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Christmas Consulting Hours

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

News of the Summer Season.....

We had our first case of ingested Christmas tinsel before the beginning of December this year! This is just one of the many hazards for our pets during the Summer Festive Season. Other sources of problems are:

- Human foods which are poisonous to pets, including macadamia nuts, grapes, raisins, chocolate, onion, avocado, xylitol (a sweetener found in chewing gum and some toothpastes).
- Excessive fat, eg: left over ham bones, BBQ leftovers, can cause pancreatitis and gut upsets.
- Small toys from Christmas crackers can be ingested.
- Satay sticks—dogs love to get hold of the left-over stick.
- Corn cobs from the BBQ or take-away.
- Walking your pet in the heat of day. Be aware that hot road surfaces and hot beach sand can seriously burn your dog's paw pads.
- Fireworks noise—see article on Noise Phobias.
And, of course, there's the tinsel.....

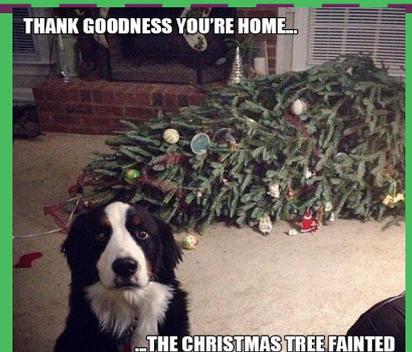


Congratulations to Dr Claire who has completed a distance education course on radiology of the heart and lungs. This was an intensive four month course which involved both in clinic and online case studies. Our practice philosophy has always been to encourage ongoing professional development so that we can continue to offer the latest veterinary knowledge for our pets.

Summer time is also a time when we get very busy with our grooming. We groom at both our Dalkeith and Grantham Street clinics (see back page for days). If you are wanting your dog to have a tidy up for summer, then give our clinics a call now to book an appointment.

And finally, one can't resist a Christmas joke. This is one which was heard recently: What is the difference between a knight and a reindeer?..... A knight slays dragons, while a reindeer's dragging sleighs!

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support over 2016 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 2017.



Save 20%

Flea and Worm Treatments

Is your cat and dog up to date with their flea control? Now is the time we see an influx of fleas, so it is important to ensure your pets are well covered. We are currently offering 20% off Advantage and Advocate when you purchase 12 months supply. We also have a free picnic rug offer with 12 months purchase of Advocate (same size, while stocks last).

Did you know:

- ◆ Flea allergy is the main cause of scratching around the tail base.
- ◆ Cats and dogs can 'share' fleas—thus it is important to treat all animals in your household
- ◆ You rarely see the actual flea—most commonly you only see the flea 'dirt' which is faeces full of digested blood.
- ◆ Fleas are a vital part of the life-cycle of a common intestinal tape-worm in dogs
- ◆ A female flea can lay over 2000 eggs in her lifetime.



Noise Phobias

Noise phobia is a common problem and up to 40% of dogs can have a fear to some form of noise. The most common are thunderstorms, fireworks, alarms, vacuum cleaners or vehicles. Thunderstorms and fireworks are especially problematic over the summer festive season.

Noise phobias can lead to serious injury as pets try to escape out of windows, run in front of cars or damage their teeth by chewing things. Common signs include panting, whimpering, barking or howling, drooling, trembling, inappropriate toileting and destructive behaviour.

Phobias may have a genetic link, as they often run in the family line. Dogs which have separation anxiety often also suffer from phobias. A change in environment (new house, new baby) can also some-time precipitate a phobia.

Treatment of noise phobia can be very difficult. Most dogs with noise phobia need a phobia management program which can be set up with your veterinarian. Some techniques which may be used include desensitisation, environmental changes, training, along with behaviour modifying medication. Rarely do dogs with noise phobia get better without some form of treatment.

There are some things you can do to help your pet deal with noise phobia. These include:

- Creating a safe, quiet room or crate for them, with low lighting
- Creating a hiding spot (this may help with cats)
- Using low level recordings of thunderstorms while playing with your dog to desensitise them to the sounds
- Rewarding your pet for good, relaxed behaviour

It is very important that any treatment is done thoroughly or there is the risk it could make things worse (eg: if you miss the timing of the reward for good behaviour, and reward once your dog is anxious, then you are rewarding them from being anxious and may re-enforce the phobia).

If you think that your pet may benefit from some phobia management, then give us a call. As well as 'GP' vets, there are also many excellent behavioural vets in Perth which we can refer to in more serious cases.



New Strain of Calicivirus in Rabbits

Recently there has been a new strain of rabbit Calicivirus affecting rabbits in Perth. The virus kills very rapidly, usually within 24 hrs of the rabbit first appearing unwell. There is no treatment for Calicivirus. There is a vaccination against the original strain of Calicivirus, which appears to give some coverage against the new strain.

The virus is spread by direct contact with infected rabbits, in their faeces and also by insects. As such, you are able to decrease the risk to your rabbits by either housing them indoors, or making them a mosquito proof area. Avoiding contact with wild animals will also decrease their risk. Ensuring they are up to date with their vaccinations will also decrease their risk of getting Calicivirus. Twice yearly vaccinations are recommended.

Myxomatosis is another disease which rabbits can get. The above preventative measures will also help prevent Myxomatosis, although there is no vaccine for Myxomatosis.

If your rabbit is overdue for their vaccination, make an appointment to get them up to date and protected.

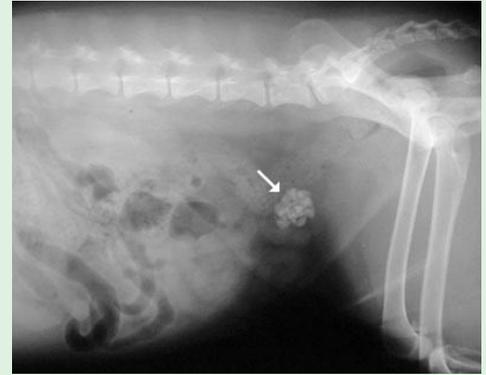


Bladder Stones In Dogs

Bladder stones are an accumulation of minerals in the bladder. They can often cause secondary urinary tract infections and blockage of the urinary tract.

Clinical signs: Bladder stones affect both cats and dogs. Cats tend to get a slurry of deposits, whereas dogs often get distinct stones. Animals with bladder stones initially present with signs such as straining to urinate, increased frequency of urination, passing blood in urine and/or excessive licking at external genitalia. They are usually otherwise in good health. Most of them are still eating and drinking normally. If your pet has recurring urinary tract infections, they should be checked for bladder stones as the urinary tract infection can be a secondary issue.

Laboratory testing: Your vet would then recommend sending a urine sample off for analysis. The urine needs to be collected in a "sterile manner", which requires passing a needle into the bladder to collect the urine sample (known as a cystocentesis). This can usually be done without sedation, however, some pets may need a mild sedation. The urine is then analysed for multiple parameters, including urine pH, presences of crystals and/or bacteria. A blood test may be recommended, as a high calcium level can result in some bladder stones forming. There are several causes of high calcium, kidney disease being one of them. An abdominal radiograph and ultrasound would then be recommended to check for presence of bladder stones - some bladder stones would be visible on radiographs and others only on ultrasound.



Treatment: Bladder stones can either occur as a large, single stone (see left), or multiple small stones (above) that resemble "gravel" in the bladder. Most stones would need to be surgically removed, but some stones may be amenable to dissolution by putting the patient on a special diet and/or medications.

Bladder stones, if untreated, can result in kidney infection and/or a urinary obstruction. Urinary obstruction is a very painful situation which leads to disruption of your pet's electrolyte balances. Urinary obstruction is an emergency. So if you ever notice your pet straining to urinate, please seek veterinary attention as soon as possible!

WIN

Summer Hamper Competition

This Summer we are giving our clients the chance to win a great Tote Bag filled with goodies for your pet. Included is a bag of Royal Canin food, Fuzz Yard water bowl, 3 months supply of flea, heartworm and worm control, picnic blanket, Kong toy, plus more. Simply fill out our short questionnaire, and place your details in the boxes in our clinics. There is a fantastic hamper to be won at each clinic.

Competition closes 20th January 2017.



Cat Bite Abscesses

Abscesses in cats are very common. They are primarily caused from cat fights. As such we mostly see them around the face, or the tail/bottom area (as the cat is trying to escape from their attacker!).

Often the first sign you will see is limping or your cat is 'just not himself'. This is because initially after the bite, your cat becomes systemically ill as the infection causes fever and aching. If a leg is bitten, there may be swelling and soreness, and you may notice your cat limping. During this time, which lasts for 24–48 hours, your cat may be lethargic and is often grumpy and growly. Then they can appear to get better, but the abscess will start to form 2-4 days after the initial bite. Once the abscess has formed, surgery is often required to drain it (under general anaesthetic). If noted in the first day or so (when your cat is unwell), sometimes a course of antibiotics can prevent the abscess from forming. So if you see these signs, this is definitely a case where early intervention can prevent a larger problem.

Prevention of cat abscesses involves preventing fights. Sterilised cats are much less likely to get into fights (State legislation states that all cats other than registered breeding cats should be sterilised). A large percentage of fights occur at night, so if you can keep your cat indoors, especially at night, then this can also help prevent fights.

Alternatively, if you could teach your cats to fight nicely, like these two, then it wouldn't be so much of a concern!



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: It is with sadness that we say goodbye to two of our vets. Some of you would have noticed that Dr Jen has been developing quite a belly! We are very excited for Jen who is expecting her first baby in February, but will miss her greatly in both our Grantham and Dalkeith clinics, as we are sure many of our clients will. Dr Guy will also be greatly missed. Guy has been offered a position at Perth Veterinary Specialists to start a Medicine Residency. This is an area of passion for Guy, and although we will miss his cheerfulness around the clinic, we wish him all the best with his future endeavours. We are delighted to welcome Dr Tessa Murray (no relation to the boss, Dr Cameron Murray). Tessa will be working initially at our Grantham Street clinic, and I'm sure you will appreciate Tessa's warm care and extensive experience when taking care of your pets.

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.