

If undelivered, please return to:  
PATTERSON RIVER VETERINARY CENTRE  
15 McLeod Road, CARRUM 3197  
Phone: (03) 9772 0777 (All Hours)  
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## Patterson River Veterinary Centre

# Autumn Newsletter 2013

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## Autumn Newsletter 2013

'Why does my dog bark?' and 'Why won't my cat use the litter tray?' These are the topics being profiled by 'Polite Pets Month' in March.

Both of these problems are encountered commonly by pet owners. There is some very helpful information available to help you with these issues, some of which is included in this newsletter.

Easter is just around the corner and it is important that you keep the chocolate treats away from your pet as chocolate can be toxic for dogs.

We have recently installed new white Eukanuba/lams food stands in our waiting room giving the area a fresh new look. We are able to offer a \$6 discount on lams cat food whilst stocks last. If you have a new puppy we also have fantastic puppy packs available that give great discounts on Eukanuba puppy food – see our staff for details.

We see flea related problems all year round so we do advise that pet owners use flea control for 12 months of the year. We are still able to offer Frontline plus 12 pack for the price of 10 – only while stocks last.

Greg and Kerrie have recently attended a cytology workshop. Cytology is used regularly to help diagnose ear and skin problems as well as assist in diagnosing skin lumps.

Kerrie is also undergoing a post graduate distance education course in Feline Medicine this year with the University of Sydney.

Miriam is continuing to take our puppy classes. These are a great introduction to socialization for your new puppy. For more information speak to Miriam.

A reminder that repeat medication is best organized over the phone so that we have time to get permission from the vet and have it ready for you to pick up.

A walk with your dog on an autumn morning is a lovely way to start the day and Carrum is a beautiful beach to go off lead with your dog. Enjoy these lovely autumn days as the short days of winter are not so far away!

## Patterson River Veterinary Centre provides:-

- Preventative health care for small animals
  - Vaccinations
  - Heartworm prevention
  - Worming
- Premium pet foods
- Surgery
  - Soft tissue
  - Orthopaedic
- Radiology
- Cryosurgery
- Pathology
- Hydrobath
- Dentistry
- Weight loss advice
- Puppy classes

**We are open 9am – 7pm Monday – Friday  
and 9am – 12 midday Saturday.**

*Consultations are by appointment.*

**Ph 9772 0777**

**www.pattersonrivervet.com.au** or like us on Facebook

### Hydrobath

Do it yourself & all you need is a dirty dog  
We provide the rest.  
**only \$12**  
*Appointment necessary*

We are proud to announce the launch of our new website.  
[www.pattersonrivervet.com.au](http://www.pattersonrivervet.com.au)  
We encourage you to visit & subscribe to our newsletter.

### FLEAS!!!

*Continue to be a problem for many pet owners.*  
For the best product for you & your pet speak to one of our staff!



## Great offer...

**For a short time only we are able to offer cat owners \$6 off every bag of lams cat food 2.72 kg and over.**

**Only while stocks last.**



## Chocolate can be toxic!

Easter is not so far away and this can be a dangerous time for our dogs.

Signs can be seen within 1-2 hours of ingestion. Signs include restlessness, hyperactivity, vomiting, muscle tremors, increased heart rate, panting and death can

## March is Polite Pets Month...

An initiative of the Australian Veterinary Behaviour Interest Group (AVBIG), Polite Pets Month is an annual campaign which aims to raise awareness among pet owners about pet training and pet behaviour issues and encourage owners to ask us for advice about their pet's behaviour.

The 2013 theme, **'Why does my pet do that?'**, addresses common behaviour questions asked of vets, such as 'Why does my dog bark?' & 'Why won't my cat use the litter tray?'

For more information go to ...  
[www.ava.com.au/polite-pets-month](http://www.ava.com.au/polite-pets-month)

### Why won't my cat use the litter tray?

Most cats conform to the litter tray ritual. But about 10 % of cats won't use the litter tray and it's even worse when there's more than one cat in the home. There are a number of reasons for this, including:

- 🐾 A medical problem, such as anxiety
- 🐾 Preference for a particular litter type
- 🐾 A preference for carpet or clothes
- 🐾 Marking territory

follow. A 10kg dog only needs to eat 14g cooking chocolate to develop problems. If you suspect your dog has eaten any chocolate seek veterinary advice as soon as possible. The darker the chocolate the more toxic it is.

So, what can be done? Treatment could include dealing with any anxiety or medical problems, analysing the cat's preference for different litter types, or retraining. For more information ask us.

### Why does my dog bark?

Barking is natural to dogs: it's what they do. But sometimes, dogs seem to bark continually. And that can be annoying for you-and your neighbours! There are any number of reasons dogs bark too much, including:

- 🐾 A reaction to something in its environment, such as a neighbour's cat
- 🐾 Anxiety
- 🐾 Boredom
- 🐾 A response to play
- 🐾 Dementia (in older dogs)

One thing's for sure – punishment is not the answer. The best way to deal with the problem is to find out the cause, resolve any anxiety or medical problems, and choose an appropriate training program. Talk to us about ways to help.

## Why do dogs eat grass?

The often quoted theory on this is that grass is eaten when dogs have an upset stomach and that grass makes dogs throw up. But many dogs eat grass constantly, with no after-effects.

One theory as to why dogs seek out grass is that it fulfils some nutritional deficiency caused by a diet too

heavy on meat. In the wild, the thinking goes, wild dogs and wolves consume vegetable matter when they devour the stomach contents of prey animals

The reasoning may be simple in that some dogs eat grass because they like to, nothing more!!

## Old Cats (feline geriatrics)...

How do you really know how well your cat is ageing?

This can be a dilemma for some owners of older cats because cats in general are very discreet creatures and they are very good at hiding things! Often they can be suffering from an underlying illness for a long time before owners are aware there is a problem.

### The BIG EIGHT

Eight diseases of older cats that we see more frequently are:-

- 🐾 Chronic kidney disease
- 🐾 Hyperthyroidism
- 🐾 Diabetes
- 🐾 Osteoarthritis
- 🐾 Hypertension
- 🐾 Neoplasia (cancer)
- 🐾 Cardiomyopathy (heart disease)
- 🐾 Inflammatory bowel disease

Signs to watch for include increased thirst, weight loss, change in bowel habits, change in personality, reluctance to jump up or change in appetite.

As an owner you are attuned to your cat's normal habits but sometimes changes can be subtle.

If you are concerned that your cat may have underlying problems then please call us to make an appointment.

It is advisable to have your cat checked at least once per year and sometimes with the older cats an examination every six months may help to pick up any health issues earlier.

Urine and blood tests and blood pressure screening are all advisable in geriatric cats. These can all be done here at Patterson River.

## Tips for good behaviour at the vet

Early socialisation and handling of puppies goes a long way towards improving your dog's behaviour at the vet.

Visit our clinic with your puppy regularly, not just for vaccinations. Drop in to weigh your puppy and ask our staff to give it a cuddle. Enrol in our puppy classes. Pups that have been to these classes generally love coming back as they have had a fun time playing with other pups.

Handle your puppy regularly-touch ears, paws, tummy and open the mouth – a puppy that is used to being examined will be more relaxed at the vet.

Restrain your dog on a lead at the vet and keep it controlled.

Do not let your dog seek its way out of being examined. Stay in charge! Be firm and reward your dog for good behaviour.



"If you suspect your dog has eaten any chocolate seek veterinary advice as soon as possible"



We are now on Facebook – please LIKE our page:-

Patterson River Veterinary Centre  
If you 'Check In' next time you visit we will give your pet a treat for FREE

