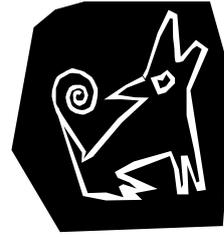


Consults by appointment  
**Mon– Fri:** 9-12 noon, 4-7pm  
**Sat:** 9-4pm  
**Sunday + P.Hol:** 9-11am



# The Seaforth Howler

## Editorial

**By Dr Rob Miller (Partner)**

A bumper issue this time!

This year represents one year on from the introduction of our triennial vaccine protocol for dogs. As such we are focussing on vaccines to remind clients of vaccine importance in addition to the annual check up.

Terry takes us through the core vaccines for cats and in the next issue we will cover the rest.

A thank you to Sue Wadey (a client) for her contribution of “animal fast facts”. We encourage other clients to contribute articles to the Howler.

I review tick season (was it worse or better than last year?) and summarise a recent local

study on Felv, FIV and feline heartworm conducted by our head nurse Rachel.

If your pet has a behavioural issue don't fret, SAB's is here to help. You are lucky to have the best of behaviourists right here on site at Seaforth Veterinary Hospital. Read Jenny's article for the details.

Hendrika talks about stem cell therapy, a very topical issue at the moment.

Parnell reviews what we can do to relieve suffering of our pets from osteoarthritis through their integrated product range.

Finally a few Media snippets to keep you smiling!

Enjoy this issue of the Howler, that's an order!

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## Feline Viruses and Vaccination<sup>1</sup>

**By Dr Terry Collins (Practice Partner)**

### Summary

At SVH, adult feline vaccinations are given annually. We use a three-part vaccine that protects against **Feline Panleucopaenia (FPL)**, **Feline Herpes Virus (FHV)** and **Feline Calicivirus (FCV)**. Adults cats require annual protection against the last two viruses.

Although FPL requires less frequent vaccination, it is not currently available as a separate vaccine.

Kittens born to vaccinated queens acquire maternally derived antibodies (MDA) which remain at protective titres until 6-8 weeks of age. The current recommendation for kitten vaccinations is 3 doses at 6-8 weeks, 10-12 weeks and 16-20 weeks of age.

All cats should receive a first booster vaccination at 12 months after completion of the kitten course.

Let's have a look at the viral diseases encompassed by this trivalent vaccine.

### Feline Panleucopaenia (Feline Enteritis)

This is an acute viral disease affecting all felines and some exotic species including foxes. It is transmitted by the faecal – oral route and may be carried on shoes and clothing, which means indoor cats are also at risk.

Cats of all ages may be affected but kittens are the most susceptible with a mortality rate of over 90%.

The hallmark symptom are diarrhoea and severe depression. Dehydration and death follow soon after.

The virus may survive in the environment for several months and is highly resistant to some

### News Column



- **Congratulations Scooter on a job well done! Enjoy your retirement.**
- **And a big welcome to Maria our new receptionist.**
- **Look forward to our focus on your pet's teeth – May will be our Dental Month.**

disinfectants. Common bleach is highly effective.

Kittens less than 4 weeks old and pregnant queens should not be vaccinated due to potential cerebellar (brain) damage in the kitten.

### Feline Herpes Virus

This is one of the viruses commonly associated with “Cat Flu”. It causes rhinotracheitis and conjunctivitis, usually accompanied by depression and anorexia. Affected cats may also develop inflammation of the cornea. Viral shedding from acutely infected cats and from latently infected cats experiencing reactivation are the two main sources of infection.

Apparently recovered cats who are latently infected become lifelong carriers. Pregnancy and lactation typically induce stress for queens thus kittens may acquire the virus very early on. The outcome of the infection depends upon the level of the MDA they possess. There is a very valid argument for weaning kittens as soon as possible to decrease the lactation stress on latently infected queens.

Cats on immunosuppressive drugs such as cortisone are also more likely to shed virus. Natural FHV infections do not result in solid immunity so recovered cats still need to be vaccinated.

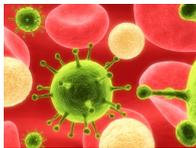
### Feline Calicivirus

This is the other virus associated with “Cat Flu”. The main clinical signs are upper respiratory involvement, high fever and oral ulcers. This virus can be isolated from nearly all cats with chronic stomatitis or gingivitis. It is often difficult to determine which virus a cat flu cat is suffering from.

Any cat with outside access is at high risk of respiratory disease and should be vaccinated at yearly intervals. Catteries are distinctly high risk! Cats kept indoors who have no contact with other cats could potentially be given the vaccine every three years.

**It should be stressed that each yearly vaccination encompasses an important, full clinical examination. We would even suggest that older cats have twice yearly examinations, particularly to check their dental and kidney health.**

.....To Be Continued in the next edition of the Howler!



## Local Incidence of FIV, FELV and Heartworm

### By DR Robert Miller (Practice Partner)

Over the past 2-3 months Rachel, our head nurse, has been conducting Feline AID's (FIV), Feline Leukaemia (FELV) and Feline Heartworm blood tests randomly and free of charge on admitted ill cats. FIV and FELV relate to viral infections and vaccines are available for these diseases. Should we be vaccinating against these diseases?

We can report that the local incidence of both viral diseases is low (FELV < 1%, FIV 4%). This validates our approach of non-vaccination for these two diseases, in line with current recommendations of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Few if any clients give Heartworm prevention to their cats. Very few vets recommend it to my personal knowledge. Our results show an incidence of < 1% and it is likely to be quite low indeed.

## Animal Fast Facts

### By Sue Wadey (Client)

White whales are born black - All shrimps are born male then transform into females - Only male turkeys gobble - Cats have 32 muscles in each ear - A croc can't stick out its tongue - A kiwi lays the largest egg in relation to its size—Only 1 in 1000 sea creatures ever grow to maturity - An anteater is 2m long but its mouth is only 4 cms wide - The oldest animal is recorded as a tortoise of 152 years old - A blue whale weighs 50 tonnes at birth and 150 tonnes fully grown - Honey is the only food that does not spoil - The only lizard with a voice is the gecko - Mosquitoes have teeth - Tigers have striped skin, not just fur - Elephants and shrews sleep only 2 hours a day - The bullfrog NEVER sleeps - Camel's milk does not curdle - The pelican breathes through its mouth - All porcupines can float on water. It takes 20,000 litres of water to produce 1 kg of beef - Garfish have green bones - A cheetah does 4 strides/second - Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.

## Tick Season 2010-11

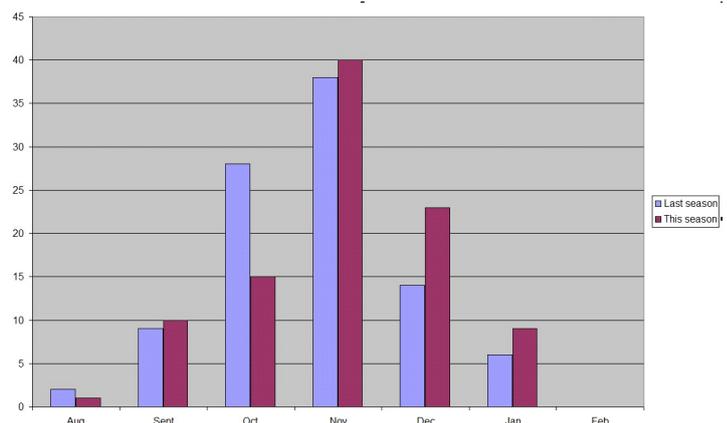
### By DR Robert Miller (Partner)

Each tick season we collect incidence figures for tick poisoning cases. Was this year worse than last?

The graph below shows last season (2009-2010, lilac) compared with this year's tick season (2010-2011, purple).

As you can see this year the season started slower compared with last year but the months of Nov, Dec and Jan were all significantly worse compared to the previous year.

Total number of tick poisoning cases this year was 98, compared to 97 in the previous year.



## *Scooter Retires from Bear Cottage*

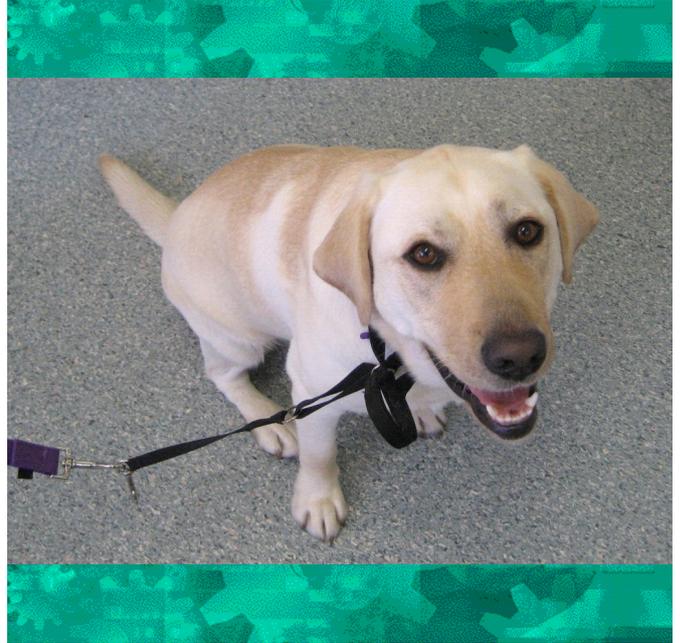
**By Jane Molchanoff (Practice Manager)**

Seaforth Veterinary Hospital would like to wish Scooter, a specially trained facility dog from Bear Cottage, all the best in his retirement. We have provided free veterinary care for Scooter for many years now, in addition to organising support from various pet care manufacturers including Parnell (arthritis support supplement) and Eukanuba (Healthy Joint diet). Scooter has been busy helping prepare Frankie, a two and half year old female Golden Labrador, to take over his post, and we look forward to continuing our care for Frankie for many years to come.

Bear Cottage was the first children's hospice in NSW. It is a place where children with terminal illnesses and their families can stay from time to time to receive rest and medical care in a home-like environment. The Cottage is located in Manly and is designed as a large family beach home. It is equipped with specialist medical care available 24 hours a day to take care of the children's medical needs, and staff and volunteers to see to daily tasks such as cooking and cleaning. Families are provided with the opportunity to spend some quality time together; to relax in the tranquil surroundings near all the attractions and amenities of one of Sydney's great holiday destinations.

In addition to providing respite and end of life care, Bear Cottage runs a number of other programs aimed to support the entire family. Families do not pay for any Bear Cottage services and all operating expenses are raised entirely through community donations. If you would like to learn more about Bear Cottage, or to make a donation please visit their website at:

[www.bearcottage.chw.edu.au](http://www.bearcottage.chw.edu.au)



**Frankie**

## *SABS and Zeke to the rescue!*

**By Jenny Edwards (SABS, Practice Manager)**

Sydney Animal Behaviour Service (SABS), as many of you may know, is located above Seaforth Veterinary Hospital. Dr Kersti Seksel who is currently the only registered specialist in Behavioural Medicine in Australia runs the practice. Joining Dr Seksel is Dr Jacqui Ley and Dr Gaille Perry both registered Veterinary Behaviour consultants.

The day to day running of the practice is managed by me, Jenny Edwards, and a very keen Beagle called Zeke. Zeke takes a very active interest in the Seaforth Veterinary Hospital Reception when we arrive and leave each day and he is rewarded admirably for his attendance at work by all the staff at Seaforth Vets. As he works for a veterinary behaviourist he manages to make sure that his behaviour is noticed by turning the bin for recycled paper over in the office to announce when Dr Seksel arrives. This is a special greeting he reserves just for her!

If you have any concerns about your pet's behaviour please give us a call and we will discuss how we may be able to assist you in dealing with your pet's behaviour.

We offer many different types of services but the best option is a full behavioural assessment. This will establish a

diagnosis so we know what the problem is, and then we can work out a detailed management plan. Then we will send you, and your veterinarian, a full report detailing the behaviour management recommendations for your pet. We then usually recommend a recheck appointment about 6 weeks later so that we can monitor progress but are happy to answer any queries by phone or email between these times.

The most common problems we deal with in dogs and cats are excessive barking, anxiety, aggression, elimination issues, fears and phobias, obsessive compulsive disorders and cognitive dysfunction.

Please look on our website ([www.sabs.com.au](http://www.sabs.com.au)) for more information about us and the services we provide or call one of our team please on 9949 8511. We look forward to talking to you if you would like some help with your pet and its behaviour.

## *Stem Cell Therapy*

**By Dr Hendrika Tegelaar (Practice Partner)**

I am embarking on a new treatment regime of stem cell therapy in dogs suffering arthritis. Arthritis is a degenerative and progressive disease of joints which is treated with a combination of therapies including disease modification injections, nutraceuticals, management changes and

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antiinflammatory drugs. Now we are starting to offer the added benefit of stem cell therapy. This is still in its infancy, but showing some remarkable results. The first cases I have dealt with are showing good improvements: one, a younger dog with severe arthritis due to developmental problems of both elbow and hip dysplasia, the other an active dog with traumatic cruciate damage.

Stem cells are precursor cells capable of transforming into any cell line in the body. In the past they have been harvested from bone marrow but scientists have found a rich source of these cells in certain fat deposits. We use the fat deposit behind the shoulder which is a very rich source and easily retrieved although it does require an anaesthetic. As these are harvested from the recipient dog there are no ethical considerations.

Once retrieved the fat is processed through a number of procedures to purify and concentrate the active stem cells. This takes approximately 4 hours and is done under controlled aseptic conditions. These stem cells are injected directly into the affected joint(s) to aid in the healing and regenerative process. This second part of the treatment is also undertaken under general anaesthesia with joints being prepared aseptically as if surgery were to be performed. As cells are injected directly into the joint asepsis is necessary to prevent infection. If any extra cells are left they can be given into the blood stream by slow intravenous injection to boost the body in general, or stored for future use. The treatment takes up to 1 month to reach full effect, and, in the case of arthritis may produce benefits for up to 18 months. With an elderly patient this may be enough to give good quality of life for the remainder of its life.

Once the treatment is completed there is an initial stage of swelling in the joint and some discomfort which lasts approximately 2 days, but is well worth the long term benefit. It can be controlled with pain relief medication if required.

There is new research into use of stem cell therapy in early heart disease to heal the defective heart valve and stop the progression of heart failure.

Anecdotally it also helps with chronic skin allergy.

The possibilities and future are very exciting.

Prior to undertaking this treatment we need to ascertain that no underlying problems exist, such as heart problems, kidney or liver problems or underlying cancerous conditions, as anaesthetics are required and the effect of stem cells on actively dividing cancer cells may not be beneficial.

## *Osteoarthritic protection*

### *(Parnell Sponsored Article)*

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative joint disease which is consequent to the breakdown of the cushioning cartilage and lubrication fluid of articular joints. Without these the joint is poorly protected and long term damage is sustained. Your pet may be predisposed to this by trauma, injury, genetics and excessive weight.

To help protect your dog and cat from these conditions Parnell have developed a highly bioavailable nutritional supplement to help provide the building blocks necessary to repair cartilage and improve joint fluid. Glyde contains chondroitin and glucosamine and naturally occurring anti-inflammatory eicosanoids uniquely found in NZ green lipped mussels.

We at Seaforth Veterinary Hospital, are also able to give a course of injections to modify the disease process and slow clinical progression, especially when used in conjunction with Glyde.

These are frontline means of treating osteoarthritis and can help delay the necessity of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, more prone to side effects in your pet. Ask for the free brochure on these products.

## *Media Snippets*

### *By Dr Rob Miller (Practice Partner)*

#### **Terrifying Peg....**

With a penchant for Postman's leg, a little 10 yo Yorkshire Terrier, Peggy, from Northampton UK has been given her eviction notice.

Postmen are so in fear of her they refer to her as "The Beast of Dorset Gardens" referring to the street she lives in. Her owner says she is all bark and no bite, but the posties are refusing to deliver to the street in which she resides; this means a 20km round trip for other local residents to pick up their mail. They are not happy. An anonymous neighbour says, in truth "she is a vicious little thing".

Maybe one solution would be to provide the Postman with a pair of those Wallace and Gromit "Wrong Trousers"?

#### **A story that will make your toes curl!**

Cavaliers are so cute and innocent, aren't they? Well, one 72 year old man revised that opinion when one of his pet Cavaliers chewed off three of his toes while he slept!

The problem is, he had already lost one leg (no, not due to the dog that time!) and one toe from the remaining leg.

He owns two Cavaliers, but the culprit was apprehended when police noticed a little blood on the nose of one of them. Suffering from a neuropathy, the man has no feeling in his feet.

Weirdly enough, the US police have quarantined the dogs to observe for any signs of Rabies. I assume they are worried that the dogs' unusual behaviour may signal rabies, rather than worrying that the victim may have infected his dogs through a bad toe meal.

All I can say is it is a good job he woke up when he did!