



MEDIA RELEASE

October 2010

Paralysis Tick Warning

Vets across northern Sydney are seeing an increased amount of pet owners bringing in their companions with tick paralysis and warn it can be deadly if ticks are not spotted early.

Animal Welfare League NSW senior veterinarian, Dr Mark Westman said it was vital owners checked their pets regularly and ensure both dogs and cats are on preventative medication.

"Unfortunately our Manly Warringah Pittwater branch had a mother cat with 2 week old kittens die due to paralysis tick poisoning. Luckily our volunteer Peggy Brown managed to find a surrogate Mum and the kittens are now doing well," said Ingleside Shelter Manager, Sandi Keddie.

Dr Westman said recent wet weather could be the reason ticks were coming out "unusually early" across northern NSW.

"It's really important that people check their pets every day by looking in tick hotspots such as their chest, behind the ears and on their front legs," Dr Westman said.

"Ticks are very hard to find, but there are some signs that people can look out for, these include a change in their voice, either a bark or meow, signs that your pet is having trouble breathing and is unsteady on their legs."

Animal Welfare League NSW recommends all pets should be on preventative medication and checked daily for paralysis ticks. If you suspect your pet has a paralysis tick, don't delay contact your local veterinary clinic immediately.

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About Animal Welfare League (AWL)

The AWL is a registered charity and for over 50 years has been caring for surrendered, neglected and abandoned animals, as well as investigating allegations of animal cruelty under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. AWL has two shelters, a vet clinic and 14 branches of volunteers across NSW.

FIND US AT:

AWL Ingleside Shelter, 11 Cicada Glen Rd

AWL Kemps Creek Shelter, 1605 Elizabeth Drive

AWL Vet Clinic, 45 Herley Ave, Rossmore

For more information, paralysis tick images or to schedule an interview with **Dr Mark Westman** contact Danielle Nelson on 8899 3333, 0400 293 995 or via email at danielle@awlsw.com.au