



### Winter Newsletter 2014

Looking for a new pet? Rescue pets can make wonderful new family members. There are many rescue organisations around, so have a browse on the internet or have a chat to one of our staff.

We regularly do work for Australian Working Dog Rescue and come across many different types of dogs suitable for many different lifestyles, from busy purebred working dogs to older crossbreeds. They may just have the dog for you.

There are also many lovely mature cats (and kittens) with the various cat rescue groups looking for a new family.

The winter blues can affect our pets so it is important to make the time to spend with them at this time of year despite the reduced daylight hours. We also need to ensure that the older pet is comfortable during the colder months with warm sheltered bedding and arthritis medication if needed.

Fleas are still breeding in our warm comfy houses and we are excited to announce that Comfortis is now registered for use in cats. This is an excellent flea control product and we highly recommend it for dogs and now also cats. Comfortis is a meat flavoured chewable tablet given once monthly.

Our hydrobath is a good way to freshen up your canine companion over the winter months. It is only \$12 and easy for you to use. If you have not used it before our staff will give you instructions. All you need is a dirty dog! We provide the rest.

August is pet dental month and we suggest you 'Like' our Facebook page as we will be having some special deals during August.

Congratulations to our nurse Nicole and partner Shaun on the birth of their third child Ruby. Nicole is having some well-earned maternity leave and we wish her and her family all the best.

### Just for Cats...

We are excited to announce that we have a new area just for cats in our waiting area. Many cats feel stressed when waiting alongside dogs so with this in mind we have created a quiet cat only area for you to wait with your feline friend.



### August is pet dental month.

Keep up to date on our Facebook page to find out how we will be promoting dental awareness for the month of August.

## 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

Follow us on

**facebook**

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

### NEWSFLASH! COMFORTIS

is now registered for use in cats.

We recommend this very effective flea control product.

## Beware Rat Bait!

This is the time of year when rats and mice make their presence known around the home and backyard, as outside food sources diminish.

Rat bait is a great way to get rid of them but you must ensure pets do not have access to the poison.

Your pet can also be poisoned by ingesting a dead mouse or rat that has died from the bait.

You must also keep in mind that rat bait is a slow poison. It causes haemorrhage which is often internal. Your pet may show signs of weakness, lethargy with pale gums or external bruising.

If you suspect your pet has ingested any mouse or rat poison you should seek immediate Veterinary attention. There is an antidote available.

## Does your cat have arthritis?

Cats suffer from degenerative joint disease which can often go unrecognised by owners. Owners often think their cat is 'just slowing down with age' when in fact they are less inclined to jump up on to furniture or less mobile generally because they are suffering from arthritis. If your elderly cat has slowed down recently then it may be worthwhile having a checkup. Often we will suggest a blood profile prior to starting arthritis medication to check out kidney and liver function.

This is a testimonial from a happy client:-

*"Our much loved cat, Rebecca, was experiencing huge mobility problems, was unable to groom herself and reached the stage where she would not even get out of her bed. Dr Kerrie Rodgers performed some blood tests and x-rays, diagnosed her as being arthritic and advised us to give her a feline arthritis medication every morning. The result has been amazing. She is now out and about all day, jumps up on our knees for a cuddle and we no longer have to cut off lumps of fur and regularly brush and comb her."*

## Lily intoxication in cats...

Many people associated with cats are unaware of how toxic lilies can be to cats.

Lilies are becoming more popular, particularly in floral arrangements. This is putting indoor cats more at risk. All parts of the lily (flowers, stamen, stem, leaves and roots) are toxic, causing sudden kidney failure. Only a small portion of the plant needs to be eaten

to cause serious problems. Often this may not be noticed by the owner. Outdoor access may also go unnoticed.

Lily toxicity should be considered in every case of acute kidney failure in cats. There is no antitoxin available and treatment is supportive with no guarantee of a good outcome. Preventing access to any type of Lily plant or flower inside and outside is the best way of keeping your cat safe.

## Dogs with Dementia - "Dogzheimer's!"

Life expectancy rates for people have increased in recent times due to better preventive health and advances in medicine and surgery. The same can be said for our canine companions. This is certainly good news. However, an increase in the aged population also leads to increased incidence of dementia, and that's true for dogs as well as people.

Recent studies have shown that some old dogs suffer from similar brain pathology to people suffering with Alzheimer's disease. Obviously, some of the behavioural changes we see in people are not the same as dogs. However, there are some signs you can look for that can indicate that your dog is suffering from "dogzheimer's" or "Canine Cognitive Dysfunction Syndrome" (CDS) as it is more precisely known.

The following symptoms are not expected with the normal aging process in dogs:-

1. Episodes of disorientation. This can include activities such as the dog staring into space at "nothing", barking monotonously without an obvious trigger for the vocalising or standing in corners, motionless and non-responsive for significant periods of time
2. Delay in recognition of people, places or objects that should be familiar. Fearful or aggressive responses may occasionally be seen
3. Disruption of the sleep wake-cycle. Some dogs will sleep all day but

be unsettled to varying degrees at night. This can sometimes be associated with pacing, vocalising or destructiveness

4. Loss of learnt behaviours. This includes a loss of house-training or inability to respond to known verbal cues

Elderly animals may have one or more of the above symptoms as a result of a disease process that is unrelated to brain function. For example, a dog may be more likely to urinate indoors if he has increased thirst and urination as a result of diabetes, or may have difficulty recognising his owner because of eye-sight problems. For this reason a behavioural history, physical examination and/or further tests are necessary to determine whether or not a particular dog is suffering from CDS.

We can't turn the clock back and our best friends will age over time. However, there are now treatments available for those dogs who are showing symptoms of abnormal age related brain function. Treatment for CDS generally involves behavioural therapy, nutritional support and appropriate use of medications. These three factors can often significantly improve the quality of life for dogs with CDS. An improvement in the relationship these dogs have with their owners ensures they get the most out of their twilight years.

By Dr. Debbie Calnon

## Repeat Medication...

Remember to phone ahead if you need repeat medication for your pet. This allows us to get permission from the vet and also to have it ready for you to pick up later in the day. If your pet has not been seen for more than 12 months you will be asked to come in for a checkup. This is for your pets well being. We need to ensure your pet is healthy and not suffering from any side effects from the medication. We may even suggest blood tests to rule out any underlying complications. Phoning ahead saves everyone time.



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