



IslanderMag's favourite Vet, Dr. Johanna Squire talks vaccinations for man's best friend

Protecting your dog

There are plenty of diseases that your dog can catch in the Torres Strait. The warm, wet climate here makes it easy for infections to spread quickly from a sick dog wandering around the streets to your dog.

Often a Vet can treat infections and sicknesses with antibiotics and other drugs. Unfortunately there are some infections that are really dangerous and much harder to treat. These treatments may include being put on a drip and can be expensive. Even after this the dog can still die if he catches one of these very bad infections.

The good news is that a Vet can give your dog vaccinations to stop him catching some of these nasty diseases.

One of the worst infections is the parvovirus (commonly called "parvo"). If your dog has not had his vaccinations then he is at risk of catching this. A dog with parvo will have vomiting, blood filled diarrhoea and dehydration. Even with treatment

he may still become toxic and lose too much blood. He can die very quickly from parvo.

There are other diseases that are covered by the vaccination a Vet usually gives. These include hepatitis and leptospirosis that attack and damage your dog's liver. Leptospirosis is spread to dogs by rats. There is also distemper which can permanently damage your dogs brain and nerves. Vaccinations can also prevent kennel cough - a bad bronchitis that can make a dog cough so hard he vomits.

There is even an extra vaccination if you want to protect your dog from tetanus, just as the doctor gives your kids a tetanus shot.

When you take your dog to a vet, she can also give you advice on other ways to keep him healthy. This is not only good for him, but your family as well. Its important to avoid your dog from carrying any thing in his body that can pass onto your kids.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH DR. JO

THURSDAY ISLAND:

March 30th & 31st March. Contact Torres Shire Council for bookings Ph. 4069 1336

CAIRNS:

Dr. Jo's mobile service Ph. 0408 779 820



Jo Squire Mobile Vet



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