



## Inside this Issue

Keeping Your Pets Cool This Summer	2
My Pet's Limping	2
Rat Baits	3
Competition Time	3
The Spraying Cat	4
Staff News	4

## Christmas Consulting Hours

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

**Australia Day**  
Fri 26th Jan: Closed  
Sat 27th Jan: 8.30-12

\* Our Dalkeith Clinic closes at 6.30pm weekdays

## Summer is Here!

After a somewhat unusually late Spring, Summer is here with all its lovely warmth and sunshine. Soon Christmas will be upon us, school will be out, and there will be lots of time spent with family and friends. Our four legged friends also enjoy the extra attention they get during this time. However, there are some season specific things which we need to be mindful of so our pets don't have unexpected attention!

**Going away?** If you are heading off during the summer, your pet may be looked after by friends or having their own little holiday in their favourite boarding 'hotel'. Make sure they are up to date with their vaccinations – some of these need to be done a couple of weeks before boarding depending on when they were last vaccinated. Also, if you are leaving your pets with friends, let your vet know – it's important we know who to contact should the unthinkable happen.



**Nasty bites:** We have already seen our first snake this season - fortunately a happy outcome. Avoid letting your dog off leash in the sand dunes or around lakes – they love to have a game with a snake should they come across one, and sadly, it doesn't always end well. It is also important to keep grass around your yard short, as well as removing any 'hiding' places for snakes (old bits of tin, wood etc). Snakes do live in our suburban back yards! Bees and wasps are also around this time of the year, especially if you have a pool. Be aware that dogs can have anaphylactic reactions to bees and wasps. The clinical signs of this include vomiting and collapse. This is an emergency so call your vet immediately if this occurs.

*We would like to wish all our fantastic furry family friends a wonderful festive season and thank you for your support throughout 2017. We look forward to looking after you and keeping your pets healthy in 2018.*



## Keeping your Pet Cool this Summer

Australian summers are hot! And just like we feel the heat, so do your pets! It is important to keep pets cool to avoid heat stroke. Signs of heat stroke include excessive panting, vomiting and diarrhoea, excess salivation, inability to stand, seizures and even becoming unconscious. If you think your pet is suffering from heat stroke, then call us immediately.

However, prevention is definitely the better way to go. Check out these 'cool' ways to keep your pet cool this summer:

- ◆ Buy your pet a doggy paddle pool; the children 'clam pools' are great
- ◆ Make ice block treats. Simply fill a plastic cup or zip top bag with water – toss in some liver treats and freeze. Remove from cup/bag for a refreshing treat. You may need to give them a shake or stir part way through freezing.
- ◆ Fill a Kong with treats (peanut paste, dog roll) and freeze
- ◆ Fill your pets water bowl with ice cubes
- ◆ Make sure their water is in the shade and kept fresh
- ◆ Provide cool places to rest, eg: under shrubs outside, inside access, leave fans on to circulate air.
- ◆ Only walk in the cool of the morning or evening. This will prevent burnt paws as well.
- ◆ Trips to the beach or river are also fun. Just make sure the sand isn't too hot for their paws.
- ◆ Cats can be fussy about their water – they prefer glass, metal or ceramic bowls (not plastic) and like their water at least a meter away from their food. This is important to ensure they don't become dehydrated.
- ◆ Use pet safe sunscreen, especially if you pet has white skin or hair. Especially important for white noses and ears.
- ◆ Keep your pets coat well brushed; or if they are regularly groomed ensure you book in early to keep their coat short and cool.



***And never, ever leave your pet in a car – they heat up very quickly and dogs die in hot cars!***

## My Pets Limping!

There can be many reasons for your pet to limp. Some of these occur more commonly during the summer months.

**Grass seeds** – if your pet is exposed to grass seeds (eg: on walks), then regular checking between the toes to remove the seeds can help prevent abscess formation. (Also check their ears – another favoured hiding spot for grass seeds!)

**Insect bites** – especially bee stings, and it is very hard to see the sting with lots of fur. Usually your pet will suddenly start licking at their paw.

**Cat fight abscesses** – cats tend to be out and about a little more in the warmer weather. If bitten, your cats leg may be swollen. Your cat may also be 'off colour', lethargic and grumpy if they have an abscess festering.

**Burnt paws** – avoid this by walking in the cool of the day; be aware of hot BBQ plates which cats may jump onto to 'steal' some left over tidbits.

**Torn nails**—again, if is often licking of the area which lets you know there is a problem.

**Muscle and ligament injury** – games of Frisbee or extra walks will increase these risks.

If you pet is licking their paws, this generally indicates a problem ... getting it checked sooner rather than later can minimise the seriousness of the condition.



## Rat baits – just how dangerous are they to dogs and cats?

Rat baits are designed to kill rats and mice, but are they dangerous to dogs and cats? The answer is yes! Unfortunately dogs find rat bait very palatable so will seek it out. What about if a pet eats a rat or mouse that has eaten bait? This is dangerous too. The poison inside the rodent can also affect your pet!

### So what should you do if you see your dog eating a rat bait or a dead rodent?

If it has happened within the past 2 hours, take them straight to your local vet so they can be made to vomit up their stomach contents. This usually gets rid of most of the poison and a blood test 48 hours later ensures the dog hasn't absorbed a dangerous dose of poison. Cats are unlikely to eat a bait and will generally not eat dead rodents but they may catch rodents that are in the process of dying (as they will be slower-moving) and can be affected similarly.

### Why do we wait 48 hours to do the blood test?

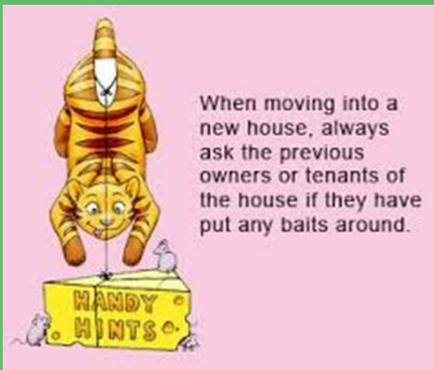
It's to do with the way the rat bait works. Rat and mouse baits are anticoagulants which stop blood from being able to clot. They do this by stopping the production of coagulation 'factors.' As there is always a reserve supply of coagulation factors stored in the body, it is not until these run out that there will be any sign of a problem. So if a pet has eaten rat bait, they will not return an abnormal blood clotting result for at least 2 days.

### What if no one saw the pet eat the bait/rodent?

Unfortunately, pets are constantly eating things their owners do not know about! If left untreated, a pet with a rat bait poisoning will become anaemic due to low red blood cells. This will make their gums pale pink or white in colour, they will be lethargic and probably off their food. If the anaemia is severe they may need an immediate blood transfusion to survive.

### The good news:

There is an antidote to anticoagulant rodenticides: vitamin K. Once a blood clotting problem has been confirmed, your pet will be started on vitamin K medication. They will need to stay on this for 4-6 weeks, as this is how long the poison can have effects on the body. After stopping the antidote, another blood test is performed after 48 hours to ensure the blood is clotting normally. During the treatment period, pets may need to be hospitalised on intravenous fluids or cage rested initially, but usually can return to light exercise once the anaemia has resolved. Severe cases may need blood transfusions and more intensive treatments.



### How can the poisoning be prevented?

It can be hard to prevent all access to rat bait. Even if you have not put any rat baits out, your neighbours may have and rodents can travel a distance before they die – so poisoned rodents may still end up in your yard. There are a variety of methods to help prevent accidental pet access to the bait itself such as baiting stations. Always ensure baits can't be dragged into pet-accessible places by the rats or mice. Good old fashioned rat and mouse traps are a bait-free option but also need to be put out pets' reach for obvious reasons! And always be aware - if your pet seems low on energy, is not eating or if his/her gums appear paler than usual, a prompt vet check is recommended.

WIN

## Facebook Competition

Win this hamper for your furry friend with over \$250 worth of prizes!

Entry is simple. All you have to do is:

- Like and share our original post on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017
- Post a cute picture of your pet in the comments
- Visit our Facebook @Grantham Street Veterinary Clinic or Dalkeith Veterinary Clinic

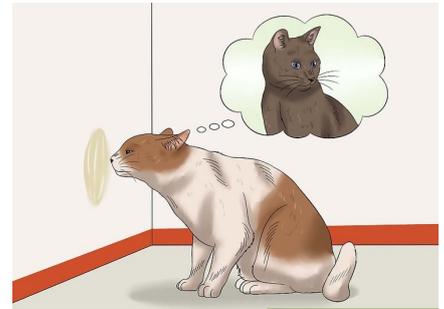
Winner will be drawn on 2nd January 2018



## The Spraying Cat!

Cat urine is disgusting. It stinks, it stains and it's hard to wash out. And sometimes, our little darlings wee in entirely inappropriate places!

"Spraying" is a normal cat behaviour where the cat squirts a small amount of urine onto a vertical surface to act as a scent marker to claim a territory. It's mostly done by entire male cats and can largely be prevented by castrating them. Anything that increases a cat's drive to mark their territory will increase spraying behaviour, for instance the presence of another cat. Some cats are prone to anxiety and may spray for no apparent good reason. It may be impossible to control all factors, eg: a roaming neighbourhood cat. In these cases we may be able to provide help with encouraging your cat to relax and reduce the behaviour.



Sometimes cats will not be 'spraying' but they are still urinating in inappropriate places. Urinary crystals, infection or idiopathic inflammation (where there is no definite cause) all cause pain and distress when urinating. Cat's with any sort of urinary tract disease will urinate more frequently and sometimes will avoid using their litter trays (because it hurt last time they did that!) and often urinate in odd places. Certain systemic diseases like diabetes or kidney disease cause the cat to produce larger amounts of dilute urine and these cats often start urinating in showers or basins. If your cat has changed its toileting habits a trip to the vet is in order. We will generally need to take a urine sample and submit it for analysis to help diagnose the problem.

If we rule out a pathological reason for the inappropriate urination then we can consider other behavioural causes. Cats are very finicky about their toilet habits and if their litter tray or toileting area is not perfect they may choose not to use it. If your cat normally toilets outside and has changed this habit consider whether there is anything preventing them from using their normal spots. If they use a litter tray it's worth trying a different kitty litter (cats don't like anything hard on their delicate paws). Make sure the litter tray is big enough for them to position themselves comfortably. Make sure it is regularly cleaned. Be aware that many cats do not like using the same litter tray as another cat. A general rule of thumb is that if cats do not groom each other they will not share a litter. Another general rule is that there should be one litter tray for each cat in the house, plus a spare.

So whilst it is very stressful for owners to have a spraying cat, in most situations, your cat would also like to solve the reason for this behaviour!

### 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)

## Practice News

**Staff News:** We are all looking very forward to a safe and relaxing Christmas break after what has been a busy and successful 2017. Over the year we have said goodbye to some of our great staff as they have moved to be with family or back 'home' after their stay in WA. We have also welcomed new staff who we hope will enjoy many years working with us. In addition to their dedication during working hours, many of our staff have completed challenges outside of work. These have included charity events, further professional study, as well as two of our nurses studying full-time as well as working part-time. All in all, some huge achievements by our staff for which we offer them well-earned congratulations!

### 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

**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.

