



Ultimate Veterinary Clinic Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 5

SPRING



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Our core values:

- The well-being of you and your pets
- To provide high quality medicine and surgery
- Honest and reliable vet care
- Continually updating our knowledge and services
- Striving to build a long term partnership with you and your pets

Our facilities and services include:

- Routine veterinary consultations, vaccinations and microchipping.
- Small Animal surgical facilities; elective & specialised.
- In-house diagnostics; pathology, ultrasonography, digital radiology.
- Quarantine
- Pet food and other pet supplies

Welcome to Ultimate Vet Clinics

Spring edition newsletter

We are very excited to say that each season we will be able to email you all the latest clinic news, special offers, upcoming events, and any clinic promotions and discounts.

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Ultimate Vet welcomes any suggestions or ideas of things you would like to see in our newsletters. If you have anything to share, drop us a line at info@ultimatevet.com.au and we'll see what we can do for you.

We appreciate your feedback



Caring for your senior cat

Many cats stay healthy into older age, but others can suffer from a range of different health problems. As they are unable to tell us about their health problems, it is up to us as pet owners to look out for early signs of any issues. Cats are also very good at hiding their health problems until they are quite advanced by simply becoming less active and sleeping more. Some common signs and problems to look out for in older cats:

Arthritis

Cats tend to hide signs of arthritis better than dogs, and so the signs can be very subtle. The most common signs are:
Reduced grooming especially around hard to reach places such as their back & abdomen, causing a matted hair coat
Reduced ability or desire to jump onto high objects such as tables and couches
Limping or stiffness when walking
Difficulty arising
Getting grumpy when patted around a sore area, such as the back

Arthritis can be diagnosed by taking xrays, or by a clinical examination by a veterinarian.

There are many treatments for arthritis in cats, such as pain relief/anti-inflammatory medications, injections that help the joints, oral joint supplements, and even a specific diet already including several joint supplements (Hills Feline j/d (joint diet)).

Dental disease

As cats never brush their teeth, and some won't eat teeth cleaning foods, they often develop dental disease when they get older. Common signs are bad breath, difficulty chewing or eating, refusing to eat dry food, swollen upper or lower lips and red gums. Dental disease is treated by removing any severely infected or loose teeth and scaling & polishing any teeth with lots of plaque under general anaesthetic. Some will also need antibiotics to treat mouth infections. Dental disease can be prevented by feeding a tooth cleaning dry food diet, and dental treats, or by regular checks and cleaning under anaesthetic before teeth get severely affected.

Weight loss

Weight loss in an older cat can be a sign of many different problems, several common problems include: dental disease, kidney failure and hyperthyroidism. **Kidney Failure** is common in older cats and also usually causes excessive drinking/urination, and occasionally vomiting or poor appetite. It is diagnosed by blood and urine tests. The earlier it is diagnosed and managed, the longer and happier life your cat can lead. It cannot be cured but can be managed- sometimes for many years with a special diet, medications if required, by increasing water intake or by giving injectable fluids. **Hyperthyroidism** is common and treatable hormonal condition in older cats, which involves secretion of excessive amounts of thyroid hormone. Thyroid hormone speeds up the metabolism causing weight loss and behaviour changes. Other common signs of hyperthyroidism are intermittent vomiting, increased appetite and/or thirst, increased activity or increased aggression.

Excessive drinking/dehydration

If your older cat is drinking more than previously, or is becoming dehydrated despite drinking normal or excessive amounts this can be an early sign of many problems, the two most common problems are kidney failure and hyperthyroidism. See above for information about the specific diseases. Dehydration can be tested by pinching the skin on the top of the neck-it should return to normal in less than a second if your cat is hydrated. Dry gums or nose can also be a sign of dehydration. Excessive drinking in a cat is considered to be more than 100mLs per kilogram bodyweight in 24 hours.

Obesity

As cats age they can become less active, and if they are fed the same amount of food as previously they can slowly gain weight. Overweight cats are prone to getting type 2 diabetes, which is preventable by keeping your cat from becoming overweight. Once cats get Type 2 diabetes, they need to be treated with insulin injections once or twice daily. Some cats can go into remission (not requiring further insulin treatment) if they have appropriate weight loss and dietary management, and early treatment of the diabetes with insulin. Others will need to stay on insulin injections for life. This is a good reason to make sure your cat doesn't become overweight!

Being overweight can also make other problems such as arthritis much worse, by causing more pressure on sore joints from carrying excessive weight.



WILDLIFE WARNING

With spring coming up, there may be some chicks found at the bottom of the tree, often the best thing you can do to help them is to leave them alone. The chance of a chick being raised to adulthood and set free in the wild is almost zero, their best chance of survival (by a long shot) is still with their parents. Unfortunately a lot of the time the parents are scared off by humans coming to have a look at their vulnerable chick or may reject then the chick if it has the scent of humans on it. Things that you can do to help could be to check on the chick from afar once an hour until nightfall, or if predators are nearby putting it up in a fork of the tree out of reach.

Magpies are very active at this time of the year as well and it is wonderful to give them a little tidbit of meat out the backdoor to help with their bubs, for anyone who is doing this or considering this, please be aware of calcium deficiency. Plain meat is very low in calcium and very high in phosphorus which decreases the uptake of calcium. Unfortunately because of a diet high in plain meat, hundreds of birds each year (especially magpies) develop hypocalcaemia which can cause osteoporosis and often a soft pliable beak, called 'rubber beak' in magpies. These cases need intense hospitalisation and calcium injections and supplementation to recover from this condition over weeks. The good news is that it is easily avoided by going to the pharmacy and getting some calcium carbonate powder (or crush some tablets) and dusting the meat in 'calcium carbonate' powder before feeding it to the maggies. Win-win for everyone.



BEAKS AND NAILS

It's dental month in August and on theme, it's worth checking out you're birds' gnashes while you're at it. No I'm not saying your budgie is going to grow teeth and start chewing through the cage, I'm talking about their beaks and while we're at it think about a pedicure as well. Have a look at your birds' beak, it should be smooth, well-shaped and not needing a trim, it should be the same colour as it has always been and same with the nails. Next, the skin and feathers around the base of the beak should look healthy and not have any crusting, holes or roughness either and the feet should be consistent in colour and texture and have a uniform pebbled look to them with no smooth areas on the sole of the foot.

Beaks and nails that are roughened or keep growing abnormally are very rarely a malocclusion problem, these cases are crying out for help and showing big signs of internal disease. Birds beaks and nails are constantly growing thanks to appropriate ingredients from the liver and normally birds wear them down at the same rate of growth. They do this with rough branches or objects, wiping their beak on a perch or grinding their lower beak against their upper beak when they are eating (or not eating as well). If your bird suddenly starts growing an odd beak or needs beak trims, please don't ignore this as it is one of the rare times that they show obvious signs of disease, often liver problems or perhaps some element of malnutrition, in some cases you can reverse the trend and recover but if we just treat the beak, it might be too late.

Latest news:

We would like to welcome another new staff member joining our team Kelly.

Kelly joined us from working in a busy 24hour emergency clinic and has been nursing for 4 years.

Kelly has three staffy's and a Indian ringneck parrot. She has a special interest in surgery and emergency nursing and in her spare time Kelly enjoys dancing.

We would also like to announce that Dr Julie and Nurse Jessie are both pregnant. Due Feb and March next year. We are all very excited for them both and wish them all the best in their pregnancies.

We might have to have a completion soon to pick the sex and weights!!!





This month: SEPTEMBER

A Big Happy birthday to Julie

Next month: OCTOBER

A Big Happy Birthday to Jessie and

NOVEMBER:

A Big Happy Birthday to Alesha

PET PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION - SAT 5 OCTOBER 11.00AM - 2.00PM

Our friends at Furrever Pet Photography are setting up their mobile studio at Ultimate Vet Clinic.

There's no sitting fee, so you only pay for the photos you choose on the day.

You can view all the photos on the spot, so the only hard decision is choosing which ones to get printed!

They offer a variety of sizes including amazing canvas and acrylic prints.

These sessions will be popular, so be sure to phone or email us to secure your spot.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL - Phone: 8790 2425 or email: info@ultimatevet.com.au



**Help improve your pets behavioural problems through *puppy socialisation*.
Socialise your pet today and make him a great pet and lifelong companion!**

Puppy classes focus greatly on socialisation. Having your puppy learn how to play and interact with other dogs is an essential part of your puppy's early development

Each puppy class runs for 4 weeks, covering subjects like nutrition, vaccinations, worming, toilet training and basic obedience and behaviours.

New classes will begin on: 10th September, 8th October and 5th November. Each class is run on Tuesday nights from 6-7pm

Call us now and speak to Jessica to secure your spot! Places are strictly limited.

8790 2425



SPRING PROMOTION

Year-round parasite prevention is key to keeping your pet healthy and happy.

It's important to remember to protect your pet from parasites – which can be a difficult task given the number of parasites you need to worry about and all of the different medications needed to treat them. With that in mind, we'd like to tell you about Panoramis® (spinosad + milbemycin oxime) chewable tablets for dogs. Panoramis provides proven protection against fleas, heartworm, hookworm, roundworm and whipworm infections in one monthly beef-flavoured chewable tablet, which can't rub or wash off! Panoramis makes monthly treatment easy and convenient for you and your dog.

Panoramis offers these benefits to you and your family:

- It's convenient — one tablet, once a month can protect your dog from fleas, heartworm disease and intestinal parasites (hookworm, roundworm & whipworm);
- It's effective — works all month long and won't wash off, so it's ideal for dogs that swim or are bathed frequently;

It avoids mess — no need to isolate your dog from your family or other pets, and there are no greasy applications so it won't rub off onto furniture, upholstery or clothing.

Come in and visit us to learn more about why we recommend Panoramis for your dog.

A \$10 EFTPOS CARD CAN BE CLAIMED WITH EVERY PANORAMIS 6 MONTH PACK PURCHASE*



Dog owners who purchase a Panoramis 6 month pack from participating veterinary clinics between 15th September 2013 and 15th November 2013 are eligible to claim a \$10 EFTPOS card.

Give your clients one voucher for every 6 month pack of Panoramis purchased between 15th September 2013 and 15th November 2013.

To claim their \$10 EFTPOS card, your clients simply have to:

1. Purchase a Panoramis 6 month pack from any participating veterinary clinic.
2. Visit panoramis.com.au/promotion.
3. Enter and submit the requested details, including the unique code from the voucher you provided.
4. Qualifying entries will be mailed a \$10 EFTPOS card by the 3rd January 2014.
5. Visit panoramis.com.au for full terms and conditions.

Panoramis
(spinosad + milbemycin oxime)

Elanco