

# Seaforth Howler

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This issue contains information about Stink Bugs and poisoning by Cycads from the recent NSW Division Conference. We also have some information about rabbit calicivirus and the release of the new strain.

We have the Wildlife update and we also say farewell to Liz.

## Rabbit Calicivirus

Calicivirus, or RHVD1 (Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus) is a virus that was released in Australia in 1996 to control wild rabbit populations. Wild rabbits are considered to be a threat to our natural environment and agricultural industry. Over the years the effectiveness of this virus has waned. So a new naturally occurring variant of this virus, RHVD1 K5, was released in March 2017.

The current vaccine, "Cyclap", is effective in protecting our pet rabbits against the new strain RHVD1 K5.

So why are we recommending vaccinating our pet rabbits more frequently? In 2010 a new strain of rabbit calicivirus, RHVD2, was detected in Europe. RHVD2 was detected in Australia in 2015. It is not known how it entered Australia and no Australian government released it. It does not affect any native Australian animals.

There is currently no vaccine specifically for this new strain, so the Australian Veterinary Association has recommended vaccinating rabbits at 4, 8 and 12 weeks of age and then every 6 months, because it is thought that it may provide some extra protection.

Other measures that may help are:

- Insect proofing of hutches or areas where the rabbits live
  - Good hygiene - wash hands between handling rabbits that are not normally in contact with each other. Do not cut and feed grass to pets if there is any chance it was in contact with wild rabbits.
  - Avoid direct and indirect contact with other rabbits.
- This will also help decrease the risk of myxomatosis.

RHVD2 has been detected around Sydney. Seaforth Veterinary Hospital carries the "Cyclap" vaccine and is also recommending the vaccination regime as described by the AVA.

**Remember, the RHVD2 virus is NOT the recently released RHVD1 K5!**

- \* Rabbit Calicivirus
- \* Stink Bugs
- \* Cycads
- \* Wildlife Update
- \* Farewell Liz

### Website:

[www.svh55.com.au](http://www.svh55.com.au)

### Consultations by Appointment

Mon - Friday  
9am - 12pm & 4pm - 7pm

Saturday  
9am - 12pm & 2pm - 4pm

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9am - 11am

Open 365 days

# Stink bugs...

## From the East Coast Roadshow NSW Division Conference

Just recently, Rachel, our head nurse, and I attended the East Coast Roadshow NSW Division Conference in Newcastle. We went to keep our veterinary knowledge up to date and bring back any ideas relevant for the practice. (Wild pig diseases weren't really high up on our list!)

The conference was split into lectures for veterinary nurses and veterinarians and there were some shared lectures.

We went through treating emergency trauma patients, difficult diabetic cases, seizure patients, blocked cats, some zoonoses, pests, potions and poisonous plants and skin problems.

(The latter was over breakfast - not the greatest of subject matters whilst eating, but still very interesting.)

One of the topics I thought I'd share, because it's a relatively common problem, is stink bugs and the other topic is ingestion of the cycad plant because the cycad is a relatively common plant around Sydney.

The Stink bug is relatively common around Sydney and they are seen in citrus trees. The nymphs are green and have a flat or concave dorsal surface with a black spot on their back. As they age they become orange to bronze in colour and eventually black.

They spray a very irritant liquid when disturbed and I can say from personal experience that they are very accurate when it comes to getting that liquid in the eyes and it hurts a lot.

If your pet has been sprayed in the face they may be either blinking a lot, unable or unwilling to open their eye/s and have inflamed and swollen conjunctivae.

The first thing to do is to wash out your pet's eyes with saline or even just water. The second thing to do is come and see us. It usually causes ulceration of the cornea and we can detect this with a fluorescein test and then provide antibiotic eye ointment, to help protect the cornea while it recovers, and also pain relief. It really hurts!

We also need to recheck the eye/s to make sure the ulceration is healing. With treatment, the eye heals well and surprisingly fast.

# and Cycads.

Cycads are common backyard plants and are very toxic when eaten. The young saps are particularly palatable to dogs.

Signs of ingestion include vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and excessive salivation.

Further signs are caused by damage to the liver and the central nervous system and may not appear until up to 48 hours later. Signs of liver damage may only be discovered via blood tests - elevation of liver enzymes, jaundice, inability to clot the blood, low protein and low glucose while black stools and altered mental state may be more obvious.

Signs of the central nervous system being affected include weakness, tremors, seizures and depression. Symptoms, if the dog survives(!), may last for 9 days.

There is no antidote and treatment is symptomatic only.



## Farewell Liz

One of our long term vets, Elizabeth Foo has, sadly, left Seaforth Veterinary Hospital. Her husband was offered work abroad and the family is moving to New Zealand. We are sorry to see her go, but wish her all the best for the future. I'm sure they'll have fabulous adventures there, though Liz has said she is worried about it being too cold!

Luckily for us Veronica Gibb-Cumming has accepted the offer of a full time position here.

# Wildlife Update....

## Wildlife Report

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- 26.11.16 Lorikeet - attacked by birds -> carer
  - 27.11.16 Magpie - found in a pool ->SMWS (Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service)
  - 28.11.16 Lorikeet - concussion? -> SMWS
  - 28.11.16 Currawong fledgling -> SMWS
  - 29.11.16 Lorikeet - young -> SMWS
  - 29.11.16 Lorikeet - found on the road ->SMWS
  - 1.12.16 Ringtail possum - puncture wounds -> carer
  - 2.12.16 Noisy Minor - Hit by car? -> released
  - 9.12.16 Brushtail possum - ticks and stress dermatitis -> SMWS
  - 11.12.16 Bat -> carer
  - 12.12.16 Lorikeet - broken beak -> SMWS
  - 15.12.16 Cormorant -> Taronga Zoo
  - 16.12.16 Juvenile Kookaburra - can't fly -> SMWS
  - 17.12.16 Ringtail possum -> SMWS
  - 18.12.16 Lorikeet -> SMWS
  - 22.12.16 Blue tongue lizard -cat attack -> WIRES (Wildlife Information, Rescue & Education Service)
  - 22.12.16 Juvenile Koel ->SMWS
  - 27.12.16 Lorikeet -> carer
  - 28.12.16 Juvenile Ringtail possum-> WIRES
  - 30.12.16 Baby Ringtail possum -> WIRES
  - 1.1.17 Lorikeet -> carer
  - 6.1.17 Lorikeet - hit by car -> SMWS
  - 9.1.17 Ringtail possum with baby -> carer
  - 9.1.17 Tawny Frogmouth -> Taronga Zoo
  - 10.1.17 Lorikeet - found on the side of the road -> carer
  - 11.1.17 Water Dragon - dog attack -> SMWS
  - 12.1.17 2 x Baby Ringtail possums -orphaned -> WIRES
  - 12.1.17 Juvenile Ringtail possum -> WIRES
  - 13.1.17 Juvenile Ringtail possum -> SMWS
  - 17.1.17 Baby Brush Turkey -> SMWS
  - 22.1.17 Lorikeet - Drooping Wing -> SMWS
  - 24.1.17 Koel - head trauma -> SMWS
  - 24.1.17 Kookaburra - found in pool -> carer
  - 31.1.17 King Quail - trauma -> SMWS
  - 31.1.17 Sacred Kingfisher -> SMWS
  - 1.2.17 Kookaburra - trauma -> SMWS
  - 1.2.17 Channel-billed Cuckoo - trauma -> WIRES
  - 2.2.17 Lorikeet - fractured wing -> SMWS
  - 8.2.17 Kingfisher - trauma -> SMWS
  - 14.2.17 Ringtail possum - trauma -> SMWS
  - 17.2.17 Eastern Azure Kingfisher - poison?/concussion? -> SMWS
  - 17.2.17 Baby Ringtail possum - orphan -> WIRES
  - 21.2.17 Lorikeet - concussion? -> carer
  - 21.2.17 Sacred Kingfisher - unwell -> SMWS
  - 22.2.17 Baby Ringtail possum - caught by cat -> SMWS

Thankyou to all those carers of wildlife from Taronga Zoo, the Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service, WIRES and members of the public who took the time to help our Australian Wildlife.