



# Ultimate Veterinary Clinic Newsletter

ISSUE NO. 17

Spring time



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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 & orthopedics.
- 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](mailto:info@ultimatevet.com.au) and we'll see what we can do for you.

We appreciate your feedback



Many things around the house pose a threat to our beloved pets - and sometimes they are not things that you might consider harmful.

In this article we will uncover some of the most common household dangers and hopefully help you to avoid catastrophe for you and your pet!

## **Human Medications:**

One of the most common poisoning events is when Cats or Dogs ingest human medications - whether accidentally hoovered off the ground when they are dropped, pilfered from a handbag or deliberately given to the animal to 'medicate them'. The danger of human medications is that they are not designed for animals and often contain components that are toxic to them. Where the drug is similar to those used in veterinary medicine they are often in much larger doses, in a form that the animal cannot metabolize and as such are very harmful. One very common drug that is administered to animals by their owners is panadol - a drug that is extremely toxic to dogs and cats and causes liver failure. NEVER, NEVER, NEVER give your pets human medications. Please always ring your vet clinic if you are worried your pet has ingested your medications.

## **Rodenticide and Snail bait:**

Rat bait poisons are designed to kill rats and mice by causing a coagulopathy (a problem clotting the blood causing them to bleed out into body cavities). These poisons will have the same effect on our pets if eaten and signs of toxicity such as pale gums, difficulty breathing, bleeding from the gums or other places, may not be evident until a few days after the poison has been consumed. If you think your pet has eaten any rat poison always consult a vet, even a very small amount is dangerous.

Snail pellets will cause toxicity relatively quickly such as tremors, salivating, vomiting. If you have pets it is recommended to use other methods of pest control.

## **Plants:**

Many plants are toxic to animals including lillies, oleander, tulips, hyacinths, poinsettias and azaleas. Plant materials that can be toxic include onions, garlic, macadamia nuts, grapes and raisins.

If you decide to share your raisin toast with your pet you may be damaging their kidneys!!



## Household Goods:

Most people are familiar with chocolate being toxic to dogs. Methylxanthines are a class of chemical compounds that include theobromine and caffeine - two components found in chocolate. These toxins cause tremors, hyperactivity, abnormal heart rhythms, vomiting, diarrhoea and even seizures and death. Darker chocolate contains much higher quantities of these components and therefore less needs to be eaten before a significant effect occurs.

Xylitol is another common toxin, this is found in chewing gum and in human toothpaste. This is why your vet recommends using pet specific teeth cleaning products when brushing your pets pearly whites!

Any kind of household cleaners can cause toxicity if ingested. For example, if you wash your floor with bleach and your cat walks over it and settles down to start grooming their feet - they will be ingesting chemicals.

Remember, if your dog eats anything that it shouldn't please always contact your vet. There are safe ways that we can try and eliminate these toxins from their system and early intervention always brings about the best outcomes.



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## Flea's

As we are starting to come into the warmer months its important to make sure our pets are up to date with their flea treatments.

Fleas are tiny dark brown parasitic insects that infest the coat and skin of pets. They have an amazing skill allowing them to jump up to 150 times their own length. That's like a human jumping over 300 metres. Their remarkable jumping skills allow them to transit easily between hosts and the surrounding environment.

Flea eggs can remain dormant for astonishingly long periods of time under a variety of conditions. They lay dormant in the garden, or in your carpet and furniture, until they are able to hitch a ride. They jump great distances to find a host and travel on pets and even on people.

Fleas breed at an enormous rate. The fleas you see on your dog represent only 5-10% of the fleas in the environment. The rest of the population is represented in the egg and larval stages found in your carpets, furniture, bedding and garden. 5% of fleas live in the environment as an adult, 95 % of fleas live as eggs, larvae or pupae. For effective flea control it is essential to break the lifecycle in the environment.

**Adult Fleas** - jump onto your dog or cat, feed on its blood and then start laying eggs.

**Eggs** - one female lays up to 50 eggs per day, they drop off in carpets and bedding before hatching.

**Larvae** - the hatched eggs release larvae which move away from light, deeper into carpets and under furniture before developing into pupae. The larvae feed on organic debris and at this stage can consume tapeworm eggs, allowing them to become an intermediate host for the development of tapeworms.

This lifecycle can take as little as 2-3 weeks but can last up to 6 months. To rid your household from fleas, you must break this cycle.

Some recommended treatments are - Frontline, Comfortis, Advantage or Revolution. Ask one of our friendly staff for advice next time your in.





## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

The clinic has just turned 5yrs old!!  
Thank-you to all our wonderful clients for your ongoing support over the last 5 years.  
We look forward to continuing to provide you with the best possible veterinary care.



All the best to Dr Julie & nurse Kelly both leaving us to go on maternity leave, wishing you both all the best with your new bundle's of joy.



## **NEW STAFF MEMBER'S**

We would like to welcome their newest staff member's nurses **Bec, Mel & Monica**.

**Bec** is joining us as a junior nurse and is currently completing her certificate 4, this will be her first in clinic job and she is very excited to start her career as a vet nurse.

She has a **Border collie x heeler** called **Rylee**.

**Mel** comes to us with **6 years** nursing experience and has been working in a small clinic in **Dingley**.

She loves everything about the job especially working on reception & getting to know the clients and their pets.

She has a **American staffy** called **Rambo**, **3 cats** called **Zook, Harmony & Hunter** & a **standard breed horse** called **Odette**.

**Monica** has come to us all the way from **Queensland!** She has been nursing for **2 years** & previously working in a busy emergency clinic. She has a busy household with **3 dogs** **Max, Toto & indi** & **3 cats** **Sassy, Lilo, Mikey!**

**Welcome to the team girls!!**