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## Public Holidays

**Our clinics will be closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, as well as ANZAC Day, 25th April.**

## Autumn Season News

Summer seems to have forgotten to leave us this year, with some very hot days into March. And with Easter so early this year, we may just have “Hot” Cross Buns! Don’t include your dogs in the Easter Treats – both sultanas and chocolate can be toxic to dogs. We will be closed the public holidays over Easter, as well as Anzac Day on 25th April. See contact details of emergency centres on page 3 – hopefully they won’t be needed, but it is good to know if your pet gets into trouble, there is veterinary care close by at any time of the day.

Autumn is a great season to make the most of the lovely weather to get out and about with your pets. And many cafes are now becoming pet-friendly. Our Puppy Preschool Classes even go for a café outing during one of their sessions! A quick google of ‘pet friendly cafes Perth’ will bring up several websites dedicated to giving information about cafes which welcome pets – some even have their own doggy menu!

And one last note heading into Autumn and Winter – don’t forget to keep your flea control current, so-as not to have an outbreak when Spring comes around! .



## New! Online Booking Now Available

We now have online booking available, 24hrs a day, every day of the year. We have seen a fantastic uptake of our online booking service. We hope that in our busy lives, this is a small service which can make things easier for you. We are obviously still available and would love to speak to you if you prefer the personal touch to your appointment making. We also don’t have all appointments available online, so if you can’t find an appointment time to suit, please give us a call. And of course, if you have an emergency, call us immediately.

For online bookings at Grantham Street Veterinary Clinic, go to [granthamstvet.com.au](http://granthamstvet.com.au).

For online bookings at Dalkeith Veterinary Clinic, go to [dalkeithvet.com.au](http://dalkeithvet.com.au).

## Small Snippets

### Antinol for Arthritis

Antinol is an anti-inflammatory product for canine arthritis. It is derived from New Zealand mussels. A unique processing method has allowed the extraction of the active ingredient which hasn't been able to have been done with previous methods. Antinol can be used alongside current arthritis treatment and is safe to use long term. We have a limited number of free trial bottles if you would like to try your pet on it.

### RSPCA Pets in Crisis Program

The RSPCA have a program which offers temporary foster care for pets if their owners need to go into a refuge. Many domestic violence victims are reluctant to leave home as they are concerned about care for their pets. This program will assist in these situations. More information can be found at [www.rspcawa.asn.au/pets-in-crisis](http://www.rspcawa.asn.au/pets-in-crisis).

### Delicate Care Dental Food

The Natural Balance Food Company has recently released a Doggy Dental Diet. Still based on the low allergenic formula of Salmon and Sorgham, this is the ideal food for dogs with delicate stomach or skin conditions while still helping keep their teeth clean. We will be happy to give you more information when you visit our clinic next.



## Is Your Dog Slowing Down?

Is your dog slowing down a little? Doesn't seem to have the same 'zest' for those walks? Older dogs do generally slow down as they grow out of their puppy years, however, there can be medical reasons for this. One disease which we see reasonably commonly in middle age to older dogs is hypothyroidism. Hypothyroidism results in a decreased level of thyroid hormone.

The thyroid gland can stop being fully functional in the older dog for several reasons. It can be due to other underlying diseases or as a result of an immune mediated process. Some types of medications taken for other disease processes can also suppress thyroid hormone levels.

Hypothyroid can usually be easily treated, so an investigation is well worth while.

Whatever the initiating factor, a low functioning thyroid will have a marked effect on normal body function resulting in a generalised slowing down.

Commonly recognised signs in dogs include:

- weight gain,
- lethargy and mental dullness
- an unwillingness to exercise
- seeking a warm spot as they are more sensitive to the cold
- weakness and reluctance to get out and about
- changes to the coat such as symmetrical thinning, increased pigmentation, scurfiness, scale
- hair regrowth after a clip may be retarded, or not occur at all!
- problems with reproduction.

Thyroid gland deterioration is usually a slow process with the onset of signs being subtle and often attributed to other things. For this reason thyroid function can become quite suppressed before it is recognised.

If your adult dog is showing any signs of slowing down, a thorough health examination at the vet is well worthwhile. If thyroid disease is suspected, the vet will recommend a blood test to screen for diseases of the other body organs and to check levels of thyroid hormone.

Further tests may be required to specify the initiating cause.

Treatment involves addressing any underlying disease and supplementing thyroid hormone with a tablet or other oral preparation. Response to treatment is usually rapid and rewarding.

It is always heart-warming to see a sluggish dog bounce back to an active and happy life, so if you are seeing signs of slowing down with your once bouncy friend, it may be time for a check-up with your vet.



# Can I Get Diseases from my Pet?

We all know the significant health benefits of owning a pet. Apart from the obvious joy of a purring little bundle in your lap, or the endorphin releasing evening walk around the neighbourhood, there are also studies to show that pet owners have lower blood pressure, less allergies and may even live longer.

However, there are a range of diseases that are transferrable between animals and people. These are termed 'zoonotic' diseases and range from the mildly irritating, like flea bites, to potentially life threatening conditions such as rabies! The good news is that Australia is largely free of dangerous zoonotic disease and that a combination of good hygiene, parasite control and regular veterinary care can take care of the rest.



Ringworm is a fungal disease (not actually a worm) that causes skin lesions that classically take a red 'ring' shaped form in people. They typically appear as patchy bald areas in animals. Ringworm is commonly found in youngsters - children, puppies, kittens, young rabbits and guinea pigs. It is highly contagious but generally quite easily treated once diagnosed.

Humans and pets also commonly 'share' intestinal diseases including E coli, salmonella, cryptosporidiosis and giardia. These can be easily prevented by being vigilant about handwashing after handling your pet and before eating. Special care should be taken if your pet shows any signs of intestinal disease such as vomiting or diarrhoea. Feeding raw meat products or using food past its best by date can increase the risk of infection not only for your pet but for any in contact humans.

Worms can also pose a significant risk to humans. Pets need to be wormed regularly to prevent them shedding worm eggs in their faeces. Like many parasites - this can become a problem if young children ingest the eggs. There are also many species of worms that people (especially children!) can contract from people rather than animals. Again good hygiene, especially regular hand washing, can prevent most transmission.

Toxoplasmosis is a parasitic disease which can be contracted by handling cat faeces. It can also be contracted by eating poorly cooked food which is contaminated. In humans it usually doesn't cause any disease and many people are unknowingly infected. The exception to this is with pregnant women. If a woman becomes infected during pregnancy it can affect the unborn child in several ways, including causing foetal death. It is particularly important that pregnant women avoid contact with cat faeces – the cleaning of the litter tray needs to be delegated to the non-pregnant members of the family!

Fleas, lice and mites are insect parasites that can be found on pets. Fleas can bite humans, especially if they are present in large numbers. Lice are typically species specific - so a human louse probably comes from another human NOT a pet. Sarcoptic mange can be transferred from an animal to a human. Most external parasites can be quite easily identified and treated during a visit to your vet

Bites and scratches from pets range from minor injuries to significant wounds. Any bite or scratch wound should be flushed with clean water and soap. Larger wounds may require medical attention, and all wounds should be monitored in case of infection.

Keeping our pets as healthy and happy as possible and paying particular attention to good hygiene and parasite control will mean we can enjoy them without having



## After Hours Emergency Centres

**PVS Emergency Care**

Ph: 9204 0400

Selby Street, Osborne Park

**Murdoch University Vet Hospital**

Ph: 1300 652 494

Murdoch Drive, Murdoch

**Perth Vet Emergency**

Ph: 1300 040 400

162 Wanneroo Rd, Yokine

## Staff News

We have had a few movements recently. Starting with our sad news, Kelly, our lovely nurse at Dalkeith has decided to take an 'adventure' change and is heading to Alice Springs. Kelly has done a wonderful job of looking after our clients, their lovely pets and keeping the clinic running smoothly. We will miss Kelly lots but wish her all the best in her new job and hope she gets some time off to get out and enjoy all the adventures the NT offers. Soon you will be meeting Brigitte, our new nurse at Dalkeith. Brigitte has been covering staff leave at Grantham Street and we liked her so much we offered her the position at Dalkeith! Having looked after a clinic in Sydney for 4 years, we feel very confident Brigitte will offer the same level of care for you and your pets that you enjoyed with Kelly. And although Tina is taking a couple of weeks leave in April, she will still be at Dalkeith on Mondays and Tuesdays.

There are also changes happening with our vets. After 25 years of working in the consult room and surgery, Dr Paul is taking a change of role. His passion for mentoring and education has led to the decision to step out of the consult room to offer more to this role. He will also spend some time in a support role to our North Perth and Shelley Vet Clinics. Paul will still be working full time and will be based at Grantham Street. Paul will still be able to offer input with difficult or unusual cases, and will assist with surgeries if needed. And of course, you will still see Paul back in the consult room when we have staff on leave. To help accommodate Paul's change of role, Dr Claire Le Map will be spending all her time at Grantham Street clinic which will offer more consistent availability for ongoing cases. In addition, we welcome Dr Susie Clohessy to our Dalkeith team to join Dr Cameron and Dr Claire Silvester. Susie has many years' experience and we think her friendly, caring nature will make her very popular with our pets as well as the rest of our community.

You may have seen the photo below on our Facebook page. As a thank you for a great effort in 2017, Paul and Cameron invited the staff for a day on the river – we feel extremely lucky to have a workplace, where not only do we enjoy working together, but we also enjoy spending time with each other on our days off! And a day on the river and lunch in Fremantle was a pretty good way to spend a Sunday!



**Psst....Have You Heard?**

### Grooming Rewards at Dalkeith and Grantham Street Vet Clinics

We would like to thank all our loyal grooming clients for their ongoing support. Going forward, Erica and Nic would like to offer all grooming patients who come in regularly (every 8 weeks or less), a complimentary ear pluck and anal sac expression if needed. In addition, there will be a discount for our furry friends who visit our groomers within 8 weeks from their last groom. We know our furry friends like being rewarded with a haircut and pampering regularly, so this is just a small way we can reward you for keeping them feeling fresh and looking lovely.



#### GRANTHAM STREET VETERINARY CLINIC

58 D Grantham Street  
Wembley WA 6014  
08 9387 2144

Mon-Fri: 7.00am—7.00pm

Saturday: 8.30am—12noon

reception.grantham@petwellness.com.au

[www.granthamstvet.com.au](http://www.granthamstvet.com.au)

#### DALKEITH VETERINARY CLINIC

5/142 Stirling Hwy (Cnr Marita Rd)  
Nedlands WA 6009  
08 9386 6277

Mon-Fri: 7.30am - 6.30pm

Saturday: 8.30am-12noon

reception.dalkeith@petwellness.com.au

[www.dalkeithvet.com.au](http://www.dalkeithvet.com.au)