly in both dogs and cats.

About half of the tumours are a primary mass (developed within the brain itself) or invading from surrounding structures such as the skull, and the rest are secondary tumours that have spread (metastasized) from a tumour elsewhere in the body.

Brain tumours occur most commonly in older dogs and cats, around 10 years of age. Boxers, Golden retrievers and domestic short haired cats are more commonly affected than other breeds

Clinical Signs

The most common warning clinical sign in dogs is seizures, whilst cats often show a sudden onset of aggression. Dogs that have seizures for the first time after 7 years of age are less likely to have epilepsy and more likely to have an underlying disease such as diabetes or a brain tumour. Other signs you may see are behavioural changes, pain and in-coordination. Many other vague and unusual clinical signs can also occur depending on which part of the brain is affected.

Diagnosis

Routine blood tests, chest x-rays and abdominal ultrasound are often recommended to check for a non-brain cause of your pets problem (these are important as they are often easier to treat), however a definitive diagnosis may only be obtained through magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Treatment

If a brain tumour is found they may be treated by surgery, radiation therapy or chemotherapy. More commonly however medications are used to control the clinical signs and the tumour itself is left alone. These often include anti-convulsant medications and pain killers.

Due to the difficulty in diagnosing these tumours it is likely that many animals live for long periods with some of these tumours showing only occasional clinical signs.



Storm Boy the 1976 film based on the book by Colin Thiele, follows the plight of 3 Pelicans and their young savior 'Storm Boy'. For the record the Pelicans names were Mr Percival, Mr Proud, and Mr Ponder.

The real Mr Percival lived well in to his 30's and died in 2009, at Adelaide Zoo

When Lake Eyre (Kati Thanda) floods up to 70% of Australia's Pelican population migrate to the area.

Migrating Pelicans

The Australian Pelican (made famous in part by the iconic Australian film Storm Boy) is one of 7 pelican species found in the world.

Pelicans feed primarily on fish which they often hunt in communally. Groups of Pelicans will round fish up using their bills and beating the water with their wings.

Fish once caught are usually arranged in the bill and swallowed head first.

On the rare occasions that Lake Eyre (or Kati Thandra as it is known to the local Arabana people) floods, tens of thousands of pelicans flock there. It is not clear how they communicate the lake is in flood but one theory is that sentry birds fly across the country to lead the other birds to the rich food source and breeding grounds.

Pelicans are very mobile and adept gliders. Pelicans use thermals to attain heights of one to three thousand meters, at which level they can glide for up to 24 hours with very limited wing movements. They can approach 60km/hr and travel thousands of kilometers by this method.

Pelicans can live for up to 25 years and weigh about 7kg, the males being larger than the females. Their wing span can be over 3 meters.

And if you get close to a pelican they smell strongly of fish.

Dental disease

Two of the most common diseases seen in veterinary practice are dental disease and obesity. Whilst both conditions can be avoided, if present they can cause a life time of problems with sometimes irreversible consequences.

3 tips for dental disease

Dental cleaning

If dental disease is already present it will need to be treated by us. This is performed under anaesthesia. Whilst anaesthetised we will often perform x-rays to assess the health, or otherwise, of the bone around the teeth. Full dental x-rays are often performed in cats to check for tooth resorption: a painful condition that can affect cats' teeth.

The teeth can then be cleaned and badly damaged teeth removed. Once this is done we are back to a healthy mouth and can move on to ways to keep it healthy.

Brushing

Brushing your pets' teeth daily is the best way to keep your pets' teeth healthy. We can show you how to introduce tooth brushing to your pet. This is often successful in dogs but can be challenging in cats. Special brushes are available that brush both sides of your dogs' teeth at once. Flavoured tooth pastes are also available which you can apply to the brush or simply use as a treat during brushing. Avoid using human tooth paste as it can be irritating to the stomach if swallowed.

Other cleaning methods

In pets where brushing is impractical or impossible the following tips may help.

- Use a dental cleaning diet. Please ask at reception which is the best diet for you.
- Chewing products such as Greenies used daily, can help keep your pets teeth clean.
- Avoid bones which can fracture teeth.

The Veterinary oral health council (VOHC.org) provides scientific assessment of oral care products and if there is scientific evaluation that they work they are approved by the organization. Have a look through this site to find which oral pet care products have their tick of approval.

Look for Scientifically proven dental care products for pets at

www.VOHC.org

The Veterinary Oral Health Council

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