



SILLY DOGGIE

# Snake bite

Dr Jessica Yuen warns

It was a warm, spring morning when innocent Stanley, an enthusiastic four-year-old kelpie, was playing by the river. Unbeknownst to his loving owner; her relaxing camping weekend was about to take a drastic turn. Something was not right. Stanley was unusually quiet and just not himself ... Upon retrieving his ball, he suddenly became weak and began to drool and twitch uncontrollably. His owner rushed him to Braidwood Veterinary Surgery for emergency treatment for snake bite toxicity.

or cat that could encounter a snake should prompt suspicion.

Classic signs include:

- Collapse
- Sudden weakness
- Paralysis
- Vomiting
- Drooling, tremors, shaking
- Dilated pupils
- Swelling or bleeding around wound

Prognosis for pets bitten by snakes is extremely guarded. Treatment is highly involved, expensive and with no guarantees. However, early anti-venom treatment is absolutely crucial for the best outcome.

Luckily for Stanley, prompt hospitalisation, treatment and critical care has enabled him to be reunited with his beloved family. Having lived through the scare, his owner wanted to spread awareness of the issue. If you suspect a snake bite, ensure you seek veterinary attention immediately.

In many cases, suspect envenomations occur without seeing the snake.

For this reason, all pet owners should be aware of toxicity signs. All cases present uniquely, so any sudden change of behaviour in an otherwise healthy dog



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