



December Newsletter 2008

Dr Fiona Cox BVSC Hon

As 2008 draws to a finale, we at Furrytales want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. We thank you for being wonderful clients, patients and friends. We also thank you for referring your friends and family to us & for helping us to grow.

Dr Fiona, Vikki, Lauren & Mirjana

The December Furrytales walk was a lot of fun for all, with dogs of all shapes and sizes turning up for socialization and exercise. Our next walk will be held on Sunday, Jan 4th at 9:30 am. The walk leaves from Bowen Park, which is on the city side of the Kingston Markets. If you are stuck for transport but would love to come, send me an email and we will see what we can arrange.

ARF Dog of the Month is 'Rusty'

Rusty is a 4 year old kelpie who is quite the 'looker'. Rusty is blue with blonde points & green eyes. He is very quiet, doesn't jump fences, doesn't dig & is friendly with other dogs. Rusty likes walks but is not especially energetic for his breed. He is looking for a new home to love him & enjoy what a wonderful dog he is. Is you are interested in finding out more about Rusty, contact us here at Furrytales.



In previous years (but not this one thankfully), I have spent Christmas working in Veterinary Emergency Centres. We often saw the same things over and over, so here is some info on the more common reasons & ways to avoid a costly & stressful trip to the ER this holiday period.

Avoiding Pet Emergencies This Christmas.

Dog fights happen frequently because visiting family members bring their dogs with them. If you are uncertain how the introduction will go, keep the visiting dog confined in the laundry or equivalent until the dog has calmed down from travelling. Then take both dogs for a walk around the block so they can get to know each other again on neutral territory. Always feed unfamiliar dogs separately & especially don't be tempted to give them bones together.

Pancreatitis & gastroenteritis is especially common at Christmas time. Please (PLEASE) don't be tempted to feed your pets Christmas left overs. Keep their diet consistent & bland. Especially no fatty ham off-cuts, cooked bones or chocolate.

Tick Paralysis frequently shows its head when people start to come back from the Coast. Remember ticks can hitch a ride on clothing and bags & survive for sometime in Canberra... your pet (dogs and cats) does not directly have to go to the coast to pick up a tick. Frontline Plus needs to be applied a day or so before going to the coast & reapplied fortnightly. Daily tick searches are also important. Ticks especially like to get on the face, around the mouth, in the arm pits, between toes & in the 'mane' around the neck. If you find a tick, dab on a bit of insect repellent & then pull it out. Early signs of tick paralysis include weakness, wobbliness, change in bark & vomiting.



Also, with the New Years & resolutions, some people may be considering renovations around the house. If you need a tradesman it might be worth consulting www.thefridgedoor.com.au. This website is run by a Furrytales client & tradesman with good reputations are invited to list.

Remember to keep sending in your beautiful photos. This month we have Elley getting into the festive season.



Here is Penny, one of Dr Fiona's hens. Penny had just finished a dust bath in preparation, before she happily posed for this photo.



Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
from all of us at
Furry Tales