



WENTWORTH FALLS ANIMAL HOSPITAL



• Newsletter • Summer 2006 • Issue #1

Passionate About Pets
www.wentworthfallsvet.com.au

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New 24 hour emergency service

If your pet has an accident or is unwell outside normal opening hours we provide a 24 hour emergency service. Some times you may just need some telephone advice, but if you are worried about your pet, Steve and Andrew are always available to discuss your concerns.

Call our normal practice number **02 4757 3255** and listen for the mobile phone number given in the recorded message. Your pet will be cared for with A-Class hospital facilities, including: vaccinations, de-sexing, X-ray, intensive care, general surgery, dentistry, in-house and external blood and urine testing, external pathology testing, acupuncture and puppy pre-school.

Opening hours

Monday to Friday
8.30am – 7.00pm
Saturday
9.00am – 1.00pm
Sunday
10.00am – 12 noon

Ring us on **02 4757 3255** to make an appointment.

Practice website

Wentworth Falls Animal Hospital now has a website to inform you of the services we offer. The site is very simple, explaining how the practice was created and how to find us. Take a moment to have a look at www.wentworthfallsvet.com.au



The Wentworth Falls Animal Hospital team: Stephen and Fiona Gibson, Alison Mair, Andrew and Nicky Laws.

A warm welcome to Wentworth Falls

Wentworth Falls Animal Hospital opened its doors to the public on Monday, 7th November 2005.

In the past year we have grown into a busy veterinary practice and have enjoyed serving both the Mid and Upper Blue Mountains. We are very grateful for the friendliness and support shown to us by our clients and their animals, and we look forward to caring for your furry companions for many years to come.

This is our inaugural practice newsletter and we hope you find it both informative and entertaining. We feel that client education is extremely important and we hope to work with you to provide your much-loved companions with the veterinary care they deserve.

Enjoy the issue.

Andrew Laws BVSc (Hons)

Meet the team

Andrew and Nicky Laws teamed-up with **Stephen and Fiona Gibson** to bring a state-of-the-art veterinary facility to the Upper Blue Mountains.

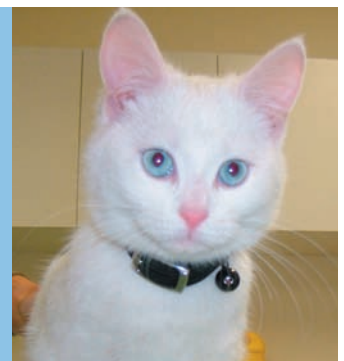
Andrew, Stephen and Fiona all attended Sydney University Veterinary School graduating with honours in the mid 1990s. All three have worked in the United Kingdom and in Australia, giving the hospital over 30 years of veterinary experience.

Nicky Laws is the practice manager and a veterinary nurse trained in the UK with over 12 years experience in vet hospitals.

Alison Mair joined Wentworth Falls Animal Hospital as our full-time vet nurse in May 2006. Alison has over five years experience in the profession and a very welcoming smile.

Pet Profile: Milky

I'm sure many of you have met our beautiful blue-eyed practice cat – Milky. She came to us via Wentworth Falls Railway Station carpark a few months ago and it didn't take long for her to settle and make herself at home. She is without doubt our most popular staff member with a regular procession of visitors coming to the hospital just to see Milky. I'm sure you will see her on your next visit as she is never backwards in coming forward. Just don't mention her weight...
Send in your Pet Profile to: fallsvet@commander360.com



Paralysis Ticks: how to protect your pet

The Paralysis Tick (*Ixodes Holocycclus*) is a particularly nasty parasite that is most active during spring and summer.

Unfortunately, we have already seen a few cases of tick paralysis at the hospital this spring.

It is called the Paralysis Tick because it injects a toxin into any animal it feeds on. This affects the nervous system, leading to paralysis of the muscles and even death in severe cases. Signs to look out for are weakness (in the hind legs initially), abnormal bark or meow, coughing, vomiting or laboured breathing. If your dog or cat is exhibiting any of these signs, or you find a tick on your pet, you should contact our vets **Stephen** or **Andrew** immediately. If the hospital is closed, listen to the answer phone message and ring the practice mobile phone.

We are seeing more cases of tick paralysis each year in the Mid and Upper Blue Mountains. Animals that visit areas such as the Lower Blue Mountains, Nepean-Hawkesbury Rivers and the Coast are at even more risk of picking up the Paralysis Tick.

Prevention is always better than cure, so here are few simple steps to protect your pet from tick paralysis:

1. Apply Frontline Top-Spot every two weeks or Frontline Spray every three weeks.
2. Permethrin rinse – use every week or after walks in the bush.
3. Advantix – which must not be used on cats, or dogs that sleep close to cats.



The Paralysis Tick affects the nervous system of animals, which can lead to death. But help is at hand.

4. Examine your cat or dog on a regular basis, especially after walks in the bush. 90 per cent of all ticks are found on the head, neck, ears, forelegs or underbelly of animals – this can be difficult to perform in long-haired animals.

This may all sound a bit daunting, but you can always speak to one of our nurses – **Nicky** or **Alison**. They can assess your pets' risk of picking up a paralysis tick and discuss the most appropriate prevention.

Tick Paralysis is treated using antivenom given intravenously. The earlier the antivenom is given, the better the likelihood of your pet making a full recovery.

+ If you have any questions that you would like to see answered in Pet Care, please email us on: fallsvet@commander360.com

Make your home a flea free zone

As the warmer months approach, fleas can become a problem for your dog or cat. Most of the time fleas only cause minor to moderate irritation and itchiness, but some animals are very allergic to fleas and develop severe dermatitis.

Fleas thrive in warm, humid environments away from sunlight. Summer warmth and humidity provide ideal conditions for fleas to infest your cat or dog.

Treating your animals for fleas only addresses five to ten per cent of the flea population at any one time. Treating your home environment and using flea control products that also kill developing fleas is the best way to eradicate these pesky parasites.

Ask our nurses **Nicky** and **Alison** for advice on flea control when you next visit the practice.

Worming tips

We advise all cat and dog owners to worm their pets for intestinal worms every three months. An intestinal wormer should treat your pet for roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms and whipworms. Ask our vets or nurses for advice regarding intestinal worming.

New addition

We are proud to introduce our new receptionist – **Karen O'Connor** - who joined us in October 2006. Karen has many years experience as a veterinary receptionist in the Blue Mountains and we are happy to have her on board. When Karen is not working, she enjoys renovating her house and looking after her two dogs Dusty and Trixie, and her Birman cat Mickey.

Doggy car tips



1. Never leave a dog in a locked unattended car during the warmer months. Even in the relatively cooler climate of the mountains, a dog can suffer from heat stroke very quickly in an enclosed motor vehicle. Dogs don't sweat to cool themselves and are much more likely to suffer from heat stroke than your average human.
2. Always secure your dog with a seatbelt harness when they are travelling with you in

the car. This prevents them from giving you any unwanted attention while you are concentrating on driving. It also protects you and your canine buddy if you are unlucky enough to be involved in an accident.

3. On long car trips, stop regularly to give you and your dog a break. A quick stretch and a drink of water every hour or so will leave you and your faithful hound more relaxed and energetic once you reach your destination.

