

If undelivered, please return to:  
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# Patterson River Veterinary Centre Spring Newsletter 2013

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## Spring Newsletter 2013

**There has been plenty happening at Patterson River recently.**

We had an excellent response to our Facebook Photo Competition and now have the photos on display in our waiting room area.

August was dental health month and again we were offering free dental health checks. Did you know that four out of every five dogs and cats over the age of three years have some sort of dental disease which becomes more severe with age? Bad breath can be one of the first signs of dental disease, so if in doubt, it is best to have a checkup.

Our nurses were busy cooking cupcakes for cupcake week in August and raised almost \$200 for the RSPCA.

Fleas continue to be a big problem in this area and we strongly recommend year round preventative flea control. There are

many options available and our staff can help you choose the best program for you and your pet.

Spring can be an itchy time of the year for many of our allergic pets. Prompt treatment to stop the itch/scratch cycle can mean a shorter treatment time for you and your pet. Make an appointment before the problem gets any worse.

Greg recently spent a day with Chris Preston, one of our local surgical specialists, learning more about orthopaedic surgery. Greg is very interested in surgery and particularly enjoys repairing knees - both for anterior cruciate damage and luxating knee caps. Kerrie spent two days at a feline workshop in Melbourne as part of her post graduate feline medicine course.

Do not forget our handy hydrobath this Spring. Our pets appreciate a Spring clean and it only costs \$12.

## Staff Profile - Dr Barbara Chapman

Barbara graduated in 1978 from Melbourne University. She has had many years of working with small animals including University study positions both here and overseas. Barb has owned and managed her own



clinic for 10 years. She has a cat - and Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. horses - Hamish, Alana, Arty and Camille. In her spare time Barb enjoys horse riding -dressage in particular as well as papercrafts and photography. You will find Barb at Patterson River most Wednesday

Did you know? A female flea can produce 27 eggs daily \* over 2000 in her lifetime?



## 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

## 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.

## Fleas!!!

Are a big problem in this area - we recommend all year round prevention for your pet.

For the best product for you & your pet speak to one of our staff!



"...cats are attracted to running water so try having the water bowl under a dripping tap or offer a water fountain..."



## Tips to help increase your cat's fluid intake

This should be encouraged in any cats that have FLUTD (feline lower urinary tract disease) or CKD (chronic kidney disease).

- 🐾 Offer more wet food.
- 🐾 Offer a number of different types of water bowls - wide brimmed, shallow ceramic bowls seem popular.
- 🐾 Offer water bowls in different rooms and heights around the house.
- 🐾 Offer water away from food bowls.
- 🐾 Cats are attracted to running water so you could try having

## Introducing a new diet to your cat (eg. Renal diet)

A prescription diet is sometimes helpful to treat cats with particular disorders. However it can be tricky to get your cat to eat the new food...be patient and try some of the hints below.

- 🐾 This needs to be done gradually, over many weeks and whilst being introduced the previous food should also be offered.
- 🐾 Best to start with 1/4 new food plus 3/4 old food for 1-2 weeks and once cat is eating that well then increase to 50/50 for another week or two. Then 3/4 new plus 1/4 old for another week or two.
- 🐾 If the old food is dry then use new dry food and if old food was wet then use new wet.
- 🐾 Cats can be very fussy so to help them along with the new food transition, offer it in a number of different bowls - warm it up a bit.
- 🐾 It can help to offer both wet and

the water bowl under a dripping tap or offer a water fountain (available in pet shops). Your cat may love drinking from an outdoor water feature.

- 🐾 Change the water regularly.
- 🐾 Leave some water in the bottom of the bath or sink.
- 🐾 Make sure water bowls are filled to the top (so there's no need to put their heads in the bowl).
- 🐾 Try flavouring the water with some chicken broth or tuna juice.
- 🐾 Offer distilled water.

dry - some cats will change their preference - eg. a cat that has always only eaten dry food may now eat wet.

- 🐾 Use a shallow dish (saucer) for the new food (if whiskers rub on sides of deep dish this can affect the cat's food preference).
- 🐾 Offer in different positions around the house.
- 🐾 Add flavour enhancers - low sodium chicken broth, tuna juice, oregano, brewer's yeast.
- 🐾 You must be patient, it can take time.
- 🐾 Try a different brand.
- 🐾 If you have been prescribed a diet then getting the cat to eat the food may save you having to give the cat a number of tablets daily (ie. It will make your life easier in the long term)...be patient.

## Facebook photo competition...

A BIG thank you to all that entered our Facebook photo competition. We had some fantastic photos sent to us and we will have them on display in the clinic during September for you all to see. They are still available on our Facebook page to view. The winners were awarded by the most LIKES and every entry received a prize.



"...we had some fantastic photos sent to us and we will have them on display in the clinic during September..."



## Ten Top Dog Hints...

1. Puppies benefit enormously from socialisation. They need regular, friendly, social contact with humans and other dogs, particularly in the first 16 weeks of life.
2. Friendly socialisation has been shown to decrease fear of other dogs and people, and improve a dog's ability to cope with new situations. Research has shown that dogs that have not been socialised are more likely to develop antisocial behaviours.
3. Puppies should attend a puppy socialisation class taught by experienced, qualified trainers. Puppies attending these classes should be healthy and have received their first vaccination.
4. All dogs should progress to transition classes and adult training classes so that socialisation and education continue for life.
5. Always use reward-based training with your dog. Rewards may be in the form of a food treat or verbal praise and attention - anything your dog likes!
6. Reward-based training generally involves ignoring any 'unwanted' behaviour. In this way the dog is not rewarded with attention for doing what you don't want them to do. If a dog is not rewarded for certain behaviour, then they tend to stop doing it - eg. ignoring your dog when it jumps up to greet you rather than pushing it down means that your dog is not rewarded with your attention. This includes avoiding eye contact with your dog and only rewarding it with attention or treats when all four paws are on the ground.
7. Take 10-15 minutes each day training your dog throughout its life.
8. When doing anything with your dog, be positive and use praise and rewards.
9. To modify existing problem behaviour, have the dog checked by a vet to rule out any underlying medical problem and then seek the help of a qualified trainer who uses reward-based training techniques. A veterinary behaviourist may be required to help solve some behaviour problems.
10. Never leave a child under 10 unsupervised with a dog, even a familiar family pet. Even the friendliest dog can react if it's scared or feels threatened.

## Changes to Eukanuba...

Some of you may have noticed some changes to your pet's favourite food recently. Eukanuba have changed the names, sizes and bag types of many of their products. Be assured the food is the same top quality that your pet deserves. The plastic packaging is to ensure freshness of the food and the change in size is to align the brand with metric sizing.

