

**Grantham Street  
&  
Dalkeith  
Veterinary  
Clinics**

# Newsletter



Winter 2018



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### Emergency Centres:

**PVS Emergency Care:**  
9204 0400

**Selby Street, Osborne  
Park**

**Murdoch University  
Vet Hospital: 1300  
652 494**

**Murdoch Drive, Mur-  
doch**

**Perth Vet Emergency:**  
1300 040 400

## Winter News

After a sluggish start, we are finally getting some cooler weather and much needed rain. Whilst the cooler weather and rain is great for our gardens and dams, it is not necessarily ideal for our pets. If your pet isn't getting out as much as they normally do, or the walks have become shorter, make sure that your pet doesn't put on some winter weight. It is a good time to assess their food intake and consider if you need to decrease it a little to prevent having to get that weight off for Spring!

The cold weather also affects our pets with arthritis. If your pet suffers from arthritis, the cold weather can make it worse. But it isn't all bad news. We have many medications which can help decrease the pain associated with arthritis. A new product recently added to our range of remedies is Antinol – a green lipped mussel extract which is processed in a new revolutionary way to provide great benefits to dog with arthritis. For a limited time, we are offering a free bottle for each bottle purchased. If you feel your pet suffers from arthritis, bring them in for an assessment and ask about our Antinol offer.



Too cold for a bath – don't forget we offer warm winter hydrobaths Monday to Friday. Give our clinic a call if you think your pet would appreciate a little bit of looking good TLC over winter!

And finally, thunderstorms can be really scary for pets. Dogs have much better hearing that we do, and will often hear the thunder much sooner than we will. If your pets become anxious during thunderstorms, there are ways we can make things less scary for them. This may involve behavioural modification, desensitisation and sometimes, the use of anti-anxiety medications. Give us a call and we can help make winter a lot less stressful for your pet and you.



## Keeping Fleas at Bay in Winter

Fleas don't just hang about in Summer. It is important to keep your pet's flea control up to date all year around. We often see fleas in winter when we warm up our homes – fleas love the warm indoors. This means fleas will continue to breed throughout winter. In order to prevent an outbreak at the beginning of Spring, don't forget to keep your pet's flea prevention going throughout winter.

**Special Deal:** Throughout the month of June, get 50% off your second box of Advocate! Ask our friendly staff for details when you are in next.

**50% Off  
Deal**

## Cruciate Ligament Disease in Dogs

What do AFL players and dogs have in common? They both commonly damage their ACL's or Cruciate ligaments.

The 'Anterior Cruciate Ligament' also known as the 'Cranial Cruciate Ligament' in dogs, is an important ligament in the knee joint for stability, weight bearing and walking/running.

Dogs are prone to injuring this ligament because of their tendency to stop suddenly, change directions fast and jump up (at people, fences, to catch things etc). With this in mind, ball chasing is a risk factor for cruciate ligament injury.

Many dog owners would be aware of the scenario of their dog jumping, landing awkwardly, yelping and being immediately non-weight bearing lame on the affected leg. This scenario describes an acute cruciate ligament rupture but this is not always the way the cruciate ligaments become damaged. There is another more chronic, insidious way which dog owners should be aware of.



Dogs can partially damage their cruciate ligaments by creating small or 'micro' tears in the cruciate ligament over time. In this scenario, the dog may seem sore for a day or two but then seem to recover completely. Typically, this occurs a handful of times over months to years. Due to the quick apparent recovery, dogs may not necessarily be examined by a vet at these times. The other similar scenario would be limping after a day of 'overdoing it' but not limping if the exercise remains moderate. Inevitably, the ligament will one day completely give way.



The problem with the second scenario is what else is actually going on in the knee joint. Every time the cruciate ligament suffers damage, the joint will become inflamed. Over time, osteoarthritis develops in the joint.

Treatment of a ruptured cruciate ligament is surgical stabilisation of the joint. There are a number of methods of stabilisation. Some of these can be done by general practitioner veterinarians, other require referral to a specialist veterinary surgeon. The suitability of which depends upon the age, size and activity levels of the patient as well as the angles within the joint.



These require x-rays for assessment. Surgical outcomes are greatly affected by the degree of osteoarthritis in the joint. Simply put, the quicker cruciate disease is identified and operated on, the better the chance of your pet returning to normal pain free function. With this in mind, if your pet does suffer from a recurrent hind limb limp after heavy exercise, it is worth having them assessed to determine if it may be due to Cruciate Ligament Disease.



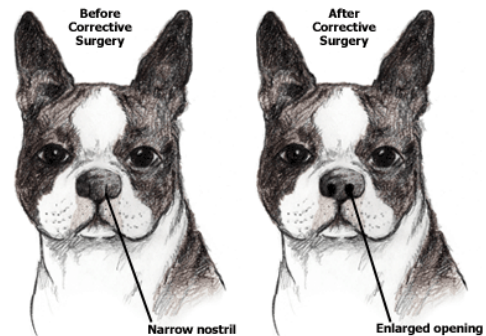
## A stitch in time saves.....

We all know about preventative medicine – good nutrition, exercise, parasite control, desexing and vaccinations allow us to avoid some very serious health conditions in our pets. As veterinary medicine becomes more sophisticated we are getting even better at decreasing the risks of some very serious diseases in our pets. Gastric dilatation-volvulus (bloat) and brachycephalic airway syndrome are two problems where surgery in a young pet can significantly reduce the potential for serious disease in an older animal.

Most owners of large, deep chested dogs such as Dobermans, German Shepherds and Great Danes are aware of the risk of GDV or 'bloat'. This is a situation where the stomach can blow up with air and food, and then twist – preventing the air from escaping. This is not only painful and distressing but rapidly becomes a life threatening situation. Surgery to decompress and untwist the stomach and prevent it happening again is difficult, risky, expensive and requires significant aftercare.

We can now offer a surgery that secures the stomach wall in position and significantly reduces the risk of this occurring. This can be done in conjunction with routine desexing at a young age and is something that the owner of any large breed dog should discuss with their vet.

On the other end of the spectrum of dog breeds, our little short nosed breeds, such as Pugs, French bulldogs, Boston Terriers and a few others can be affected by brachycephalic or 'short headed' airway syndrome. This encompasses a number of conformational abnormalities such as narrow nostrils, a thickened throat, a long soft palate, sometimes a narrow trachea and even abnormalities in the diaphragm which separates the abdomen from the chest cavity. All of these changes can make breathing difficult for these cuties. For each breath in, they need to inhale harder than a dog with more open airways. Often a dog who seems normal as a young animal will develop into an older dog with quite serious difficulty breathing.



A simple procedure that can easily be done in general practice is an 'alar wedge resection', where we simply open up their nostrils a little. This helps to reduce the amount of suction needed to breath in and can slow down further deterioration. This little bit of plastic surgery can be combined with many routine procedures such as desexing or dental work and may help to reduce the rate of damage to the other structures in the throat.



The decision to perform a preventative surgical technique on a young dog is a difficult one to make. All surgeries come with some risk and this needs to be carefully weighed against the benefits. Discussing these options carefully with your vet is a great first step in discovering what is possible, what is realistic and what is best for you and your pet.

## Cool Cat Facts!

- ♦ The Collective noun for a group of cats is called a "clowder"
- ♦ A cat can jump six times its body length
- ♦ The vast majority of tortoiseshell cats are female and most orange/ginger cats are male
- ♦ Cats can move their ears separately
- ♦ Every cat's nose has a unique pattern—similar to human's fingerprints.
- ♦ A domestic cat spends 70% of their life asleep—no surprises there!





## Competition

## Favourite Photo Fridays

*Everyone has their favourite photo (or often many!) of their furry friends....and we think showing some of these on our Facebook page would be a great way to end the week. To help celebrate all things fantastic about our pets, we are running a fun competition. Just email your favourite photo, along with your name, contact phone number and of course, your pet's name to [reception.grantham@petwellness.com.au](mailto:reception.grantham@petwellness.com.au) and we will publish one every Friday. Like our Facebook page and follow us to see your pet's photo. Every photo received before the end of July 2018 will enter a draw to win a wonderful Pet Hamper. We have one dog and one cat hamper to win – so start sending those photos through now!*



*One of our favourite photos of little Eddie, Ruth's little friend!*

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:reception.dalkeith@petwellness.com.au)  
[www.dalkeithvet.com.au](http://www.dalkeithvet.com.au)



**Dalkeith Veterinary Clinic**  
**Grantham Street Veterinary Clinic**

## Practice News

### Staff News:

Some exciting news within our clinics. Dr Elaine has recently announced her engagement to her long term partner, Dr Meng Siak. You may have already met Dr Meng as he is a specialist veterinary dermatologist working locally. We wish Elaine and Meng a wonderful life together!

You may remember in our last newsletter we spoke of how much we enjoy each others company both at work and outside work. Well, last month that friendship extended to exercising together. Elaine, Gemma and Amelia participated in the HBF Run for a Reason recently. And, almost just as important, their support crew of Claire, Renee and Sylvia joined them afterwards for breakfast!



**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 Monday