

Tick Paralysis

Tick poisoning is a very serious paralysis caused by the saliva of the Australian *Ixodes holocyclus* tick. The tick's saliva causes a progressive weakness of the nervous system, worsening slowly over several days and eventually causing death by an inability to breathe effectively.

The tick's saliva slowly binds to the nerves and blocks their activity, leading to a progressive weakness that starts with very mild signs, but if not treated by your vet with a tick anti-venom, will rapidly lead to severe complications and even death of your pet.

Treatment is very likely to be successful in the early stages but every year many pets die from tick paralysis. The main determining factor in the success of treatment is early intervention and treatment with anti-venom. Delaying treatment is very dangerous. Once your pet is showing weakness in their back legs, heavy laboured breathing, retching (or vomiting), or a change in their vocalizing, they need treatment **urgently**.

If you find a tick, remove it immediately (however you can), keep them as quiet and calm as possible, and contact your vet ASAP. Keep searching for more ticks as there is often more than one on your pet!

Tips to Avoiding Ticks

- Keeping your pets' tick prevention up to date.
- Avoid taking your pet into thick vegetation or grassy wooded areas.
- Daily tick searches are very important, thoroughly run your fingers through their coats.
- Clipping long haired coats in Spring and Summer.

Products to Prevent Ticks in Dogs:

- **Chews:** *Bravecto* [every 3 months] or *Nexgard / Nexgard Spectra* [monthly].
- **Topicals:** *Bravecto Spot on* [every 4 months] or *Frontline Spray* [every 3 weeks]
- **Collars:** *Seresto* [every 8 months] or *Kiltix* [every 6 weeks]

Products to Prevent Ticks in Cats:

- **Spot-ons:** *Bravecto Plus Cats* [every 2 months] or *Nexgard Spectra Cats* [monthly]
- **Sprays:** *Frontline* [every 3 weeks]
- **Collars:** *Seresto for cats* [every 8 months]
- *Cats can be easily poisoned by some tick products not designed for use in cats (such as Advantix)! Accidental application will result in muscle tremors and/or seizures and in severe cases, death.*
- In case of accidental application of incorrect treatment, immediately wash your cat with dishwashing liquid detergent and contact **Wauchope Veterinary Clinic ph. 6585 1626**.

Please call us if you have any queries about tick prevention and the best product for your pet on 6585 1626.