

devoted vets

for your animal's life!



for your pet's health

12 Normanby St, Warragul, 3820 Phone: 5623 2525

Autumn 2014

Heartworm now present in West Gippsland

Foxes have been sampled in an Australia-wide study for the presence of the dog heartworm parasite. Heartworm was found in every state of Australia including Tasmania.

Significantly, heartworm was detected in trapped foxes in West Gippsland, specifically at Nyora. Importantly, this finding does not mean that heartworm in foxes is restricted to the Nyora area in West Gippsland.



In fact, 4% of all foxes sampled in Victoria were positive to heartworm.

In the past, our advice to owners of dogs who live and stay in West Gippsland, the risk of heartworm infestation is exceptionally low.

However heartworm is passed from fox to dog, and from dog to dog by mosquito species present throughout Australia.

As you would be aware, foxes live in both rural and urban environments, and are very mobile and widespread. Accordingly we can no longer provide the same advice with the same degree of confidence.

New Heartworm guidelines

An expert panel has been set up to assess the current evidence regarding heartworm and its prevention. The panel includes two veterinary professors and two small animal medical specialists.

The panel has made clear guidelines regarding the prevention of heartworm infestation:

On the basis of current evidence, year-round heartworm protection is recommended for all domestic dogs throughout Australia.

What are heartworms?

Heartworms are long, thin white worms that live in the right chambers and vessels of the heart (that receive blood from the body and send it to the lungs).

Heartworm
discovered in foxes in
West Gippsland

New
guidelines for
heartworm
prevention

What are
heartworms? Why are
they so dangerous?

Prevention options
for heartworm

Take a tour of the
Melbourne Uni
Veterinary
Science school

Claira's corner

They cause heart failure by interfering with blood flow to the body.

The symptoms of heartworm are those of heart failure: weakness, weight loss, a cough and abdominal swelling.

Unfortunately, by the time signs of infestation are obvious, the infestation is severe and life-threatening.

Just "killing" the worms is very dangerous because the dead worms pass to the lungs and block blood flow with potentially fatal consequences.

How is heartworm prevented?

There are broadly two types of heartworm prevention that we recommend - monthly "spot-on" treatments or annual vaccination.

Revolution is a spot-on that also treats fleas, sarcoptic mange and intestinal worms.

Advocate is a spot-on that also treats fleas, both types of mange, ear mites and intestinal worms.

The vaccination is a slow-release formulation that kills heartworm larvae.

The advantage with vaccination is that once started, it can be combined with annual check-ups and other vaccinations, avoiding having to remember year-round monthly spot-on treatment.

Blood test first for adult dogs

Because adult dogs may already be infected with heartworm, a simple blood test is performed prior to vaccination to check that they are free of infestation. The blood test is performed at our Clinic, requires 1ml of blood, and takes about 10 minutes for a result.

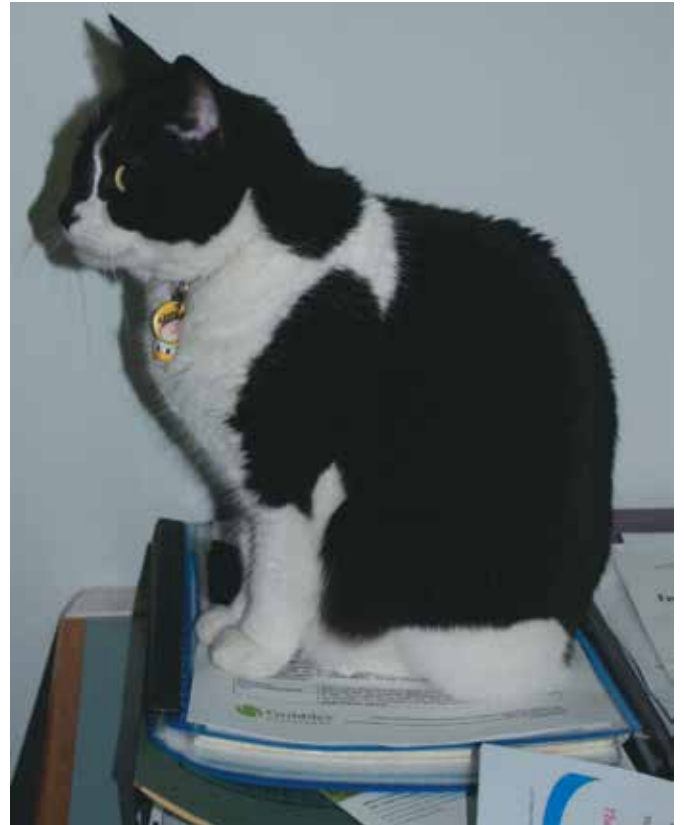
Puppies can be vaccinated without blood test, and receive two vaccinations - at 3 and 6 months of age.

Phone **5623 2525** for information or an appointment.

Take a virtual tour of a Vet School

On a much lighter note, take an amazing tour of the Melbourne University Vet School with a "behind the scenes look" and interviews with lecturers and students, go to www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/video/dvm.html

Each year, Devoted Vets helps to train vet students from Melbourne, Sydney and Queensland Universities, doing our part to help the next generation of vets gain valuable experience before graduation.



Claira's corner

"Meow!" Here I am again, Ms Grumpy, hard at work in one of my favourite places - next to the in-tray in the office! I'm waiting for my fan mail, but it hasn't arrived yet! Then I'll show those kittens who's boss! "It's me, me! I'm the head cat around here!"



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Clinic Hours

Monday and Thursday: 8am to 7 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8am to 5pm

Saturday: 9am to 12 noon