

Summer Newsletter

In this issue

2 Rat bait poisoning

3 Best surgery practice

4 Adelie Penguins



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6 White Boomers

Firstly we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our two, three, and four legged friends a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

We truly appreciate the opportunity you give us to get to know all of you. Our job would be colourless with out the huge reward we get from knowing you all. So thank you.

So 6 white boomers. Whats the odds? How many albino kangaroos are there?

About 1 in every thousand kangaroos is an albino. However they rarely live beyond 2 years of age in the wild as they are easy for predators to spot. On top of that the albino gene is often linked to other genes for poor eyesight and hearing, so poor vision and or hearing is very common. Albino kangaroos are also very prone to sunburn and skin cancers.

So if there are 20 million kangaroos in Australia, given their short life expectancy and rarity about 4,000 albino Kangaroos are in Australia at any one time. Good luck Santa. Oh and they can't see very well so look out for chimneys!



Signs of Poisoning

- Bleeding
- Difficulty breathing
- Pale gums
- Lethargy
- Vomiting
- Depression
- Death

What to do?

If you think your pet may have eaten a bait, seek immediate attention. The poison takes 5-7 days to act so if we see your pet early we can do a simple blood test and give medication to avoid any clinical signs developing.

If signs of bleeding are present this is an absolute emergency. Your pet needs urgent life saving treatment, that will usually involve blood transfusions.

Rat bait poisoning

The photo above shows rats in Karni Mata temple in Pakistan, where they are revered and worshiped. However many cities and towns in Australia take a slightly less forgiving attitude to wild rodents and view them as a pest. The only systematic control of wild rats and mice in Australian suburbia is cats! That being the case when their numbers escalate people often resort to baiting to reduce their numbers.

These baits are highly toxic and can be fatal to dogs and cats if ingested. It is possible, though unlikely, for animals to get secondary poisoning from eating rodents that have ingested the bait.

All rodent baits interfere with blood clotting, and they come in two forms. The original form is warfarin (also often used by people with heart conditions). Warfarin is relatively short acting, and needs to be ingested in relatively large quantities, or on several occasions to be poisonous. If this occurs however it can be fatal. The newer forms such as Talon, are much longer acting and can be fatal from a single ingestion of fairly small amounts.

If you think your pet may have ingested any rodent baits, it is vital that you contact us immediately, as the effects are easily reversible if caught early.



What you should know about surgery.

Did you know?

- During anesthesia an animals blood pressure drops by at least 15%
- Their ability to transport oxygen is decreased.
- Their ability to control bleeding is decreased.
- Once a nerve is sensitized to pain it will require more pain killers overall than if it is never 'woken up' or registers pain in the first place (if you burn your hand even a subsequent light touch on the area will hurt)
- Protein metabolism slows down, as do other metabolic functions.
- Body temperature drops.

We do!

Thats why when we do surgery we make sure we use intravenous fluids.

We use pain killers before and after surgery.

We monitor your pet closely for changes in body temperature, respiration and heart rate. at all times.

By doing these things, and more we can ensure the best possible surgical experience for your pet with the least possible risk. So before you ask the price, ask how much we care.

Surgery question check list

- Will my pet be monitored by a dedicated staff member at all times?
 - Will my pet be on fluid's
- Is Pre-anaesthetic blood monitoring available on site?
- Will my pet receive pre and post operative pain relief?
 - Are my follow up visits included?



Adelie Penguins

Adelie penguins live on the Antarctic continent and on many small, surrounding coastal islands. They spend the winter offshore in the seas surrounding the Antarctic pack ice.

They eat mostly tiny aquatic creatures, such as shrimp-like krill, but also eat fish and squid. Adelies can dive up to 175m in search of prey.

They are great swimmers and can travel up to 150km in search of a meal. They swim at 4-8km per hour and waddle around on the ice at about 2.5km/hr

Adelie Penguins lay their eggs on the ice, and both parents take turns looking after them. Each parent takes a shift for a few days whilst the other partner goes to sea to feed. Once hatched the chicks are raised on fish regurgitated by the parents. It doesn't get much better than that!

The largest penguins are the Emperors at about 1.2m tall and up to 45kg, though a fossilized penguin at 1.8m has been discovered. The smallest penguin is the Little penguin at about the size of a standard ruler, and weighing just 1kg.

The collective noun for penguins is a Colony, Rookery, or Waddle.

Penguins at the Movies

- Mr Poppers Penguins
 - Happy Feet
 - March of the Penguins
 - Surfs Up
 - The Penguins of Madagascar
 - Batman
- and of course, most famously of all, Mary Poppins

Why a Tim-Tam is a Penguin

In 1936 in England a chocolate covered biscuit called a penguin was born. The biscuit is still made by United biscuits today ("If your feeling p-peckish p-pick up a p-penguin"). The Penguin is generally accepted as the inspiration for the Tim-Tam