



It's getting hot in here ...

Hi,

Summer is seconds away and so is the festive season! We have loads of things to share with you, so please read on.

In this e-news:

1. [What is feline calicivirus?](#)
2. [Sabi the Digger Dog](#)
3. [Do a course and WIN – last chance](#)
4. [Christmas tips for your clients](#)

Also, please note the Christmas issue of the CARE mini mag will be with you shortly. A little present, from us to you!

Warm wishes,
Bayer CARE team

PS: [Stay sane during the busy period and jump on the Forum and share your thoughts, concerns or questions.](#)

1. What is feline calicivirus?

It is common currency that flea bites are annoying for cats, dogs and their owners, especially in the summer months. And these bites can easily cause flea allergy dermatitis (FAD) and transmit diseases or tapeworms.

A 2009 study published in *Parasitology Research*¹ proves that fleas can also act as vectors for feline calicivirus (FCV) transmission, commonly known as 'cat flu'. In private households, FCV is present in about 10 per cent of cats, while the prevalence in shelters or catteries is up to about 40 per cent.²

Description

- Highly contagious and widespread pathogen
- Usually affects the throat, eyes, nasal cavity and oral cavity in cats, although sometimes the lungs and intestines are affected
- Can cause acute upper respiratory symptoms like nasal and ocular discharge
- Can result in mouth ulceration in cats
- Kittens and older cats are at greater risk than healthy adult cats
- May progress to pneumonia or arthritis.

Study results

The study showed that faeces from fleas fed with FCV-spiked blood could transmit the virus to uninfected cats and remained infective for eight days. Transmission of the virus directly via fleas feeding was verified.

Conclusion

When considering prevention of calicivirus, flea control with a product that stops fleas feeding fast should be added to the list of measures. Advantage[®] is proven to provide the fastest flea control.

1. Mencke N, Vobis H, Mehlhorn H, D'Haese J, Rehagen M, Mangold-Gehring S, Truyen U. (2009) *Parasitol Res* 105: 185–189

2. Radford A, Coyne K, Dawson S, Porter C, Gaskell R (2007). 'Feline calicivirus'. *Vet Res* 38 (2): 319-35. doi: 10.1051/vetres: 2006056. PMID 17296159.



2. Sabi the Digger Dog

Digger dog found after Afghan adventure

Did you hear that an Australian Special Forces explosives detection dog was found alive and well more than a year after going missing in action in Afghanistan? Sabi was found at an isolated patrol base in the north-east of the troubled country.

The black labrador was flown to an Australian base to be reunited with one of her trainers.

[Click here](#) to read more about this very brave black lab.



3. Do a course and WIN – last chance

Perfect Christmas presents for you!

What is this all about? This is the promotion designed to help you stay motivated and disciplined to keep studying and learning.

If being confident in your job and keeping pets happy and healthy is not enough for you to continue to learn, Bayer CARE has yet another reason! We are giving away some sizzling HOT prizes every month to a few lucky CARE members who complete a course. Short, tall, long, fun course ... it does not matter which course.

What do I have to do? Successfully complete any Bayer CARE online course and automatically go in the draw to win!

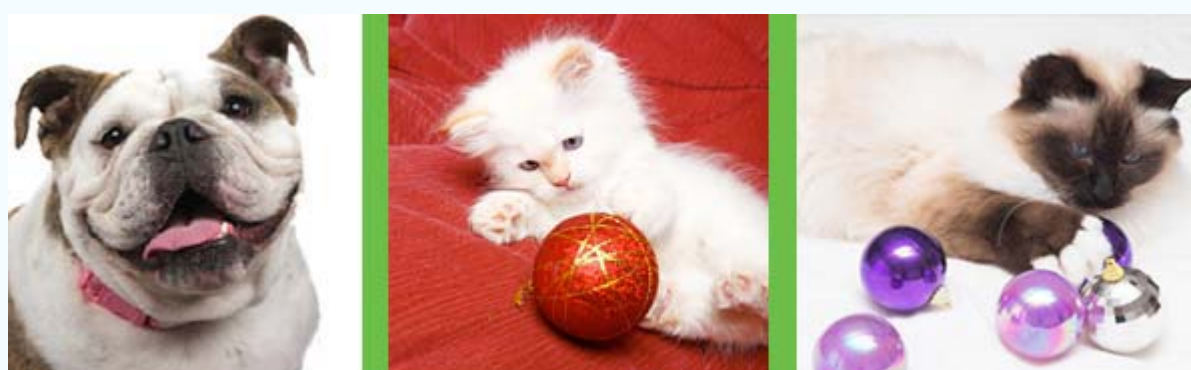
What's up for grabs? Prizes include: Greater Union Movie Passes, Red Balloon Day Vouchers and Westfield Gift Cards – all worth \$50.

This is your **last chance** to do a course and go in the **December draw** to win one of these prizes. Do it!

[Log in today and do our new course.](#)



4. Christmas tips for your clients



The holiday season is a time when most people indulge in the delights of the season: ham, turkey, stuffing, gravy, pudding and chocolates ...

Too often, your clients and their friends want to share their food with the family pets, not realising the dangers that exist in such behaviour beyond unhealthy weight gain.

[Click here](#) for a handout to give to your clients with tips on celebrating the holiday season with their pets.

Keep on CAREing in 2009! We want to hear your thoughts so head to our Forum and speak up, do a course and be more confident at work, or vote for the bravest or cutest pet.

Till next time, keep on CAREing, all the time, in '09 – and 2010!

Advantage[®] is registered trademark of Bayer AG, Leverkusen, Germany. Limited.
CARE is trademark of Bayer Australia Limited.



Digger dog found after Afghan adventure

An Australian Special Forces explosives detection dog has been found alive and well almost 14 months after going missing in action (MIA) in Afghanistan. Sabi was found by a US soldier at an isolated patrol base in north-eastern Uruzgan.

Sabi was flown to the Australian base at Tarin Kowt in Afghanistan to be reunited with one of her trainers.

The black labrador was declared MIA in September 2008 during the same battle with the Taliban in which SAS Trooper Mark Donaldson won his Victoria Cross. Sabi was present with her handler when their combined Australian, US and Afghan National Army convoy was ambushed by an insurgent force.

Nine Australian soldiers, including Sabi's handler, were wounded during the engagement. Sabi spent more than a year in the desolate south of Afghanistan and repeated attempts were made by the Special Operations Task Group to find her. The US soldier who found her, and who can only be identified by his first name John, was aware Australian Special Forces soldiers were missing one of their explosive detection dogs. He said it was immediately obvious that Sabi was no ordinary dog.

"I took the dog and gave it some commands it understood," he said. She was flown to Tarin Kowt to be reunited with one of her trainers and he knew instantly it was Sabi. "I nudged a tennis ball to her with my foot and she took it straight away. It's a game we used to play over and over during her training," the trainer said. "It's amazing, just incredible, to have her back."

Speaking in the United Kingdom after meeting Her Majesty the Queen, Trooper Mark Donaldson said Sabi's return closed a chapter of their shared history.

"She's the last piece of the puzzle," he said. "Having Sabi back gives some closure for the handler and the rest of us that served with her in 2008. It's a fantastic morale booster for the guys."

At the time of her disappearance Sabi was coming to the end of her second tour of duty in Afghanistan, having previously deployed to Uruzgan in 2007. Sabi will now undergo a period of quarantine before a decision can be made about the timing of her return to Australia.

We love you Sabi!



Companion Animal
Research & Education

Don't stuff your pet like the turkey!

The holiday season is a time when most people indulge in the delights of the season: ham, turkey, stuffing, gravy, pudding and chocolates ...

Too often, pet owners and their friends want to share their food with the family pets, not realising the dangers that exist in such behaviour beyond unhealthy weight gain.

The things that pets can overindulge on are mostly food or treats. The main concern is that dogs or cats ingest too much fatty food, which can lead to diarrhoea or gas. The other worry is about pancreatitis, which can result from high fat foods and can be **very painful and even life threatening**.

Another concern is when the dog or cat gets stuck into Christmas bickies or chocolates. The biscuits would be another fat issue but toxicity is a big risk, especially with premium dark chocolate.

Too often a dog is given food instead of the attention he wants. Or if food is left within reach, the dog will eat it.

As for cats, they are less likely to overindulge and instead just wreak havoc with the Christmas tree and the ornaments. Be careful with tinsel on a tree if you own a cat. And with string of any sort you should be wary about ingestion causing severe damage to the intestine, necessitating surgical removal. You don't want your holidays to involve a trip to the emergency animal hospital.

Preventions for dogs can be problematic. Do not leave people food on the kitchen counter if you own a medium or large breed dog. Dogs have been known to knock the food down and eat it!

This is such a busy time of year for pet owners. If you have children you should discuss with them about preventing the dogs from eating fatty people treats. It can be difficult because the kids will either forget and leave lollies or bickies out or consciously feed the dog inappropriate foods, or a toddler could inadvertently give up their treat.

The best thing pet owners can do for pets that are young and healthy is exercise them. Most dogs and indoor cats do not exercise enough. By decreasing their boredom you can prevent a lot of behaviour problems.

Letting them indulge in a few pet treats – not people treats – during the holiday is fine but take the dog for a walk or to a dog park daily.

Encourage the kitty to play with its favourite toy to decrease its energy for running up the Christmas tree and cutting itself on the broken ornaments.

So, you can offer pet treats to pets, spend a little active quality time with them and still enjoy a safe and healthy Christmas and holiday season.

