



# CORIO LARA

## VETERINARY CLINICS

**Welcome to our Summer quarterly newsletter. We wish all our clients a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!**

Christmas isn't too far away, and if you haven't already, it's time to ensure both you and your pets are ready for the festive season!

We hope these tips can ensure everyone and their furr-friends have a safe christmas & holiday season!!

At this time of year, there is often a change in routine. With new people visiting, more noise, interesting presents & shiny ornaments distracting your pets, it can be an overwhelming time for them.

Although it might seem exciting to you, there are many hazards that can pose danger to your pets.

Listed below are some tips to ensure you and your pets have a happy and safe festive season:

- Ensure pets have somewhere quiet and safe to go if it all gets too much. Especially around New Year's Celebrations & Fireworks.
- Christmas trees, pine needles, wrapping paper, twinkling lights, ornaments and decorations such as tinsel and ribbon can very tempting to your furry family members. If consumed can cause intestinal issues. To reduce these risks, place your tree in the corner of a room where it can be sectioned off from your pets.

- Christmas plants such as poinsettias, amaryllis, mistletoe and holly are poisonous and can cause serious illness. Lilies are extremely toxic to cats and cause severe, acute kidney failure.
  - Keep edible treats such as advent calendars and ornaments such as candy canes out of reach from your pets.
  - It may be tempting to give your pets scraps from Christmas dinner, but keep in mind that they have different digestive systems to us. Most cooked meats are ok to give in small portions (unless your pet is prone to pancreatitis or is overweight)
- Below are a few things to make sure your pet isn't being fed:

- o Cooked Bones

- o Chocolate

- o Any marinated meat or stuffing – these can contain garlic, onions and raisins.

- o Christmas pudding – generally these include dairy, raisins, currents, spices and possibly alcohol.

- o Sugar free products containing Xylitol – this can be found in some peanut butters or similar. Even in small amounts can be highly toxic if ingested.

## **Heat Stress / Exhaustion :**

Although with summer fast approaching the warmer weather is generally appreciated, there are some potential complications for our furry friends. Unlike us, dogs cannot sweat to cool down. While they do have a few sweat glands located in their paws, these do little to help regulate their body temperature. Instead dogs do this by rapid, open-mouthed breathing called panting. But with high temperatures or humidity percentages, this isn't enough to keep them from getting overheated.

Over heating is not something to take lightly, and as the weather heats up, it's important to remain aware of how the heat affects your furry friend !  
Heat exhaustion in dogs can lead to serious and potentially fatal conditions such as heat stroke, kidney failure, cardiac arrest and in some cases, death.  
Heat exhaustion in dogs can occur when the internal body temperature above reaches 39 degrees celsius.

If the temperature continues to rise and reaches 41 degrees celsius or higher, your pup is in the danger zone for heat stoke, during which the organs begin to shut down and the risk of serious side effects increase.

Fortunately, it's not difficult to spot the signs of overheating in dogs, with excessive panting the first symptom. A dangerously overheated dog may collapse or experience convulsions, exhibit vomiting or diarrhoea and may also have gums that turn blue or bright red.

Early signs are more subtle – it may be as simple as your dog seems less responsive to commands than usual. If there is any question at all, get your dog out of the heat as soon as possible.

Signs of potential heat stroke include glazed eyes, excessive drooling, rapid heart rate, dizziness or lack of coordination, fever, lethargy and loss of consciousness. If you notice any of these signs, please contact your vet.

### **Risk Factors :**

While all dogs are at risk for overheating, some breeds are more prone than others. These include dogs with thick coats, or long hair. Very young or very old dogs, or brachycephalic breeds – those with short noses and flat faces, such as pugs and bulldogs.

Dogs that are above a healthy weight and those that suffer from medical conditions that cause difficulty breathing or heart problems can be at a higher risk also.

Extremely active dogs and working or hunting breeds are also at a higher risk, be sure they get plenty of breaks to rest in the shade and have access to fresh cool water.

### **What to Do if Your Dog Is Overheated:**

At the first sign of overheating, immediately take action to cool down your dog. Immediately move your dog to a cooler area, either indoors where there is air conditioning or in the shade under a fan.

Use a rectal thermometer to check his temperature. Heat exhaustion typically occurs when a dog's temperature falls between 39 and 41 degrees. A temperature above 41 places him at risk for heat stroke. If he's in the danger zone, call your veterinarian immediately.

If you're near a body of fresh water, such as a lake or a baby pool, let your dog

take a dip to cool down. Otherwise, you can use cool, wet cloths or towels to help them out. Place your cool wet cloths on their neck, armpits, and between the hind legs, and you can also gently wet the ears and paw pads with cool water.

If they are conscious and willing to drink, give cool, fresh water. Don't feed ice cubes, which could cause his temperature to drop too quickly, leading to shock. Get him to the vet. If you haven't already done so, call ahead so they can be ready to take immediate action as soon as you arrive.

Of course, prevention is best. You can help keep your pooch from overheating with some basic safety practices. These include limiting exercise or outdoor activity on excessively hot or humid days, providing plenty of shade and water when your dog is outdoors, and never, under any circumstances, leaving your pet in a parked car—not even in the shade with the windows rolled down.

Armed with the knowledge of how to recognize overheating, how to respond, and how to avoid it in the first place, you can look forward to a safe, fun and happy summer with your four-legged friend.

## **Fireworks and your pets !**

Following the Christmas celebrations, the New Year will soon be upon us.

Although this is certainly a time to celebrate, some parts of the celebrations can cause concern for our furry friends.

Fireworks can be frightening for dogs and cats as their hearing is much more sensitive than ours and each cheerful "bang" sounds like an explosion that occurs without explanation.

There are a few things you can do to help prevent your animals from becoming anxious during these festive times, these include:

- Desensitize your pet with prior exposure to noises either through apps or CDs
- Provide your animal with a safe space for them to retreat.
- Distract them with entertaining toys & treats.
- Exercise your pet before the event to tire them
- Try a thunder shirt or Adaptil\* products
- Leave the radio or TV on
- Update contact details on collars & their microchip

## **New osteoarthritis medications!**

### **Zydx injection and Glyde Chews**

We are happy to announce that we now have the latest osteoarthritis injectable as part of our treatment options for dogs with osteoarthritis. Our feline friends are not forgotten and these injections have been used with great results off label for them

too. This medication is designed to regrow cartilage, provide pain relief , and also slow down the progression of osteoarthritis. In addition, we also have Glyde which is a once a day chew. It's all- natural green lipped muscle for pain relief, and chondroitin and glucosamine which assist in cartilage regrowth. Both products are Australian made and of the highest quality. Book an appointment with our vets to discuss your pet's current medication, or if their mobility seems to be slowing down.

### **We would like to welcome some new faces to the clinic!**

Jess -

Jess has come on board as our trainee Vet Nurse while she completes her 2nd year of Veterinary Nursing studies. You will see her cheery face at the Corio Clinic.

Eleyne -

Eleyne has recently come on board as one of our new vet nurses. Eleyne has recently completed her studies in Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing. Eleyne has a special interest in dog behaviour & myofunctional therapy. You will see her bubbly face at the Corio Clinic

Jane -

Jane has come on board as our friendly receptionist at the Corio Clinic. We look forward to having her on board this coming year.

We welcome back our Veterinarian Melissa, who has been on maternity leave after having her son Ethan back in February. She will be back part of the team from January on a part time basis.

### **Festive Season Hours**

#### **Corio Clinic:**

Monday 24th December - 8am - 4pm (early close)

Tuesday 25th December - CLOSED

Wednesday 26th December - CLOSED

Thursday 27th December - 8am - 6pm

#### **Lara Clinic:**

Monday 24th December - 8:30am - 12pm (No afternoon)

Tuesday 25th December - CLOSED

Wednesday 26th December - CLOSED

Thursday 27th December - 8:30am - 12pm

Thursday 27th December - 4:00pm - 7:00pm

The Geelong Animal Emergency will be open over this time and is located at 102 Fyans St, South Geelong - 5222-2139

**We hope with these tips in mind you and your furr family can enjoy a safe and Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year!**

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