



Inside this Issue

Grooming	2
Hyperthyroid in cats	2
New Year Resolutions	2
Heatstroke	3
Competition	3
Travelling with Pets	4
Staff News	4

Christmas Consulting Hours

Thurs 24th Dec: 8-5pm
Fri 25th Dec: Closed
Sat 26th Dec: Closed
Sun 27th Dec: Closed
Mon 28th Dec: Closed
Tues 29th Dec: 8-7pm
Wed 30th Dec: 8-7pm
Thurs 31st Dec: 8-5pm
Fri 1st Jan 16: Closed
Sat 2nd Jan: 8.30-12
Sun 3rd Jan: Closed
Mon 4th Jan: Normal hours resume.

It's Getting Hot Out There!



As the weather warms up and days get longer, it is a great time to get out and about with your pets. Some timely advice can make this time of the year even more enjoyable and hopefully prevent any unwelcome surprises!

Heatstress: This is one of the more dangerous aspects of summer. See page 3 for information about heatstress and how to prevent it.

Snakes: This is the time of the year when snakes are out and about. Snakes like long grass and areas to hide, such as sheets of tin, bits of wood etc. Keeping your yard free of these items will decrease the appeal for snakes to make your yard their home. Also be aware of snakes when walking around wet areas. Herdsman and Lake Monger are well known for Tiger Snakes and it is not uncommon to see snakes in the sand dunes at the beach. If you think your pet has been bitten by a snake, call us immediately.

Sunscreen: Pets get sunburnt too! They also develop sun related skin disorders. Pets with white faces and ears are particularly prone, so it is wise to use a sunscreen on these areas when your pet is outside. Waterproof, 30+ human sunscreen is generally fine in most pets (unless they have underlying skin problems, then speak to your vet about a suitable product). If your pet likes to 'sunbake' on their back, you will need to protect the bare skin on their belly.

Fireworks: This time of the year many celebrations will involve fireworks. If your dog has anxiety issues with loud noises, it is worth talking to your vet about how to deal with this if you expect to be near fireworks. Remember a dog's hearing is much more developed than ours.

Christmas Goodies: We all tend to overindulge in foods we don't normally eat over the holiday period. And it seems our pets do to, not always without risk. Foods which can cause problems in pets (and therefore should be avoided) include:

High fat food eg: leftover BBQ sausages, ham bones etc, can cause pancreatitis.

Onions (again, mostly leftover from the BBQ), cause blood disorders.

Sultanas, raisins (ie: Christmas cake!), macadamias and chocolate can all be toxic to pets.

Satay sticks are particularly tasty to dogs, but tend to cause big problems if swallowed.

Be aware of leaving hot BBQ plates unattended. Cats are attracted to the smell and can suffer serious burns if they walk on them.

Flybite: If your pet is prone to flybite on their ears, then there are some good products which will not only treat the symptoms, but prevent the flies attacking and continuing to cause damage.



We would like to thank you for your ongoing support over 2015 and to wish you a safe and happy holiday period. We look forward to continuing to provide veterinary care for you and your pets during 2016.



Summer Grooming

Everyone likes to be cool during summer—including our furry friends! Our groomers become very busy during the summer months. Some pets are only trimmed in the warmer months, and even those groomed regularly are often done more frequently over summer.

It is a good idea to book ahead at this time of the year. Our groomers have increased their days to help cope with the increased demand but we are still booking up quickly.



Hyperthyroid in Cats

Hyperthyroidism is a disease in cats caused by a tumour of the thyroid. The tumour causes an increase in thyroxin production. The good news is that the tumour doesn't spread and the disease is readily treated so cats can live a normal life once diagnosed.

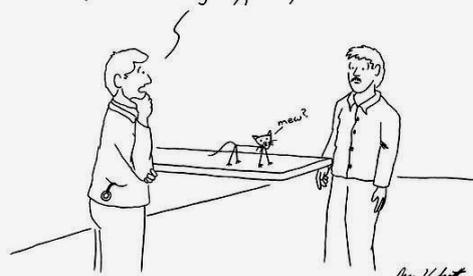
The disease often goes undetected as cats usually don't become 'sick'. The disease is mostly seen in cats over 8 years of age. The main clinical sign is that your cat is always hungry, but loses weight. They are generally still happy cats. Excess vocalisation can be a consistent (and annoying!) symptom. Other signs include drinking excessively, digestive issues such as diarrhoea or constipation, and inability to jump due to hind limb weakness. Owners often don't recognise their cat is unwell as they are still eating and quite spritely; they are just thin. A small percentage can be a little flat and lethargic. Other diseases such as renal disease, high blood pressure or heart disease can develop in cats with untreated hyperthyroidism. Ongoing high blood pressure can cause blindness due to damage to the retina.

Diagnosis is via a blood test. Some cats have an enlarged thyroid which may be palpated during clinical examination.

Treatment has typically been via daily medication and is in most cases very successful. Recently there has been a new food released which is low in iodine and has proven very effective in treating hyperthyroidism without the need for daily medication. This is great news for those cats who run at the sight of a pill bottle! If you have a multiple cat household, you will need to manage the feeding of the special diet. Your vet can discuss the best treatment regime for your situation.

So although a serious disease, if diagnosed and treated appropriately, most cats are able to live very normal lives with hyperthyroidism. If you think your cat is showing any of these symptoms, it is important to have them checked as early diagnosis can prevent more serious ongoing medical problems.

Offhand, I'm thinking hyperthyroid.



Your Pet's New Year's Resolution

Dogs

- I will not play tug-o'-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.
- I will not bark each time I hear a doorbell on TV
- I will stop trying to find the few remaining clean pieces of carpet in the house when I am about to throw up.
- I will try to remember what stop means when I pull the lead out of your hands.
- I will stop making a liar out of you when you take me to the vet clinic and I act perfectly fine.



Cats

- I will not swat and jump at my human during morning exercise sessions.
- I will not introduce myself to birds with my mouth first.
- I will be sneakier when stalking the dog, this year it won't see me coming.
- I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare into her eyes until she wakes up.
- I will stop screaming at the can of food on the kitchen bench, 2015 has taught me that it is a disobedient creature and doesn't open on command.

Heatstroke in Pets

Heatstroke is a life-threatening condition where the body temperature becomes extremely high. It occurs when heat production within the body is greater than your pet's ability to lose heat. Heatstroke is common during summer, when environmental temperatures and humidity are high. Situations where heat stroke occurs include:

- Pets being locked in the car, even for a very short period of time,
- Being confined without water,
- Excessive exercise on hot days.

Some pets are at higher risk of being affected by heatstroke. These include:

- Overweight pets,
- Pets suffering from heart disease,
- Old or very young pets,
- Thick-coated pets,
- Brachycephalic (short-faced) breeds, e.g. bulldogs, with a shorter nasal cavity. These dogs have a reduced ability to cool when panting.



Symptoms of heat stroke include increased body temperature (up to 41°C – normal temperature is 38.5°C), vomiting and diarrhoea, fast respiratory and heart rate, seizures, coma and inappropriate bleeding (eg: nose bleeds/bloody diarrhoea).

Heatstroke is an emergency situation. Owners must seek immediate veterinary attention, as delayed hospitalisation increases risk of death. The pet's body temperature needs to be lowered gradually, using fans for evaporative cooling and/or appropriately placed ice packs or damp towels. Additional supportive therapy is usually required including intravenous fluid therapy and/or a blood transfusion if blood loss is extensive. Animals in this state often lose the ability to regulate their body temperature, so do not drench the animal with water or cover in ice as this can lead to low body temperature, which can also be fatal. If the heatstroke is severe, the treatment is intensive, and doesn't always lead to a successful outcome.

It is important to be aware of how to prevent heatstroke in your pet this summer. Taking note of the following tips should ensure your pet has a safe and happy summer:

- Ensure your pet has access to a cool and shaded area (e.g. shade cloth or kennel with ventilation) with access to plenty of cool water.
- Frozen treats can be given to animals, or blocks of ice added to the water.
- Animals should never be left in a car, even on cool days, or for a short time.
- Exercise should be avoided on hot days, or done when it is cooler in the morning or evening.
- Pets with long coats should have their coats kept short during the hot summer months.
- If possible, animals can be provided with a cold water bath (e.g. dog wading pool) and/or give access to indoor air conditioning.



WIN

Holiday Colouring In Competition

Looking for something to do during the holidays? Be sure to pick up a colouring in competition to do this school holidays when you visit our Grantham Street or Dalkeith Veterinary Clinic. Drop your work of art back in to the clinic and go in the draw to win a fantastic hamper full of goodies for your favourite pet. Competition ends 25th January 2016.



Happy Holidaying with your Pets

Holidays are here and many people will be packing up and heading off on vacation with their pets. Whilst most pets travel well, if it is an area which you aren't familiar with, here are some tips to make the trip go smoother.

It is good to have your pet restrained during car travel. Cats should be in a carry box, and a harness is a good safe option for dogs. Harnesses clip into the seat belt for added safety. Even four feet have trouble holding grip if you need to brake suddenly! Stop regularly for wee and drink breaks if travelling with dogs. *Never leave your dog in the car unattended or tie your dog to your car when stopped.* If your dog experiences car sickness, talk to your vet about medication which can help with this.

If you are leaving your pet in boarding, you will probably already have this booked. Ensure they are fully up to date with their vaccinations well before they need to be boarded. We offer a drop off/collection facility for West Coast Boarding Kennels which can save you time when preparing for your holiday.

Alternatively you may have some-one else looking after your pet while you are away. It is a good idea to let us know when you will be away and who is looking after your pet. Any change in contact details while you are away should also be left with us. If you can't be contacted while you are away, it is wise to discuss with us or your pet's carer, what veterinary treatment you are happy to proceed with should your pet require veterinary attention while you are away.

And lastly, if you are travelling to certain areas with your pets, you need to be aware of things which you may not encounter in the metropolitan area. If an outback camping trip is planned, be aware of snakes, ticks and 1080 poisoning. Check with the local DEC office to see if any 1080 baits have been laid. 1080 is used for rabbit and fox baiting and is highly toxic to dog, often causing death within 20 minutes of ingestion. If travelling to the northwest of WA, the prevalence of heartworm is much higher, so ensure your dog is on appropriate preventative medication. Ticks are also more common in this area.



If you have any concerns about where you are travelling, don't hesitate to give the clinic a call. A little bit of preparation will ensure you have a memorable holiday for all the right, not wrong, reasons!



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

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

NORTH PERTH VETERINARY CLINIC

213 Walcott St,
Mount Lawley WA 6050
08 9227 7167

Mon-Fri: 7.30am - 6.30pm
Saturday: 8.30am-12noon
admin@northperthvet.com.au

www.petwellness.com.au

Practice News

Staff News: Congratulations to Dr Jo Sawyer who has recently got married. Jo has now returned after a well earned holiday/honeymoon, working just as before, albeit with another ring on her finger!

Several of our staff are involved in voluntary work outside of their clinic work. Dr Jen Stevens helps with RSPCA homeless days to help homeless people look after their dogs. Ruth our receptionists, is part of Animal Companions and visits Regent's Garden Nursing Home. During their visits, Ruth and her gorgeous little Jack Russel, Eddie, spend time socialising in the communal areas, as well as with high dependence patients. Ruth says she loves that Eddie can brighten people's days, and that the residents brighten her day as well!

Emergency Centres:

PVS Emergency Care: 9204 0400
Selby Street, Osborne Park

Murdoch University Vet Hospital: 1300 652 494
Murdoch Drive, Murdoch

Perth Vet Emergency: 1300 040 400
162 Wanneroo Rd, Yokine

Puppy Preschool Classes are run by Charlotte Smithson at our Grantham Street Clinic on Tuesday nights at 7.15pm. Call the clinic on 9387 2144 to book your pup in or for more information.

Grooming Days: Please ensure you book with sufficient notice to have your pet looking great for Summer.



Grooming is available:

Grantham Street Clinic: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Dalkeith Clinic: Every Wednesday and alternate Fridays.