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## Winter Time News

There has been a fairly slow start to Winter, but it seems it has finally arrived! Winter brings with it a select number of conditions we see in our pets which we don't see so often at other times of the year. Arthritis can certainly be more of a problem in Winter, especially with older dogs. If you feel your pet may have arthritis (see page 4 for signs), then there are many things which can help them. At home, it is helpful if they have somewhere soft and warm to sleep during the colder months – this can help ease the discomfort of arthritis. If your pet is entering their senior years, we are currently running our annual Senior Month promotion. This is an ideal time to schedule a check-up where we can do a full veterinary assessment and together work out a plan to make sure your pet is as comfortable as possible in their senior years. See information on next page for more details.



Another factor which is important in our cooler months is to look after your pet's skin and coat.

Dry, flaky skin can be helped with the use of supplementation with fish oils, good quality food (many of these contain balanced levels of fish oils) and other supplements. It is also important when bathing during winter months to make sure you thoroughly dry your pet to prevent hypothermia. Better still, treat your pet to a warm winter bath and blowdry – see special offer on page 3.

And finally, something a little less common, but of concern if it occurs – winter nose. Winter nose, also known as snow nose, is the loss of pigmentation of a dog's nose. Some dog's noses change colour from a dark colour to pink in cold weather. They will then turn dark once again when the weather warms up. Sometimes there will be partial loss of colour. Winter nose seems to be directly related to the temperature and is harmless to the dog. Some breeds which are most prone to this condition are the Bernese Mountain Dog, Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, Husky and Shepherd.

The colour of your dog's nose can also change with age. The enzyme responsible for the colour in the nose can become less effective with age. Although most depigmentation of the nose is harmless, sometimes it is an indication that your pet needs medical attention. Give us a call if you are concerned about a change of your dog's nose colour!



**New Websites  
Launched**

**We are very excited to launch our updated websites. Head to our new look, mobile friendly websites for updated clinic information:**

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

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

**New  
Products**

**Natural Balance are continuing to expand their fantastic range of dog and cat food. They have recently introduced a new dental treat. Designed to be given as a treat on a daily basis (1-4 treats per day depending on your dog's weight), these will help keep your pet's teeth healthy. They are also suitable for pets with a sensitive skin or stomach, being based on Natural Balances original Delicate Care Formula. And dog's love them!**



**We are also seeing great success with Royal Canin's recently released Satiety Diet. Satiety Diet is a weight loss diet, which not only offers cats and dogs optimum calories for weight loss, but also has a special blend of fibres to make your pet feel fuller for longer – so no more begging! In addition, the high protein diet is enriched with all the necessary minerals and vitamins for long term healthy eating.**



## Dog Vaccines –To Do or Not To Do?

For many years our practices have been using Triennial vaccines for adult dogs. These vaccines offer protection for Parvovirus, Distemper and Hepatitis (DHP) which lasts for 3 years. Most dogs are also vaccinated for Kennel Cough (this is required if your dog goes into boarding). Kennel cough vaccinations need to be done every year. For this reason, we send out reminders for Annual Health Checks. During this visit, we do a thorough examination of your pet, and discuss which vaccination your pet requires, depending on your individual situation. Ideally, we want to offer maximum protection with minimal vaccines. This is why we use the Triennial DHP. Often a dog is protected for more than 3 years with the triennial DHP. Your dog's level of protection can be determined with a blood titre test. This is an option if you would prefer your pet to only receive the vaccines it absolutely needs. We are seeing more clients opt for a titre test at their annual health check, rather than routine vaccinations. It is important to note that we see an extremely low rate of adverse responses to vaccines. As such we are confident to recommend vaccinations as per the manufacturers recommendations.

So, what about puppies? Puppy vaccination regimes have also changed over the years. For many years vaccines which offer protection from 10 weeks of age have been available. The main advantage of these is that puppies are protected earlier so they can start socialising at a younger age. However, recent international studies have recommended a further vaccination at 14-16 weeks of age. This is because a very small percentage of pups were not fully vaccinated with the earlier vaccination. As this risk is very low, we still recommend socialisation a week after your pup's 10 weeks vaccination. We feel the benefits of early socialisation far outweigh the risk of infection. This is a considered opinion for our local geographic area – different areas and situations will have different risk levels.

Vaccinations are a complex and ever changing situation. Please feel free to discuss your pet's individual vaccination needs with our vets at your next visit.



## News Flash - Senior Month Extended Until August!

Is your Pet a senior? When your pet becomes a 'senior' will vary from pet to pet. With cats, it is usually around 7 years. Small breed dogs are often over 10 before they start showing "older dog" signs. A Great Dane will be showing signs from 5 years of age. And then there are some breeds which think they are a pup forever! We tend to suggest an age of 7-8 years when we need to be more conscious of 'older age' diseases. But this is a broad generalisation. If you feel your pet is showing older pet signs, regardless of age, we are very happy to offer the following so we can ensure there is nothing happening which shouldn't be. During Senior Months, you and your pet will receive:

- ◆ An extended consultation (up to 40 minutes) for the cost of a standard consultation.
- ◆ Full discussion of any health issues you are concerned about.
- ◆ Review of your pet's diet, and recommendations for specialised diets which will help your pet in their senior years.
- ◆ Discounted senior blood screening.
- ◆ Arthritis management plan for pets who are showing signs of arthritis.
- ◆ Bonus food purchases (while stocks last).
- ◆ Every pet which comes in for a Senior Consult will go in to the draw to win a Cat or Dog Hamper.



## Should I Brush My Pet's Teeth?

Imagine if you never brushed your teeth? That furry feeling would just keep on building up. This is what happens in many cats and dogs. Every time they eat, food cakes onto their teeth. This allows bacteria to thrive and plaque to develop. Over time, this will become tartar. The tartar can push against your pet's gums leading to gums receding and inflammation of the gum (gingivitis). Bacteria then have a party in here, leading to exposed roots, gum disease and deep infections. Pets rarely show obvious signs of oral disease – and their food obsession means they normally continue to eat as though nothing is wrong!

So how do you know if your pet has dental disease? Some of the common signs are:

- Yellowing of the teeth – you will need to pull back the side of the gums to see the back teeth
- Red lines or bleeding around the gums
- Bad Breath
- Reluctance to have mouth/face touched; dropping food
- Decreased appetite, especially hard food.



*Before Descale & Polish*

If the tartar and gum infections progress, this will allow the root of the tooth to be exposed, loose and infected. The tooth will then need to be removed. This procedure is done under a general anaesthetic. Although this may sound traumatic, with good pain relief and a short day procedure, many pets are more comfortable immediately after the procedure. A check up with your vet will let you know if your pet has dental disease and the optimum treatment options.

Good preventative dental hygiene is the best option. Ideally after each meal, or at least once daily, having something to help with teeth cleaning will offer good preventative treatments. Options include:

- Using a specially formulated dental diet, eg: Royal Canin Dental
- Giving daily dental treats such as Greenies, Natural Balance Hypoallergenic Dental Treats or Ora-vet Chews
- Offering raw chicken necks to crunch on
- Manually brushing teeth (don't use human toothpaste as it contains fluoride)
- Using water additives such as Healthy Mouth which coats the teeth to prevent plaque build-up.

Preventative oral hygiene should be started from when your pet is young, prior to their adult teeth coming through. But it is never too late! If you think your pet may have tartar, book a dental check now. We can then create a plan which is personalised to you and your pet's lifestyle.



*After Descale & Polish*

### DENTAL MONTH

*August is Dental Month. Book a Dental consult during August and have a full dental check-up (along with a full clinical examination), personalised dental plan, bonus offers on dental food and free dental give-aways with each dental descale and polish performed.*

WINTER  
WARM  
BATH &  
BLOWDRY

### WINTER GROOMING OFFER

*Cold and bleak outside? Why not treat your furry friend to a warm bath and blowdry. Not only will they feel warm and cuddly, they will look and smell great! As a special offer, all through July and*

*August we are offering a free nail trim and deep conditioning treatment with every bath and blow dry. Available for long and short coated dogs to keep them fresh and feeling great through winter. Give our clinics a call to book an appointment – available Thursdays at Grantham Street and Wednesdays at our Dalkeith clinic.*

## Signs of Arthritis in Pets

Dogs and cats show a variety of symptoms if they have arthritis. The most common signs are:

**Dogs:** Limping

Reluctance to jump

Trouble getting up after rest

Decreased activity or less keen to go for

walks

Chewing or licking at joints

**Cats:** Reluctance to play or jump

Inactivity/hiding

Stiff or limping

Grumpy/growling when touched

Poorly groomed

Remember, a pet rarely cries when it is in pain.

When a pet is limping, this is their way of telling you their leg is too sore to use properly.

If you think your pet may have arthritis, arrange a check-up with your vet – it may be the best thing you can do for your pet this year!



## 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.co.au](http://www.dalkeithvet.co.au)

## Practice News

**Staff News:** It has been a busy few months with sad good byes and exciting welcomes to our clinics. Earlier this year we said goodbye to our nurse Michelle at Dalkeith as she went back to study at UWA. We were very lucky to find such a brilliant replacement in Kelly who brings loads of experience to ensure our patients and clients are looked after to the highest degree. We also welcome Dr Claire Silvester to our Dalkeith team. I am sure those of you who have met Claire are delighted with her knowledge and compassion when looking after your pet. Dr Claire Le Map is still at Dalkeith one day a week, whilst spending more hours at our Grantham Street clinic. At Grantham Street, Dr Renee Colbung and Dr Tessa Murray have joined the team to replace Dr Jen and Dr Guy. Dr Jen is enjoying being a Mum to gorgeous little Mae, while Dr Guy is keeping very busy in the Medicine Specialist department at Perth Veterinary Specialists. After many years of service, it was particularly sad to say goodbye to our Grantham St nurse Louise. Louise has decided to move to Queensland with her partner to be closer to family. And along the same story, nurse Katie has also decided to move back to NZ, leaving us in July. Finding one good replacement nurse is difficult, so we have been very fortunate to find two! Amelia has been with us for a couple of months now, and has melded seamlessly into our practice. Sylvia takes over from Katie, and brings several years of experience with her. We are sure you will all enjoy meeting our new staff on your next visit.

**Congratulations to Dr Elaine!** Dr Elaine has recently been less obvious around the practice as she has been studying for her membership examinations. We were thrilled to hear that all her hard work and dedication paid off, and Elaine has recently attained her Membership in Small Animal Medicine. This required over 5 hours of examination, both theory and oral. It is a wonderful achievement, with only 2 vets from WA sitting this exam. Not only does it mean that Dr Elaine is now Dr Elaine MANZCVS (small animal medicine), but she is even more knowledgeable when treating your pets!

**Oxfam Trailwalk:** We know we have a great team at work, but seeing some of the things our staff do in their spare time makes us even more proud. This year four of our staff from our clinics are walking in the Oxfam Trailwalk to raise money for those living in poverty. Our nurses Kelly (Dalkeith) and Ayala (Grantham St) are teaming up with Dr Pip and nurse Cindy from North Perth Vet Centre to conquer 100km in 48hrs. We are collecting donations at our clinics to help inspire them, or donations to their team "Walk it like it's hot" can be made on the Oxfam Trailwalk website.

**Grooming Days:** Erica and Nic are still keeping very busy, keeping your pets looking great!

Grooming is available:

**Grantham Street Clinic:** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

**Dalkeith Clinic:** Every Wednesday and alternate Fridays.

