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Spring Time is Back!

After quite a cold and (well needed) wet winter, it is nice to welcome back some sunny days and a little bit of warmth in the air. However, there are some downsides to the warm Spring weather in the veterinary world.

Fleas, Fleas, Fleas.... Spring is a time when many owners realise that their pet's flea control may have lapsed during the winter months! If you find your pet has started to acquire some hitch-hikers, now is the time to get back on board with flea control. There are many excellent flea control products available now. Talk to us about one which suits your situation the best.

New Treatment for Skin Allergies. This is also the time of year when we see our pets suffer from increased itchiness. Allergic skin disease is a very common and frustrating condition in dogs. Steroids have been a main part of allergy treatment but they do carry side effects, especially with long term use. Some great news in the Veterinary world is the release of a new medication to control itchy skin allergies, much to the relief of our itchy pets, pet owners and veterinarians! Apoquel is an anti-itch medication which aims to break the itch cycle in our pets suffering from allergies. With allergies, dogs suffer from intense itching of their ears, face, feet and body. If you have had allergies before, you would know how distressing it is to be constantly itchy! Apoquel targets chemical pathways specifically to stop this itching. It has very few side effects compared to long term steroid use. Apoquel has a very rapid onset of action and effects are seen within hours of administration. The tablets are small in size and easy to give to your dog. Initial dosing is usually twice daily but this can usually be reduced to once daily dosing after 2 weeks of starting the medication. To date, we have seen some amazing results with Apoquel. Our friendly veterinarians will be more than happy to have a detailed discussion should you wish to trial this with your dog.



Spring-time brings an increased busyness for our groomers. Erica and Nic do a wonderful job grooming at both our Grantham Street and Dalkeith Clinics, but they can get quite booked out at this time of the year. Many pets enjoy a longer coat to keep them warm over winter. Coming in to Spring our groomers can get booked up several weeks in advance, so if your pet is due for a haircut, give us a call to book.

Shelley Veterinary Clinic Joins Our Group

It was with much excitement that we recently took ownership of the Shelley Veterinary Clinic. We can now offer the level of veterinary care and service our clients here have come to enjoy, to those living a little further away. But there was a touch of sadness because Jo, who we had recently welcomed back to Grantham Street, has left us to run the Shelley Veterinary Clinic as part owner. Jo has been very fortunate to keep Dr Marian McFetridge to help out. We have also found two fantastic vet nurses Renee and Bev, who love looking after our furry friends and their owners. The clinic is at 1/24 Yampi Way in Willetton and is open Mon-Fri 8am-6pm and Saturday 9am-12 noon. If you are making a move South, or have family or friends looking for a local vet in the area, Jo would love to welcome you to her practice. The clinic can be contacted on 9457 1008 or www.shelleyvet.com.au.



Is Your Cat Stressed?

Cats can be especially sensitive to stress. Not only does this affect your cat's emotional state, it can also have physiological effects. There are several things which cat owners can do to help decrease the stress levels of their cats. Some examples are:

- Creating a refuge where your cat can 'hide' or feel safe. Cats also like to be in high places, so a cosy bed in an elevated position, or perhaps in a secluded corner or a cubby 'box' behind the couch, would be somewhere your cat could feel secure.
- Give your cat something to scratch. Scratching releases pheromones which makes cats feel good.
- Keep your cat in good body condition. Cats which are overweight are less able to jump to get to areas where they may feel secure.
- Ensure your cat's litter tray is clean and large enough – it should be at least 1.5 times the length of your cat.
- Keep your cat's litter tray at least 1 metre from their feed area.
- Have toys for your cat to keep them active.
- If your cat is an indoors cat, make sure they have an area where they can see the outside world.
- If you have multiple cats, make sure you have sufficient water, food, safe places and litter trays for them all.



Cats in our Clinic: We understand how important it is for your cat to be relaxed when they visit us. When you arrive at the clinic, please feel free to pop your cat (in their carry cage) on the seat next to you so that they can see what is happening around them. If available, we are very happy for you to wait in a consult room, especially if there is also a boisterous dog waiting! We also have clean towels in our waiting room which we can spray with Feliway, a cat anti-stress hormone, and place over your cat's cage while you are waiting. This will help your cat relax. If your cat is staying with us, we leave their carry cage open in the hospital cage, so they have somewhere safe to hide. If you are concerned with your cat becoming stressed during their visit, please let us know and we will do everything we can to make it as stressfree as possible.

Senior Months Promotion

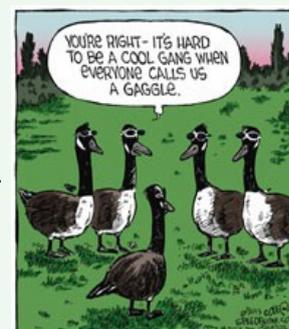
During June and July we ran our Senior Month Focus. As well as giving some of our more mature pets a timely check-up, thanks to support from Royal Canin, we were also able to offer some trial bags of food suited to their stage of life. In addition, we ran a competition to win one of three lovely soft "Fuzz Yard" beds – just the thing for the colder months. Thank you to everyone who entered the competition, and congratulations to Xena Bear, Archie and Pawtia the cat on winning a bed each.



Right: Xena Bear looking very relaxed on her new Fuzz Yard Bed

Did You Know?

- When sleeping, sea otters hold hands to stop drifting apart (but they are one of the coolest animals ever!)
- Gorillas can catch human colds (FYI, dogs and cats can't).
- Killing a Panda in China is punishable by death.
- Dog's nose-prints are unique—just like our fingerprints.
- Flamingos need to have their heads up-side-down when they are eating.
- Polar bears have black skin.
- Octopuses have 3 hearts.
- Lilies are very toxic to cats.
- A housefly hums in F key.
- A group of owls is called a parliament.



Common Skin Diseases in Guinea Pigs

Skin disease in guinea pigs is a relatively common disorder, and very distressing for the guinea pig as well as their owner. Many of these skin diseases are extremely itchy. This leads self trauma, which in turn causes hair loss, wounds and painful swellings.



What causes skin problems?

Parasites. This is probably the most common skin problem seen in practice. It is due to infestations of mites, lice, fleas or fungi.

Bacterial infection. Can be caused by poor environmental conditions or concurrently to a parasite infection.

Vitamin C deficiency. Guinea pigs are susceptible to insufficient Vitamin C in their diet.

Hormonal causes: Pregnant guinea pigs can loose hair at the back of their legs. Ovarian cysts can also cause hair loss, usually in round patches on the abdomen.

Stress and barbering. Quite uncommon, but could result in chewing of themselves or other less dominant mates.

Matting and infection of the scent gland. The scent gland (or 'grease' gland) is at the base of the spine. Infection of this more commonly affects males.

How do we find out what the problem is?



The clinical presentation of a parasite infestation is often very characteristic. Tests can be done to confirm the diagnosis, however, often a treatment trial is the most practical and simplest way to diagnose and treat the condition. Other conditions also have characteristic signs that allow us to differentiate them. It is also important to keep a close eye on how much your guinea pig is eating and drinking in case an underlying illness which could be contributing to the skin condition.

If you have any concerns regarding your guinea pig's skin, early treatment can prevent a more serious painful condition.

Causes of Diarrhoea in Puppies

Diarrhoea in young puppies is extremely common. Some cases will resolve with no specific treatment necessary. Other times we need to undertake tests and prescribe treatments to get your pets stools back to normal. If your dog's stools are not well-formed or easy to pick up, then it is not normal.

Common causes of diarrhoea include:

- **Dietary:** This is very common in dogs, especially those inclined to eat anything and everything!
- **Parasitic:** Heavy worm infestations can cause diarrhoea, especially in puppies.
- **Bacterial or Viral infections:** Parvovirus is a serious viral disease causing vomiting and diarrhoea in dogs. It is more common in puppies. Untreated, Parvovirus will be fatal in many cases. Other viral or bacterial infections can also cause serious diarrhoea, but your pup is less likely to be so severely unwell.
- **Foreign Body:** Foreign bodies can cause partial or full obstructions in the gut, which will often lead to diarrhoea.

To prevent diarrhoea in your puppy, please ensure that they are:

- On a good quality puppy diet.
- Up to date with worming with a good quality de-worming medication.
- Prevented as much as possible from foraging /eating everything and anything!

If the diarrhoea persists, then we may implement one or more of the following:

- Fasting for 24hours – this may not be suitable for all pets so please do not do this without consulting with your veterinarian first.
- Antibiotics/anti-parasitic medications.
- Prescription diets such as Royal Canin Sensitivity.
- Taking a sample of your pet's stools and sending it off for testing.
- Abdominal x-rays, ultrasound and/or blood testing.

If your Pup is showing any signs of diarrhoea, vomiting, off their food or generally lethargic, we recommend you bring them in for a check-up. Diarrhoea and vomiting can rapidly cause dehydration in young pups, so it is important if your pup continues to have diarrhoea or vomiting to seek veterinary attention.



Heading away for a break ...

..... along with making sure you have booked the boarding kennels, or enlisted some-one special to look after your pet, it is also a good idea to let your veterinarian know that you are going away. This is especially important if you have family or a friend looking after your pet. It is also worth discussing a plan if your pet requires veterinary attention whilst you are away. Some veterinary clinics will be happy to make a payment arrangement if this occurs, but it is important to discuss this with your vet before you leave.



Boarding Kennels:

Pet boarding facilities can book out quickly, especially during peak holiday periods. Our Grantham Street and Dalkeith clinics also work with West Coast Pet Care to provide a drop off facility. This means you can drop your pet at our clinics and they will be returned when you are back from your holidays, saving you a lengthy journey to the kennels when you are trying to do the final packing!

Finally, don't forget to ensure your pet is up to date with their vaccinations. Dogs require to be vaccinated against Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus and Canine Cough. Cats require a minimum of the Cat Flu and Enteritis for boarding. Some of these will need to be updated at least 2 weeks prior to boarding. Give us a call if you are unsure if your pet is up to date with their vaccines.

GRANTHAM STREET VETERINARY CLINIC

58 D Grantham Street
Wembley WA 6014
Mon-Fri: 7.00am—7.00pm
Saturday: 8.30am—12noon
reception.grantham@petwellness.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



Dalkeith Veterinary Clinic
Grantham Street Veterinary Clinic



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GranthamDalkeithVet@OurVet

Practice News

Staff News:

With Dr. Jo adventuring to run the Shelley Vet Clinic (see pg 1), there was a large gap left in our veterinary staff. We were very fortunate to find Dr. Elaine who has very quickly settled in to our practice. Those of you who have met Elaine will agree that her gentle, caring nature, along with her many year of experience, will ensure she is able to offer you and your pets a very high level of veterinary care.

Clinic Charity Boxes:

So far, your generous donations have allowed us to donate just under \$800 to worthy causes. Charities we have donated to include Native Animal Rescue, Breast Cancer, Riding for the Disabled, Veterinary Trust, Assistance Dogs and Desperate for Love Animal Rescue. If you have a charity you are passionate about, let us know. We would love to be able to help you help others.



This is Eddie, our receptionist Ruth's, gorgeous Jack Russell. Fortunately, Eddie doesn't suffer from Spring allergies!

Our multicultural clinic!

You may have noticed a collection of different accents when visiting our clinic. It hasn't been planned, but it does seem that we employ staff born in a variety of countries. Currently we have members of staff that have been born in England (multiple staff), Scotland, Sweden, New Zealand, Singapore and USA ... which obviously makes for interesting discussions when it comes to international sporting events!

Puppy Preschool: Puppy Classes are run weekly at Grantham Street Veterinary Clinic. Puppy Preschool is for pups from 8 weeks of age—call our clinic if you would like more information on Puppy Preschool classes.



Grooming Days:

Grooming is now available:

Grantham Street Clinic: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Dalkeith Clinic: Every Wednesday and second Friday