

Summer Fun!

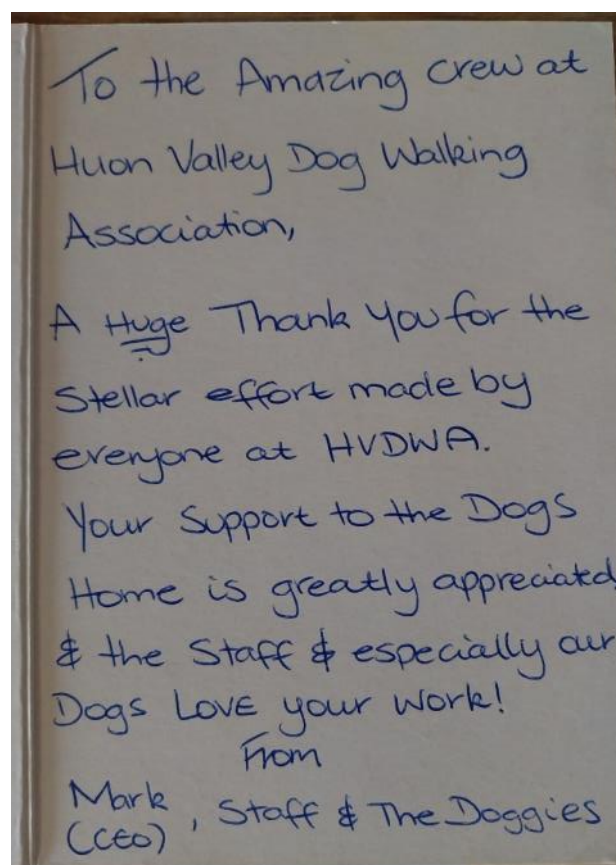
There's still plenty of wonderful summer weather to enjoy some fun walks with our dogs. Our new walks schedule on Page 7 includes our favourite beaches in the Huon Valley.

Also in this edition, a local vet provides advice about Ticks in the Huon Valley and you can read "The Adventures of Leroy"!

A Big 'Thank you' from The Dogs' Homes of Tasmania!

In December 2023 the Dogs' Homes of Tasmania issued an urgent request for support as part of its Christmas Appeal. The HVDWA committee quickly organized a raffle, selling tickets and collecting donations in Huonville and at the Cygnet Christmas market. We were delighted to be able to bank \$1,806 in the Dogs' Homes account!

Thank you to all who supported this great effort which, as you can see, was appreciated by all at DHOT!



ABOUT THE HVDWA...

The Huon Valley Dog Walking Association Inc. was started in October 2011 by a group of people who perceived the need for improved facilities for dog walking in the Huon Valley. HVDWA is a member of Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs (www.dogwalkingtas.org.au). Contact details are on the membership form on Page 8 or find us on facebook.

The main aims of the Association are to:

- Help establish and maintain safe dog exercise areas in our towns and monitor access for dogs at local beaches and public walking tracks.
- To have social walks on a regular basis.
- To help improve the image of dogs in general through safe practices, education and training.
- To promote responsible dog ownership.



SATURDAY 13 APRIL 2024
10.00AM—2.00PM
CRADOC PARK

Donations of items in good condition are welcome

Email: huondogwalkers@gmail.com

Donations can also be dropped off at Cradoc Park on
Friday 12 April, 1-3pm

Ticks, Tick-Borne Disease, Tick Paralysis and the Huon Valley

By Eileen Wronski B.Sc., B.V.Sc, MVS, MPH

A large number of tick species is found in Tasmania. In 1964 it was reported that 19 species of ticks were known to occur in the state (Roberts, 1964). These 19 species of ticks were distributed across 4 families of ticks including the *Ixodes* genus. A survey of tick species found on dog, cats and horses was conducted across Australia in 2016 (Greay et al, 2016). This study found that the most common ticks found on dogs and cats in Tasmania were *Ixodes cornuatus*, *Ixodes tasmani*, and *Ixodes hirsti*. A couple of ticks identified as *Ixodes holocyclus* were also found but these were determined not to have originated in Tasmania.

So what is the significance of all this to us living in the Huon Valley?

Ixodes tasmani is the most common tick found on domestic species in Tasmania. This species of tick does not cause paralysis. These tick species however can carry other diseases including *Coxiella burnetti* (Q fever), and various Rickettsial diseases (Dehhagi et al., 2019) transmissible to dogs and cats (and people). Babesiosis may also be transmitted to people and dogs in Australia. *Ixodes tasmani* tick bites and burdens can cause generalised illness in dogs including fevers, depression and weakness. This should not be confused with tick paralysis.



Ixodes tasmani

Tick paralysis, caused by *Ixodes holocyclus* (the “paralysis tick”) is a major serious illness in domestic species in Australia. This species of tick is not found in Tasmania. *Ixodes cornuatus* does produce a toxin similar to that of the paralysis tick, *Ixodes holocyclus*. *Ixodes cornuatus* has been dubbed the “southern paralysis tick” (Annon, 2024).

The distribution of the southern paralysis tick in Tasmania is relatively restricted to the Derwent Valley and the east and northern Tasmanian coastal areas. The southern paralysis tick is generally not found in the Huon Valley. With warmer hotter summer seasons it is possible that the geographical distribution of this tick species could extend further south and west and animals visiting these areas could easily pick up the southern paralysis tick. However the likelihood of seeing true tick paralysis in the Huon Valley is very low.

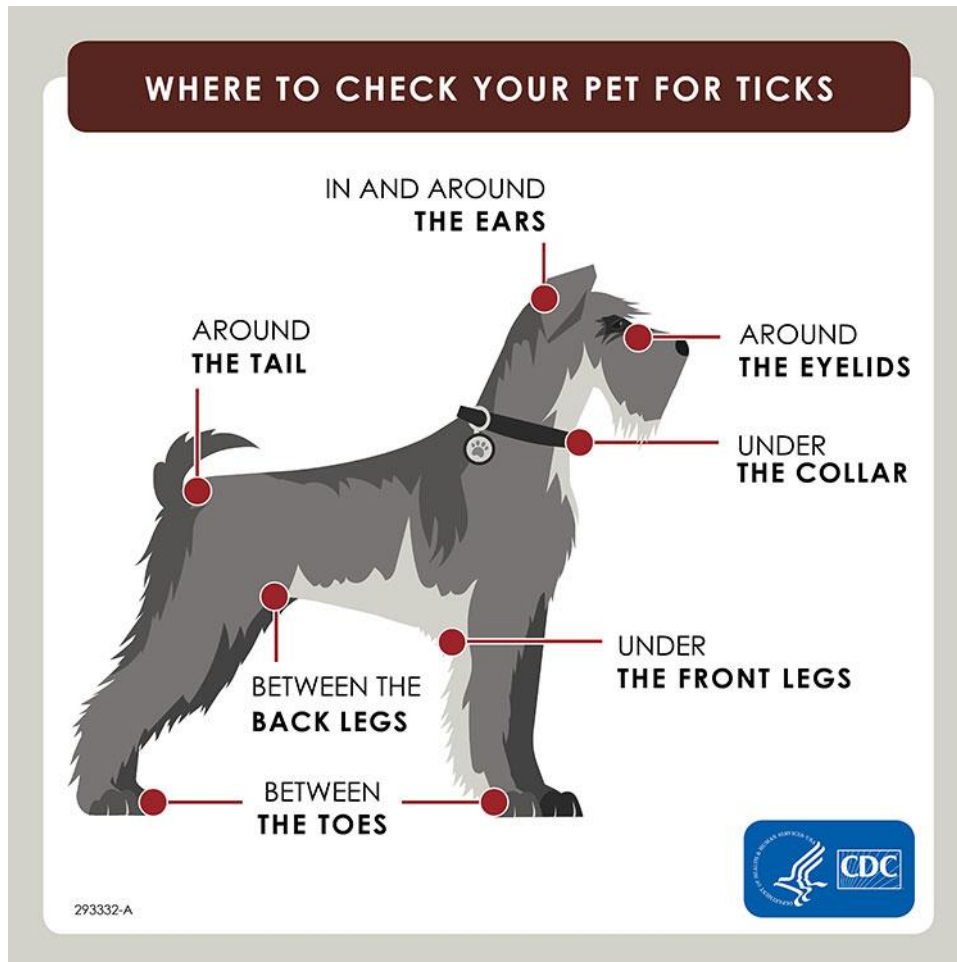
Clinical signs of tick paralysis include

- Weakness, lethargy, wobbling, staggering gait, flaccid paralysis
- Vomiting, retching, coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Changed bark and difficulty swallowing
- Appetite loss

Onset of signs can be delayed for prolonged periods (5-7 days). Ticks may be found on the animal, craters where ticks have been attached may be found, or the ticks may have finished feeding and fallen off the animal and nothing is found. If an animal exhibits these signs, veterinary attention should be sought as quickly as possible.

Tick paralysis can be difficult to diagnose and similar signs can also be caused by snake bite, myasthenia gravis (and other neurological conditions), botulism and tetrodotoxin (poisoning associated with puffer fish, blue ringed octopus etc). Support and tick antiserum can be used to treat the animal.

Ticks can be very difficult to find on pets. When treating tick paralysis an animal will often be completely clipped in order not to miss multiple ticks attached to the animal, even deep in the ear canals will be checked.



Graphic from [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases \(NCEZID\), Division of Vector-Borne Diseases \(DVBD\)](https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/on_pets.html)
https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/on_pets.html

Ticks can be removed by grasping as close to the skin as possible with tweezers and gently pulling upwards. Alternatively insecticides can be applied directly onto the tick.

Of course prevention is better than cure. Products such as monthly Nexguard Spectra are also very useful, as they kill the tick as it begins to feed on the dog. In areas where ticks are problematic the animal should be checked daily and ticks removed. This is particularly important during summer and autumn when conditions are most conducive to rapid tick development.



The Adventures of Leroy

By Peta Carlyon

Leroy's life on the road – a cross country adventure

When we first thought about driving across the Nullabor to visit Dan's family in Perth, it wasn't long before our next thought – let's take Leroy! Leroy is our three and half year old Smithfield cross. He's very friendly and adaptable, not to mention a very important part of our family. It was an easy decision.

After that everything fell into place. Leroy had all his vet checks and the first ever clip of his shaggy coat for the WA heat – and we were off!

Into the desert

Thankfully Leroy handled his first trip across Bass Strait with ease and it was exciting to finally be able to hit the road and drive north, to Mildura.

With the back car seats laid flat Leroy had plenty of room to stretch out. He loved it! Any fears we had about him not coping with the long driving legs quickly disappeared. He loved to hop in after a stop and go straight to sleep. As we drove into warmer weather, he would sleep with his head next to the air conditioning vent.



...the wind in his hair...!

After the Murray and a night at an outback sheep-station, it was on to the Barossa Valley – and yes, there are dog-friendly vineyards!

The Nullabor passed quickly with Leroy snoozing in the back. First we crossed South Australia, then on to Norseman, WA and the dog-friendly Wave Rock.

Leroy seemed very happy with life on the road, and in the tent... often we would wake in the morning to find him stretched out on his back with his legs in the air.



Comfortable in the car

Perth and beyond

When we got to Perth, Dan's sister's dog Daisy ruled the roost and Leroy had to fall into line. He was chased out of the house a few times but by the second day they were friends. Leroy settled into the early morning walk and swim routine on Perth's beautiful dog-friendly beaches. He had the time of his life!

We all went swimming in the waves on Christmas morning. As usual Leroy ingratiated himself with every family at the beach. He was overwhelmed at first with so many dogs but it was great to see him get used to this new environment... over a few days he became less excited about all the dogs and people and began to chill out. He even took to swimming in the big waves. Next stop was Albany and this time Dan's brother's sweet staffy Buddy was there for more good times.

Cross country capers

After waving goodbye to family next stop was the beautiful Orleans Bay, an hour east of Esperance. It is a spectacular, dog-friendly place with Islands dotting the coastline and the plant life and beaches are incredible. With Leroy we climbed offshore islands, explored rockpools and swam in the turquoise water.

He stayed well away from the cliffs of the Bight on the way home and when we stopped to camp at Cactus Bay in South Australia, he fitted in perfectly with the kelpies and their surfers.

We had more doggie adventures in western Victoria at Port Fairy, Mount Eccles and Dunkeld.

Unsurprisingly Leroy was the only Smithfield we encountered on the trip and we were often stopped by passers-by who asked what sort of dog he was! It's safe to say a few more mainlanders know about Smithfields now.

We loved our adventures with Leroy. He was a wonderful companion and gave us many laughs along the way. There are so many dog friendly options - with a bit of extra planning, we can't recommend enough bringing your pooch on the next family road-trip!



Orleans Bay

Home sweet home

And while he loved the open road, we're pleased to report Leroy has readjusted very happily back into home life at Cygnet ☺



Beach baby!



SUMMER WALKS!

Don't forget to bring poo bags and water for your dog(s). And please take used poo bags with you! All walks commence at 10.30am unless specified and take around 1 hour.

If the weather looks inclement on walk day, please check our Facebook page or website www.dogwalkingtas.org.au

Saturday 10 February—Kent Beach, Dover: Take the Huon Highway south to Dover then go through the township into Station Road. Continue until you reach Kent Road (on your left), follow Kent Road past the Dover Caravan Park until you come to a sign on your right which reads “Dog Exercise Area – dogs allowed off leash”. The dogs can then be let off the lead to have a great time on a lovely beach. Just a word of caution – this beach is quite close to the road so if your dog doesn't have a good recall you might need to keep it on lead.

Wednesday 21 February – Skinners Creek Track, Huonville: Meet on the Esplanade, opposite Huon Jet Boats, then follow the signs for the walk. There are several options for this walk, so depending on the weather on the day we can either do a long walk or a short one.

Sunday 10 March —Verona Sands: If coming from Huonville, drive south through Cygnet (turn left at roundabout) then drive south along the Channel Highway for about 14kms (keep going past the Randalls Bay turn-off) until you come to the sign for Verona Sands. Turn right into Doyle Avenue then right again into Lovering Ave, following the signs to the toilets. Park here, then go down to the beach and let the dogs off for a lovely play and swim.

Wednesday 20 March - Heritage Park, Geeveston: Meet at the main car park behind the Town Hall. Walk across Heritage Park to the Platypus Walk then follow the river as far as the steps at the end of the walk. We then ascend the steps to cross the road - take care at the top of the steps as the footpath is narrow. Once across the road, continue the walk along the riverbank and around Memorial Park to the RSL. Pass the RSL and return across the road, down the steps and back along Platypus Walk until we reach the fenced dog exercise area where dogs can go off lead for a run and play. You may even see a platypus!

Saturday 6 April—Randalls Bay: If coming from Huonville, drive south through Cygnet, turn left at the roundabout and drive south along the Channel Highway until you come to the turnoff to Randalls Bay. Drive down the hill and park near the barbecue area. Dogs must be on lead until we are past the barbecue area then they can go off lead to enjoy the beach.

Thursday 18 April – Castle Forbes Bay: From Huonville drive south to Castle Forbes Bay, past the cool stores on the left. A couple of minutes down the road there is a sign for Crowthers Road; immediately after this sign turn left into the parking area. The walk starts on the path to the right of the parking area, near the highway. Follow the path along to a road which leads down to the foreshore. Dogs should be on lead for the first part of this walk as the road goes quite close to the highway.



Off lead and under control ?

Several of our walks are 'off-lead' but please be aware that, under the Dog Control Act, it is the owners responsibility to keep their dog under control and in sight at all times.

We love to see our dogs running free and playing together but sometimes there maybe a distraction or situation where your dog is not responding to you as he/she normally would and needs to go back on the lead. You may need to put your dog on a lead if he or she:

- Has poor recall
- Has a habit of running off out of your sight
- Is aggressive or upsetting other dogs
- Is behaving in a way that endangers itself or others
- Any other situation where you feel that you don't have control of your dog.

In addition to putting a dog on lead for the behaviours outlined, it is an owners prerogative to have their dog on lead during any of the walks if they feel it is in the best interest of the dog.

We hope this information helps you and your dog to have a fun and relaxing walk.

New Members Welcome

If you'd like to become a member, simply fill out this form and send it to the address below or, join us on a walk and deliver it personally!

Membership Application/Renewal form Huon Valley Dog Walking Association (Inc)

To October 2024

Member No (if known).....

Name (s).....

Address

Dog(s) Name(s).....

Phone(s).....

Email (Please print).....

Amount tendered \$..... subscription for

\$20.00 Single Membership OR \$25.00 Family Membership

My Dog(s) vaccination is current (Yes/No).....

You and your dog(s) participate in Huon Valley Dog Walking Association walks and activities at your own risk. The responsibility for your safety and the safety of your dog rests with you as a responsible member of the Association.

Signed: Date: _ / _ / _ _ _

Enquiries to: PO Box 186, Huonville, Tas. 7109
Ph: 0424 504 043 or email: huondogwalkers@gmail.com

Pay: Huon Valley Dog Walking Association (Inc.)

Cash/Cheque/ EFT BSB – 633000 Account No – 144419819

Reference is your surname: _____ or your membership number if you have one.

**Please forward this form with payment to the above address if paying by post.
A receipt and membership card will be issued for new members.**

TOV