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Patterson River Vet Centre Newsletter

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Patterson River Veterinary Centre

Autumn Newsletter 2016

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Autumn Newsletter 2016

We have had a busy start to the year and all at Patterson River cannot believe that we are now heading into Autumn.

For all of those that do not have access to our Facebook page our exciting news is the safe but early arrival of Meaghan's baby girl (if you do have facebook but have not liked our page then please do so and you can then keep up with our news more easily).

We congratulate Meaghan and husband Chad on the birth of their daughter, wee Abigail. We also extend a big welcome to our new trainee nurse Erin. Please make her feel welcome next time you visit.

Greg is planning on spending time training with Dr Chris Preston, one of our local surgery specialists. Greg will be learning more about anterior cruciate repair techniques. This is a special area of interest of his.

We have included an article on thyroid disease in cats and would



encourage all owners of elderly cats to bring them in for a regular check up. Diagnosing diseases early in their course allows early intervention and a better quality of life for your geriatric friend. Many cat owners mistakenly believe their cat is 'just getting old'; however, the subtle signs could indicate something treatable.

Poop, Stoop & Scoop!!!

Your dog – your responsibility!

A reminder to all dog owners that your dog's droppings are your responsibility. Please remember to always carry some means of poo collection. A plastic bag can be just the thing!

At the clinic we have some great

poo bag holders that easily attach to your lead.

If you are caught short when visiting us please let one of our staff know that your dog has made a deposit outside. We can easily give you a bag to use, or if you are short of time then we can sort the problem out for you.

DID YOU KNOW?

It has been established that people who own pets live longer, have less stress, and have fewer heart attacks.

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



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Fleas! Fleas! Fleas!

If you want the best flea control for your pets talk to our experienced staff.

Phone ahead for repeat prescriptions.

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

Collecting a urine sample...

From time to time we may request that you collect a urine sample from your dog if it is having urinary related problems.

A simple urine test can give us much information. The following hints may help you with the task.

How to catch a free-flow sample:

- Lock your dog in overnight if possible.
- Take him out to the toilet as soon as you get up and hopefully he will perform nicely!
- You will need a suitable container; a small shallow dish or saucer will be fine. Make sure it is clean and dry. You will only need about 10-20ml of urine.
- Also have a specimen container ready to pour it into (these are available from the clinic).
- Take your dog out into the garden on a lead.
- When he starts to squat or lift his leg, slip the container underneath. It is ideal to get a mid-stream

sample, which means just after the dog begins to urinate and before it ceases.

- Immediately pour the urine into a specimen container and bring it to us within 1-2 hours preferably. The fresher the sample the more accurate the result will be. If you can't get to the clinic for a few hours place the specimen in your refrigerator.

"Good Luck!"

Cats can be more difficult as they are very private creatures. We have non-absorbent litter beads (Catrine) available at the clinic that can be used to obtain a cat's urine sample.

If all else fails we can admit your pet and obtain a sample via catheterisation or cystocentesis (using a needle and syringe to obtain a direct sample from the bladder).

Why do dogs eat grass?

The often-quoted theory 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!!

Did you know?

Dogs have far fewer taste buds than people... probably fewer than 2,000. It is the smell that attracts them to a particular food.

Hyperthyroidism in cats...

Is your cat just getting old or could there be an underlying problem?

You may just think your cat is getting old, however sometimes some of the subtle old age changes can be a sign of an underlying disease syndrome. Some of these diseases are treatable which can give your old kitty a better quality of life. It is worth getting your older cat checked out starting with a physical examination and from this we may suggest following up with a blood profile to rule out some of the more common cat diseases. Kidney disease, Arthritis, Diabetes and Hyperthyroidism are some of the common diseases we see in our older felines.

Hyperthyroidism

This is the most common endocrine disorder seen in cats. It has become more prevalent since the late 70's. The underlying cause is not really known. Most cases are due to benign adenomatous hyperplasia of one or more commonly both thyroid glands. The thyroid glands are situated in the neck region and sit alongside the trachea (windpipe). Thyroid hormones produced by these glands are widely used in metabolism around the body.

Signs:-

Your cat may be exhibiting one or more of the following signs:-

- Weight loss
- Increased appetite

• Change in behaviour - more temperamental / fractious / hyperactive

• Increased heart rate / heart murmur

• Increased thirst / increased urination

• Intermittent vomiting / diarrhoea

• Less commonly skin changes are seen with hair loss and unkempt coat.

Diagnosis:-

Blood screening will usually show an increase in circulating thyroid hormone (T4) concentrations. Sometimes early in the disease this will be normal and we will suggest a repeat blood test. Other changes in the blood profile may support the diagnosis-often there is an elevation of liver enzyme levels (these will generally return to normal with successful management of the hyperT4).

Treating Hyperthyroidism

There are a number of options for managing this disorder and the treatment chosen will be done with consideration to each individual case. Treatment options include medical management or radioactive iodine treatment.

If you think your cat maybe developing Hyperthyroidism we recommend you book an appointment with one of our vets.

Why does your pet do that?

Why does a cat like to scratch a scratching pole or the back of a chair?

The cat is performing several functions. It may be shedding the outer sheath of its nails or it may be

marking its territory by rubbing the scent glands on the underside of its front paws against the furniture. This explains why your cat may do this when strangers visit your home and also why one chair seems to receive the most attention!



"...Hyperthyroidism is the most common endocrine disorder seen in cats..."



"...a simple urine test can give us much information..."

