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Editorial

By Dr Rob Miller (Veterinarian)

In this issue:

Physiotherapy is making inroads into veterinary medicine and Hendrika reviews its usefulness, which is clear to most clients who have had need for it themselves!

Now if you didn't know (who hasn't she told?) Virginia has this wonderful dog called Tec. We have let her loose on the Howler to sing his praises.

A few pics from Sam's wedding. We know you were all waiting for these.

We continue to offer exceptional service and are always trying something new. DIA software will help with our many discharges of surgical cases, a better way of explaining things basically.

Congratulations to Jane on the completion of

her arduous veterinary management course. Jane will be moving from our front desk to upstairs as Admin Manager for Seaforth Vets. As a result, Lisa has started as our new receptionist.

Last but by no means least, Jenny is back from Sri Lanka and her stay with the elephants, in the Howler she recounts her great visit

And then we have the usual media round up and client pic.



Animal Physiotherapy

by Hendrika Tegelaar (Veterinarian)

Veterinary medicine and surgery has improved dramatically over the last few years and we are able to offer so much more now than previously, both in our own hospital but also an array of specialist veterinarians and associated professionals such as special veterinary trained physiotherapists.

Physiotherapy is an adjunct treatment with very positive outcomes for a range of disease processes affecting the musculoskeletal system. Old dogs with arthritis, dogs with spinal disease or trauma and neurological deficits, post traumatic damage – car accidents, spills and falls while playing or out exercising.

As any person knows who undergoes surgery for knees, hips or other fractures, the surgery is only the beginning of the healing process and after care and physio is essential for best outcomes and return to best possible function. Our animals are no different. They just adapt and complain less than the human counterpart.

Physiotherapy involves a variety of different techniques – massaging muscles, passive and active stretching and joint mobilisation, acupuncture



Stifle Physio

News Column

- **Congratulations to Jane on the completion of her Management study course!**
- **Sam is off to Chandigarh in India for the second leg of her marriage in Nov/Dec!**
- **Welcome to Brooke, our new nurse!**



and hydrotherapy. If you think your animal will benefit from the extra attention or help in this way let us know so we can point you in the right direction.



Dog on underwater Treadmill

Super Tec

By Virginia Pennefather (Nurse, Receptionist, and resident Puppy Trainer)

I've used the Howler on a number of occasions to boast about the achievements of my very special German Shorthaired Pointer, Tec, and when Dr Rob Miller asked me to write an article for this edition, I thought "why should this be any different?"

We recently travelled to Coffs Harbour to compete in a 3 day Championship Show. This competition was quite unique because you could 'show' your dog as well as enter the obedience and agility events, and any success in any of these three disciplines would go toward an overall point score. Whilst we have had a few wins in the areas of obedience and agility, showing was a whole new ballgame for us.

Driving to Coffs Harbour from Sydney's Northern Beaches is a hike and with the ever increasing cost of fuel, expensive! But we packed up the car and set off on our long journey. We made a couple of relief stops along the way (Freddos Pies and Licks Ice cream Parlour in Charleston are personal favourites, and Tec can recommend the Tourist Rest Stop just before Kempsey; the adjoining park is large and fragrant - courtesy of the local wildlife which frequent it).

We woke the first day of the show to the sound of torrential rain. Dogs and rain are not an ideal combination at the best of times, but it's a disaster when you want to 'show' them. The skies did clear relatively early, but we were left with a legacy of very muddy grounds.

I had to keep my eye on the show proceedings at the same time as running in the agility competition. Eventually our show number was called, and Tec and I entered the ring. He was looking good - I think he sensed the 'pomp and ceremony' of the occasion (or was it the liver treats I held in my hand). The Judge asked us to stand before him and instructed me to "stack your dog", which means to square him up so that both his back and front paws are level. Here I must make a confession ... OK, I might be the resident puppy trainer here at Seaforth Vets, however my dog is a bit of a sook and doesn't particularly like having his feet touched. So the idea of physically manoeuvring him into a square position was a bit daunting. I quietly confessed to the Judge that we'd never previously entered a show ring, and before I knew it, he bent down and jiggled him into position without any objection from my canine companion! The Judge then asked us to "gait

around the ring". This required us to stride out at a swift pace on a loose lead - which would have been a piece of cake had the ground not been such a quagmire from the hundred or so dogs and handlers doing the same thing before us. Both of us returned to position somewhat mud-encrusted and not as elegantly as I'd hoped. Nevertheless, the Judge scrutinised us again, scratched his chin and then announced us as the "Winner of the Neutered Class". What a thrill! We grabbed our little ribbon and Tec was rewarded with his favourite treat, a tin of cat food.

I'm not sure that we'll become addicted to showing, however it was a pleasant experience. Further, with successes in the obedience and agility rings it was a pretty good weekend. We won the pointscore and came away with the "Best Overall Exhibit" award. To commemorate the event, Kath Salier (Nurse and Receptionist at SVH, and talented photographic artist) took this very special photo of my boy preparing to take off and save the worldOK then, maybe he was only going for a ball.



Jenny, Elephant Mahout

By Jenny Short (Veterinary Nurse)

It has always been a dream of mine to work with elephants and in June this year I was able to fulfil that dream in Sri Lanka.

I signed myself up for 4 weeks as a working volunteer at Sri Lanka's famous elephant orphanage in Pinnawala.

I stayed in a nearby house in Kegalle with eight other volunteers and four Sri Lankan house boys who cooked and cleaned for us!!

Each morning we would pile into the van and were driven to the orphanage. For 2 hours we cleaned the sheds that the elephants sleep and eat in whilst they wandered freely around the orphanage.

Shovelling elephant poo the size of my head in Sri Lanka's heat and humidity was really hard work!! But the Sri Lankan "mahouts" (elephant trainers) always helped and made us laugh.

After shovelling we went home to shower and have lunch (which was always great food - not too hot!!) and then came the exciting part of the day. Bath time!!

First stop was to bath Raja. He is a 65 year old blind elephant who had to be bathed further up the river because otherwise he was bullied by the other male elephants. He is a lovely old



Jenny and Raja the blind elephant



Jenny atop Munika, one of the mums

man and once in the river he let us sit on him and use coconut rusk shells to ‘exfoliate’ him. It was very rewarding and Raja was so friendly, with the most amazing tusks I’ve ever seen. After his bathing Raja was walked back to the orphanage and then we took the other *sixty* or so elephants down to the river.

It was such a amazing sight to see so many elephants wandering down the road past the open shop fronts and people busy with their daily routines.

Down at the river the mahouts really looked after us as we helped them care for the elephants. They allowed us to go into the river with the elephants and use buckets to wash them down. I must mention how well the mahouts treated and cared for the elephants, you could tell they really loved them.

Bathing was one of the most amazing experiences to work so closely with these beautiful creatures.

After bathing the mahouts and volunteers together lead the elephants back to the orphanage, back to the sheds for their dinner of palm leaves and branches.

On certain days we were also allowed to help do treatments with the vet and also bottle feed the baby elephants. This was great. They were absolutely adorable, they loved to play chasey with you whilst waiting for their turn with the milk.

One of my other favourite elephants was called Sama. I nicknamed her Stumpy, as when she was young she had stepped on a landmine which blew off half her leg. She has since learnt to live with her disability and seems very happy.

Overall my time in Sri Lanka was such an amazing experience. I really wasn’t ready to come home as its such a beautiful country, with beautiful people and I can’t wait to go back in the future to see my elephants again!!

Sam’s wedding pics

On April 12th this year Sam, our Nursing Manager, married Mohit, here are a few long awaited pics!



Seaforth Veterinary Hospital

Our Web Page

www.svh55.com.au

Phone: 02-9949 1288

Fax: 02-9949 6364

e-mail: rob@svh55.com

DIA Software

Yet another advance forward in client communications at Seaforth Veterinary Hospital.

Whenever we discharge a patient from hospital, especially where surgery has been complicated, it is often not easy to detail procedures to our clients. Traditionally we have employed badly hand sketched and verbal descriptions.

To make life easier we have installed DIA software in our consulting rooms. This software provides detailed pictures, x rays, ultrasounds and animations of many of the issues that need to be clearly conveyed to you during patient discharge.

Client's Gallery



Max Watson keeping a low profile during a recent hospital stay!

Media Snippet...

By DR Rob Miller (Veterinarian)

Now that's a real snippet, pardon the pun!

We all know how the dog always gets blamed for unidentified fuming gas about the house, but this takes the cake...

A 64-year-old Frenchwoman was handed a 12-year jail sentence for castrating her partner while he was unconscious and then blaming her pet dog.

The victim, aged 39, was rushed to hospital with his penis sliced off.

His partner called the ambulance herself, saying the dog had

bitten off and eaten his genitals.

Police never recovered either a weapon or the missing body part.

DogMan!

A 28 year old unemployed Japanese man was arrested for robbing convenience stores in Japan. During the robberies he wore a Beagle mask

He claimed he needed to carry out these robberies to feed his pets; two dogs, five cats, five turtles, two snakes and an aquarium of tropical fish.

So far there have been no copy cat robberies by Seaforth clients!

Pigs might fly!

Which is what you might say if someone suggested to you that a pig could survive buried beneath earthquake rubble for 36 days without food. However it did happen, following the Chinese earthquake in May this year. It has been hailed as a symbol of the will to stay alive.

The pig weighed nearly 150kg at the time of the magnitude 8.0 earthquake and had lost two thirds of its weight when it was eventually found.

"It didn't look like a pig at all when it was saved. It was as thin as a goat!" a witness told.

The curator of the local Museum bought the pig for \$440 and will keep the animal for the rest of its life as a living symbol of the earthquake disaster.

NEW road rule

...forbidding motorists from driving with a pet in their lap will be brought into effect in NSW on July 1st.

Roads Minister Eric Roozendaal says the changes to the 33 existing rules and seven new rules make it clear that stupid and reckless behaviour on our roads is unacceptable.

The changes will include making it illegal to drive with a pet on your lap.

"Driving with your pet in your lap is just plain silly and puts your life at risk, your passenger's lives at risk as well as the lives of people around you," Mr Roozendaal said in a statement.

Eukanuba And Dental Health Month

Did you know that August is Veterinary Dental month?

Get excited! Well maybe not, but remember that dental health is essential for the overall health of your pets especially as they age.

Keeping teeth clean has been made a lot easier thanks to Eukanuba diets, all of which contain DDS, Dental Defense System.

DDS is formulated to prevent soft plaque from turning into mineralised calculus on your pets teeth.

Calculus once formed will lead to periodontal disease and bad teeth. It can only be effectively removed by a full dental, which involves an anaesthetic and ultrasonic scale and polish. So what could be better than preventing this?

Eukanuba provides a whole range of diets for all life stages of your pet.

We would like to thank Eukanuba for their generosity in sponsoring this newsletter.

