

If undelivered, please return to:  
PATTERSON RIVER VETERINARY CENTRE  
15 McLeod Road, CARRUM 3197  
Phone: (03) 9772 0777 (All Hours)  
Fax: (03) 9776 1173  
Patterson River Vet Centre Newsletter

PRINT  
POST  
100003622

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA



## Patterson River Veterinary Centre

# Autumn Newsletter 2015

Dr. Greg Rodgers B.V.Sc (Hons), M.R.C.V.S.  
Dr. Kerrie Rodgers B.V.Sc, M.R.C.V.S.

15 McLeod Rd, CARRUM 3197  
Ph: (03) 9772 0777 (All Hours)  
Fax: (03) 9776 1173

## Autumn Newsletter 2015

We have had a busy time here at Patterson River over the past few months. Working in our field we never know how the day will develop.

One critical care emergency case can really change our day. This certainly makes every day interesting and all of our staff need to be very flexible when they are at work. Our nurses may be called out the back to surgery with very short notice. It can break up some of the more mundane jobs such as restocking the dispensary or doing the banking.

From dealing with a distraught owner contemplating euthanasia of a dearly loved pet to treating injured wildlife or maybe surgery on a guinea pig that has a prolapsed eyeball or even exploratory surgery to remove an intestinal obstruction. These are situations that we need to be able to take in our stride. Our job can be a very stressful and emotional one, but also brings us joy on a daily basis when we help loving owners to give their pet the very best of health care. If you haven't already liked us on Facebook then please do as we often share some of our more interesting cases.

We continue to see many pets with fleas and this is a year round problem in this area. We recommend Comfortis all year round which is a tablet given monthly. Many of

our clients have been using this for the past year or so and have had excellent results. It can be a bit tricky to give cats tablets however often worth the battle particularly if you have a cat that suffers from a suspected flea allergy. A new 3 monthly flea tablet is about to be launched so stay tuned as we will be providing information on our Facebook page.

Greg and Kerrie recently attended an evening seminar held by the specialists at Southpaws. Southpaws provide a fantastic surgical referral service and are also great for more complicated cancer treatments. Meaghan has almost finished her Veterinary Nursing course. Miriam continues to do a wonderful job of running our Puppy Classes. Barbara is off to Nepal in April to do some trekking and we wish her a wonderful and safe time.

We are now heading into the colder months and consideration must be given to the older arthritic pet. We have a number of options available to make your pet more comfortable and suggest you make an appointment with one of our vets to assess your pet's joint health and discuss options available. In this newsletter we have profiled 4cyte, a recent joint supplement developed to assist the arthritic pet. Enjoy Autumn, it's a great time for long walks with your canine companion.

## 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](http://www.pattersonrivervet.com.au)** or like us on Facebook



### Cats Only!

Next time you bring kitty in to the clinic we encourage you to wait in our new **"Kitty Corner"** – just for cats!

Follow us on

**facebook**

Like our Facebook page and you will be kept up to date on our latest news. We post information regularly.

Phone ahead for repeat prescriptions.

This allows us to get vet permission and have the medication ready for you. It saves everyone time.

Science hasn't been able to work out how cats purr.

There are no unique anatomical features that are clearly responsible for the sound.

## 4cyte - a joint care revolution...

Some of you may be familiar with Sasha's blend as a supplement for arthritis in dogs.

**4cyte** has been developed by the same company and is the next step up from Sasha's blend as it has 'epitalis' added to the original Sasha's blend formula. Epitalis is a plant extract that stimulates chondrocyte cell proliferation which favours production of healthy

cartilage instead of degeneration. It also suppresses the chemicals responsible for inflammation.

**4cyte** is available as small granules to add to your dog's meal each day. Clinical studies undertaken by the University of Melbourne show some promising results for this product.

Maintenance cost for an 11-20 kg dog is \$45 for 2 mths.

We have **4cyte** in stock now.

## Why your dog should not chew gum!

Xylitol is a sugar alcohol that is commonly used as a sugar substitute in lollies and gum products.

When ingested by dogs it stimulates insulin secretion by the pancreas and results in a rapid drop in blood glucose and can also drop the potassium levels.

Clinical signs include vomiting, lethargy, weakness, ataxia (wobbly legs), and seizures can

be seen with ingestion of as little as 0.1 mg/kg. Liver failure can also occur with higher doses.

Vomiting can be induced up to 4 hours after known ingestion.

There is no antidote, treatment is supportive-hospitalisation, IV fluids and monitoring.

Please keep your dogs away from products containing xylitol-gum, lollies etc

## Product profile - Feliway...

Feliway is a synthetic analogue of the naturally occurring facial pheromones of cats. These pheromones convey a message of well being and a feeling of security.

In the animal kingdom pheromones are used to communicate between members of the same species. They are species specific and Feliway will not affect any other species.

Feliway is available as a diffuser or a spray. It acts to reduce or control reactions to stressful environments.

Stress in cats can result in urine marking, vertical scratching,

reduced desire to play, hiding or reduced desire to interact.

It may be useful:-

- Moving house
- Visits to the vets and return from hospitalization
- Adoption
- Rearrangement of furniture
- Holiday homes
- New arrival (people/animals)
- Any situation where you feel your cat is anxious

## Make your rabbits jump for joy!

Chewing, sniffing, digging, playing, hunting, hopping, running, munching: pet rabbits are frisky, company-loving types who need a good home, the right food and plenty of exercise. And while they may not be as common as pet cats and dogs, rabbits are just as well-loved by their owners.

People are generally not as familiar with different aspects of rabbit care: the essential things that these lively souls need to stay healthy and happy. The need for company and the need to express natural behaviours are among the most overlooked aspects of caring for a rabbit.

For animals hardwired to be highly social, romping through fields and burrowing elaborate underground networks with their mates, rabbits are particularly sensitive to being left alone and being confined for long periods. The best thing the owner of a solitary rabbit could do is to consider buying another as a companion.

Pairing a desexed male with a desexed female is best to prevent unwanted breeding, and a new rabbit needs to be introduced carefully.

Whether your rabbit lives indoors or outside, its hutch also needs to

be large enough to comfortably accommodate a new bunny housemate. Hutches should be big enough for your rabbits to lie down and stretch out in all directions, and long enough for at least three hops from one end to the other.

Once a clean, spacious hutch has been taken care of, it's time to consider your rabbit's options for exercise outside the hutch, ideally in a secure area out of the reach of predators. (Even the sound of nearby predators can scare some rabbits to death.) If you keep your rabbits indoors, it's important to make sure they can explore safely: remove electrical cords and small and sharp objects - and any valuable furniture you'd like to save from being chewed.

As well as opportunities to exercise, give your rabbits things to chew and play with. These needn't be expensive: cardboard boxes, paper-towel rolls, old phone books; balls and stuffed toys that are regularly swapped around. With good company, and the means to do what comes naturally, your rabbits will be jumping for joy (known as a 'binky') in no time.

## Why does your dog wag its tail?

A wagging tail is one way which dogs use to communicate their intentions or feelings to other dogs.

Most owners think only happy dogs wag their tails but this is not true. There are several reasons why a dog wags its tail, and although a dog with a loosely

wagging tail is usually a dog that is friendly or excited, an aggressive dog may hold its tail high, wagging only the tip. Not all breeds are able to hold their tail high and not all are able to wag it loosely, so a wagging tail must not be taken as the sole indicator of a dog's mood.



"...rabbits are particularly sensitive to being left alone and being confined for long periods..."



"...please keep your dogs away from products

containing xylitol-gum, lollies etc..."

