



## Summer Newsletter 2017

In this issue

2 why we sleep

3 Barred owl

4 ticks

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### Opening Hours

Monday - Friday  
8.00am - 6.00pm

Saturday  
8.30am - 12.30pm

Sunday  
Closed -

Public Holidays  
Closed



## Christmas Spiders

The Christmas spider is a very common Australian celebrity. It derives its name from the fact it is seen most commonly in summer so is most prevalent around Christmas. And it's a spider.

Christmas spiders are cute little critters that belong to the orb-weaving spider family, and like their larger relatives build delicate orb-webs which are rather sticky.

They eat small flying insects which they consume in their webs after wrapping them in silk and injecting them with venom. OK not quite so cute. Despite that, they are harmless to people, though their sticky webs can be a bit annoying.

The adult females are less than 1 cm in length, and have several pointed spines on their abdomen, with brightly coloured patches of white, orange and blue. The males are much smaller than the females, and are more uniformly coloured.



## Weird Facts About Sleep

**Studies have shown that animals will die of absolute sleep deprivation, before they die from a lack of food!**

**So why do we sleep? Well actually we don't really know.**

**Some things we do know are fatigue precedes sleep. Obvious, but why? Fatigue appears to be a warning system for the brain that the body is tiring, and brain efficiency is diminishing rapidly. It may also be possible that we have to lose consciousness for the body to do all its repair work, as the brain needs the extra capacity to get everything done.**

**We also know that sleep allows the clearance of toxins via the rather groovily named, glymphatic system. This is a flushing mechanism that works much more effectively during sleep, and transports toxins out of the brain, via the spinal fluid.**

**Sleep patterns are influenced by food. Dogs fed twice daily nap less often, but have longer naps when they do but the overall amount of sleep in the day is the same. This may be important later in life as dogs that have fewer but longer naps, appear to develop less Alzheimer's' type disease.**

**In general carnivores sleep more than omnivores, who sleep more than herbivores.**

**The platypus has more REM sleep than any other mammal (and as I have mentioned before, the platypus can see ultraviolet light in its visual spectrum. They are one cool dude). Cetaceans (Whales, Dolphins, and Porpoises) don't appear to have REM sleep.**

- Hibernation isn't sleep. In fact some animals have to come out of hibernation to sleep so the repair processes can occur. Other animals have such a low metabolic rate during hibernation they can avoid sleeping.
- Horses rest standing up but must lie down to sleep. They sleep for about 3 hours a day in short naps.
- Animals born in a helpless state have more REM sleep as an adult than those born in a more developed state.
- Dolphins sleep with half of their brain at a time. For this reason they circle whilst sleeping towards the asleep half of the brain.
- Herbivores tend to nap a lot and sleep little. You get eaten less often that way. Well you can only get eaten once, but overall as a species you get eaten less.
- Hibernation slows an animal's metabolic rate to conserve energy. Sleeping animals have quite a high metabolic rate and use a fair bit of energy.





## Ticked Off

### The Bugs are biting

Ticks are a common problem in Australia and come in a variety of shapes and sizes.

The most serious threat is the paralysis tick, found in the warmer and more humid parts of Australia. A single tick can cause fatal disease in dogs and cats.

If you live on the east coast or northern Australia regular flea/tick treatments are essential.

Also remember if you are going on holiday with your pets to check if paralysis ticks occur in the area you are visiting.

In most parts of Australia we also have the brown dog tick. Whilst this little chap is not as serious as the paralysis tick it can cause local irritation and skin disease. And ticks are kind of gross.

Ticks also commonly carry blood borne disease, such as Lymes Disease.

If you find a tick on your pet it is advisable to bring them in to have it removed. If you are in a paralysis tick area this may be an emergency so act quickly.

Ticks are easily prevented by a range of monthly treatments. Please contact us and we can advise you what the best product is for your pets.

- Ticks are more closely related to spiders than fleas.
- Ticks can't jump, but fleas can, and up to 80 times their own height. That's equivalent to a human jumping the length of a footy oval.
- Its often said the most dangerous animal on earth is the mosquito, which through blood borne disease kill more people than any other animal.
- Of the many tick borne diseases, Rocky Mountain spotted fever may have the best name.