



## “Would You Dogs Stop That Coughing!!”

In the past couple of months I have seen a lot of dogs come into my hospital with Kennel Cough or as we call it in the veterinary profession infectious tracheobronchitis.

Before vaccination against Kennel Cough became compulsory for dogs in boarding kennels it was very common for dogs to contract the virus whilst boarding, hence the name Kennel Cough.

It is now rare to have a dog develop Kennel Cough when boarding, but most dogs which have had a visit to the pound will develop the infection. Contact with other dogs particularly when they gather in large numbers such as at dog training, off-leash areas and beaches increases the risk of developing the infection but direct contact is not required.

Kennel Cough is spread when a dog coughs and sends out the infectious material into the air. If the wind is blowing in the right way your dog may develop the infection even if it is just in the backyard or across the opposite side of the park to a dog with the cough.



Kennel Cough is highly infectious to dogs, but does not infect us cats or humans.

There are a number of different causes of the cough. It can be caused by bacteria called Bordatella or by viruses such as parainfluenza. Kennel cough is just like a cold which humans get, it is generally a self-limiting infection which the body can eliminate with time (generally within 2 weeks, although Bordatella can take 6-8 weeks).

It causes a cough and sometimes the dog will cough up foamy material. In general no antibiotic treatment is necessary, although some dogs will develop pneumonia, but this is rare in normal healthy dogs (this tends to occur in very young pups or dogs with pre-existing illnesses).

My staff veterinarians generally prescribe a cough suppressant to use, to control the cough. The dogs should be rested until the coughing stops and need to be isolated from other dogs so they do not spread the cough around.

There is a vaccine available for Kennel Cough and can be included as part of your dogs routine vaccination. The C5 vaccination helps protect against Parainfluenza and Bordatella, the 2 main causes of the Kennel Cough complex. Vaccinations are not a guarantee that dogs will not get kennel cough but it reduces the chance of them developing it and if they do get it, it tends to run a shorter course and be less severe. If your dog is only vaccinated with a C3 you may want to consider upgrading to a C5. This can be done with 2 injections a month apart or by using a single dose of intranasal Kennel Cough vaccine.

Thomas



## How To Brush Your Pet's Teeth

Information provided by Daniel T. Carmichael, DVM, DAVDC, Veterinary Medical Centre, 75 Sunrise Highway, West Islip NY 11795.

Daily tooth brushing is an essential part of your pets health. As with any new learned behaviour, it is important to start slowly, with patience and positive reinforcement, to condition your pet to allow the tooth brushing process.

To start, place a small amount of veterinary toothpaste on your finger and let your pet sniff and lick it.

If your pet is not interested in the toothpaste, brush the teeth without it. Do not use human toothpaste because it contains fluoride, which should not be swallowed. Concentrate on the outer surfaces of the teeth. Hold the toothpaste at a 45° angle to the tooth surface, with the bristles pointing towards the gum line. This allows the cleaning of the gum line while the teeth are being brushed. Work the toothpaste in a circular motion. Try for 15 seconds on each side of the mouth. Go slowly and be patient. If things aren't going well, wait a few hours before trying again.

The month of August is Pet Dental Month. If your pet has bad breath or difficulty eating they may be suffering from dental disease. Give our Nurses a call and



book in for a **free dental exam** with one of our vets during August and they can advise you on the best course of action for your pet.

**Would you like some nice fluffy slippers to keep your feet warm during winter?** During August with any purchase of our Hill's Oral Care or Prescription T/D range you will receive a **free pair of fluffy slippers** (while stocks last).



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## Veterinary nursing: a valuable and rewarding career

In 2004 I was lucky enough to receive a traineeship in Veterinary Nursing. A traineeship extends to 3 years which requires you to complete Certificate II in Animal Studies and Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing. I am currently undertaking Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing via a correspondence course at Orange TAFE. As I am completing the course via correspondence I have to attend Orange TAFE once every two months for a one day work shop.

These workshops give veterinary nurses the opportunity to swap stories, learn from the experienced nurses and attend seminars held by industry representatives.

Along with patient care, customer service is the most important role of being a veterinary nurse. This involves providing health care advice, recommending products and running classes such

as Puppy Preschool or Junior Dog Training.

The role of the veterinary nurse is extremely varied, a nurses shift can start at 6.30am with duties ranging from administering medications and monitoring hospitalized patients, exercising and feeding patients, and then cleaning, cleaning and more cleaning. Nurses are also responsible for admitting routine day surgeries, collecting blood samples and performing pre-anaesthetic blood tests. During surgery we work alongside the veterinary surgeon in order to provide a high standard of care for your pets. It is our responsibility to clip and prepare the surgical site, open sterilized instruments and other equipment required by the veterinary surgeon and monitor the patient's anaesthetic status and recovery.

There are times when we assist in the

recovery and rehabilitation of people's best friends, which provides a sense of overwhelming joy. There are other times when we know we've done the best thing for the patient and freed it from a life of pain, but it still pulls at the heart strings.

As well as attending TAFE the most important aspect of becoming a Veterinary Nurse is on the job training. It is helpful to be surrounded by competent, patient and experienced practitioners and vet nurses who assist with training and learning.

During my training as a Veterinary Nurse I have found it to be much more than a job, it is definitely not glamorous and a lot of hard work, but it is an extremely rewarding and interesting career as every day is different and there is always more to learn!

Coby Henderson

### Staff News– Farewell to Sarah and welcome Kylie

We are sad to say that our nurse Sarah has moved on. She has purchased a block of land in Scone and is moving up to work at the Foal Intensive Care Unit as part of Scone Veterinary Hospital. This has always been a dream of hers and we wish her all the best and thank her for her enthusiasm and caring attitude.

Fortunately, we are pleased to welcome Kylie to our Hospital. You may have seen her around as she started volunteer work with us around 6 months ago and has now become a member of staff. Kylie is a great asset to our team and she is currently completing Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing at Yallah TAFE. Kylie and her fiancé Paul are getting married in September at Day Dream Island and are then off to Fiji for their Honeymoon. Kylie originally started with a career in Real Estate but decided to make the switch to Veterinary Nursing.

### Win a Sony progressive scan DVD player

Would you like to receive the full colour version of our newsletter electronically? Visit our website ([www.crownvet.com.au](http://www.crownvet.com.au)) and submit the [online form](#) before 20th August 2007 for your chance to win a brand new Sony DVP-NS57P DVD player.



### Staff Pet Profile: Kylie's Cat Bella

**Breed:** Domestic Short Hair

**Favourite Activities:** Sleeping and Chasing Lizards

**Bad Habits:** Feisty and Bossy at times.

Bella was an unwanted kitten when Kylie rescued her almost 4 years ago and she has been part of the family ever since.

The first time Kylie saw Bella she fell in love with her attitude and style, and knew she was coming home with her that day.

Bella can be feisty and is full of energy. She is bossy but lovable. At times she demands attention and can be fiercely independent at other times.

Bella spends her days sleeping, chasing lizards, sleeping, playing with her fuzzy mice, and more sleeping. When she is eating in between sleeping you cant try to move her from her food bowl!

Her favourite spots to nap are under a shrub in her backyard or at the end of Kylie's bed, except on cold winter nights when there is a reserved seat in front of the heater with her name on it. Bella does like a cuddle occasionally but only when she initiates it!

