#### **NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 5 — FEBRUARY – MARCH 2013**



### **Dr. Hazel Cable & Associates**

# Ph. 8322 4355

www.oldreynellavet.com.au enquiries@oldreynellavet.com.au

> 227 Old South Road **Old Reynella SA 5161**

**PO Box 962 Reynella SA 5161** 

### **OPENING HOURS:**

Monday - Friday 8am - 7pm Saturday 8:30am - 4pm Sunday **CLOSED Public Holidays CLOSED** 





### Welcome....

We hope everyone had a lovely and restful festive season. All of us have been lucky enough to enjoy some much deserved time off, and now it's already February! Phew, time really does fly! During the school holiday period we held some competitions. Thank you to all the kids who entered our colouring in competition; there were three major prize winners, including Ellie-May, Zayla and Jesse. We also ran a prize draw for anyone who purchased Revolution during the months of December and January, and

our lucky winner of our \$260 prize pack was Matt & Danni Russell! Congratulations to all of you! Take care in the extreme heat of summer, make sure your pets have plenty of fresh water and shade, and avoid exercise in the hottest part of the day. Take care and we hope 2013 is a great year for you and your family!





## Kong "Airdog" Toy Range

Summer is here and now is no better time to get out, enjoy the weather with your pooch and a Kong Airdog toy! Kong Airdog toys come in several different shapes and sizes to suit all breeds. They have a tennis ball-like appearance and feel;



They bounce and float, just like a tennis ball too! They also squeak when squeezed, providing an extra dimension to your pet's playtime!

We have introduced the Airdog range to provide a safer alternative to regular tennis balls. Regular tennis balls are made of highly durable synthetic material – designed to

be hit on a tennis court for hours and maintain their shape. For this reason, they are also able to wear your dog's teeth flat, leading to the possibility of early dental



disease and infection. If you have a compulsive dog who loves to chew up their tennis balls, perhaps one of these safer Kong toys will be more suitable!



### **Creature** Feature

#### Name: Hamish

Breed: Newfoundland—he weighs a whopping 70+ kilos (he doesn't actually fit on our clinic scales anymore!)

Age: 14 months old

**Loves:** everything and everyone, swimming in the pool at home and playing with other dogs. Will happily drool all over your face when he gives you a sloppy kiss!



If you would like your pet featured here, please send us a photo to enquiries@oldreynellavet.com.au

## Meet the team

This section is a chance for you to get to know our clinic staff on a more personal level.

5 minutes with Roxanne:

Nickname: Roxy

How long have you been working with us? 6 years

Why did you become a veterinarian/veterinary nurse? From a very young age I was always bringing birds, lizards and cats home and trying to help and fix them! (my poor Mum and Dad!) I have always wanted to be in this industry, and I'm glad to be here now. I love it!

**Favourite pastime when not working?** Spending time with my family, running around after my two girls Kailey who's six and Ella who's three. I also play netball and like learning to ride

my dirt bike when we go to Broken Hill. I like camping and four wheel driving with my husband, Owen.

Favourite Food? Can't go wrong with a good roast.

**Favourite Movie?** There is too many to choose from! My dad is a projectionist, so I have always been around the drive in and movie theatres.

Favourite Music? A real mixture, but the oldies are the goldies!

**Favourite moment in your career?** Assisting in a C-section, the most rewarding thing was to help those little puppies come into the world and help them take their first breath!

**Any pet's?** I have a dog which spends a lot of time at the clinic and who I am sure many people have met before. His name is Reece and he is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel x, and my little rescue cat, jaxon.

## HEARTWORM is my dog or cat at risk?

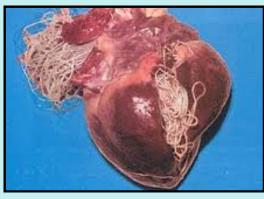
Heartworm disease (*dirofilariasis*) is a serious and potentially fatal disease in dogs and cats. It is caused by a parasite called Dirofilaria immitis. Heartworms are found in the heart and adjacent blood vessels of infected animals. The female worm is 2.3 to 5.5 cm long and 5 mm wide; the male is about half the size of the female. One dog may have as little as 1 or as many as 300 adult worms.

#### How do they get infected with them?

The disease is not spread directly from pet to pet. It is transmitted by an intermediate host, the mosquito. So even if your pooch or pussy cat is a homebody, they are still at risk. It can take a number of years before pets will show outward signs of infection. Consequently, the disease is diagnosed mostly in 4 to 8 year olds. The disease is seldom diagnosed in a pet under 1 year of age because the young worms (larvae) take up to 7 months to mature following establishment of infection.

#### How is heartworm infection diagnosed?

In most cases, diagnosis of heartworm disease can be made by a blood test that can be run by the veterinary practice. Further diagnostic procedures can be necessary, in advanced cases particularly, to determine if the pet can tolerate heartworm treatment.



A heart infected with the nasty heartworm.

#### How are pets treated for heartworms?

Treatment for heartworm is often difficult and unfortunately the damage caused by the heartworm is irreversible. An expensive injection can help if pets are diagnosed early enough. Unfortunately it can result in your pets untimely death.

#### How can I prevent heartworm infection in my dogs and cats?

Due to the dangerous nature of this parasite, prevention is far better then cure. In dogs and cats, you can use a monthly application of Revolution or for those who find it difficult to remember a monthly dose, dogs can also have a yearly heartworm injection of Proheart SR12. This can often be tied in with your pets yearly vaccination to make it easy to remember. There are many products out there, so check with the clipic if you are upsured.

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