GALSTON VET

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POST TICK TREATMENT & CARE

Your pet has just been discharged from hospital after a bout of tick toxicosis. It is important to realise that while their progress has been good they will need continued support and care at home.

EXERCISE

The toxin secreted by the paralysis tick can have a direct effect on the heart. For this reason it is important to keep your pet quiet for the next two weeks. All forms of strenuous exercise should be avoided. This includes going for walks, ball games, off leash exercise and running around the backyard. If your cat is energetic then confinement to the garage or a small portion of the yard may be required. After two weeks a slow reintroduction to routine exercise levels should be implemented.

FEEDING

The ability of animals to swallow can be reduced or even absent in animals with tick toxicity. To avoid fatiguing the swallow reflex feed small meals (roughly ¼ of the normal size) frequently instead of one large meal for the first two days at home. If your pet gags or coughs during or just after a meal please contact us straight away.

TEMPERATURE

The tick toxin interferes with the animal's ability to regulate their body temperature. On very hot or very cold days they must be kept inside in air conditioning.

TICK PREVENTION

In order to avoid a recurrence of the problem we recommend you take the following prevention measures:

Regular tick searches. Searching your pets coat daily for any ticks is very important and will hopefully lead to detection of a tick before signs of toxicity occur. If you find a tick you can remove it immediately using tweezers and

bring the tick to us for identification or bring your pet down and we will remove the tick for you. It is important to note that pets can start to show signs of toxicity up to 2 weeks after removal of the tick. For this period your pet should be kept quiet, not exercised and monitored for signs of tick toxicity.

Use tick preventatives. We only recommend:

1. Felpreva (3 month cover)
2. Bravecto Spot On for cats (3 month cover)
3. Revolution Plus for cats (1 month cover)

CAN MY PET BECOME IMMUNE TO TICKS?

It appears that some cats do have innate immunity. If your pet has been treated for tick paralysis, they do not have this immunity and they will not develop it. They will need to be on life long tick preventatives.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU OR YOUR CHILD GETS A TICK

It is vitally important that you do not remove the tick yourself. This has been strongly associated with anaphylaxis (fatal allergic reaction), chronic fatigue syndromes and mammalian meat allergies. You must go to a local pharmacist or a GP who will administer a freezing spray before removing the tick.

Please do not hesitate to call us for more information. We can be contacted on 02 9653 1622.

Galston Veterinary Clinic