



Patterson River Veterinary Centre Spring Newsletter 2015

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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

Premium Pet Food
ADVANCE

Buy 10 bags &
get 11th bag **FREE**

Spring is
a great time to
Hydrobath
your dog
only \$12

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



Spring is a season of growth and a time to enjoy the warmer weather. It is also a time for breeding for many of our plants and animals.

If you have not already done so please have your cat desexed before you have to deal with an accidental pregnancy or a cat fight abscess.

Fleas also breed more with the warmer weather so it's time to have a good look at your flea control program. Do not hesitate to contact our fully informed staff to develop the best flea control for your situation.

Spring brings more snails to your garden but please take care with snail bait as baits are also toxic/fatal to cats and dogs.

Time to desex your cat...

Every year we are given litters of kittens to try and rehome and each year the animal shelters euthanase large numbers of cats/kittens that they cannot rehome.

Now is the time to desex your cat – both boys and girls.

- 🐾 Is your cat wailing?
- 🐾 Is she young and female and making a sound like she's in pain?
- 🐾 Is she rolling around on the ground or rubbing her tummy along the ground with her tail high in the air?

Baby birds are prevalent in spring. If you find a fledgling that has just left the nest and it is not in danger it is best to leave it where you found it. The parents are likely to be nearby and still taking care of it. If it is in danger you may be able to make it safe by tying a bucket to a tree and placing the bird in the bucket.

It is a great time to take advantage of our easy to use hydrobath (only \$12). Freshen up your dog and strip out the winter coat and for those shaggy dogs don't forget to give the hair around their eyes a good trim. Shaggy eyebrows look cute but they can reduce your dog's vision.

Enjoy Spring and don't forget to phone ahead for your repeat prescriptions – it saves everyone time.

She may well be on heat.

Cats are stimulated to come on heat with increasing daylight hours (Spring) and they do not have a set time period in between heats – they can come on and off heat quite often. The best thing to do is have her desexed.

Phone us to book her in. We do this routine surgery any day from Monday to Friday.

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



Giving a tablet...

- Always handle your cat gently, work calmly and be reassuring. If your cat gets very stressed, contact us to explore alternatives. It can be easier having your cat up on a table.
- Someone gently holding your cat while you give the tablet can be very helpful. Alternatively, it may be easier to gently wrap your cat in a large towel/blanket to keep them still and prevent you being scratched.
- Hold your cat, using your hands, arms and body to keep it still and confined.
- Hold your cat's head firmly but gently, placing your thumb and forefinger on either side of the jawbone at the corner of the mouth. Holding this area firmly does not hurt your cat, but gives you control of its head.
- Hold the pill between the thumb and forefinger of the other hand.

- Tilt the cat's head so that the nose is pointing up.
- Open the mouth using a finger on the row of tiny teeth at the front of the bottom jaw, and gently pulling down.
- Once open, push the tablet to the back of the mouth as quickly as possible, and release the head so the cat can swallow.
- The trick is to get the tablet as far back in the mouth as possible so that your cat can only swallow it and not spit it out!
- 'Pill poppers' can be used to avoid the need for a finger in the cat's mouth. Some people find these easier and we have them available.
- To help the tablet go down and prevent problems, it is usually best to give a small amount of food or dribble a small amount of water into your cat's mouth after a tablet is given.

Purr fact...

Science hasn't been able to work out how cats purr. There are no unique anatomical features that are clearly responsible for the sound.

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!

Are you looking for the best care for your pet?

You are coming to the right place. Here at Patterson River we strive to offer your pets the very best veterinary care available.

Greg and Kerrie have owned this clinic now for almost 25 years and both graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1983. Our part time vet Barb has also had many years of small animal experience. Our nurses are all educated and experienced and all members of our staff work here because they love working with small animals. Our clinic aims to provide personal care to your family and pets. We feel continuity of care by the one Vet is important and where practical we aim to do this. This provides you with a more personal type of service, something that you do not receive at larger clinics.

Our vets enjoy all fields of small animal medicine and surgery. We routinely perform all types of surgery on site. This includes:- desexing, cruciate ligament repair, caesareans, exploratory laparotomies, anal gland removal, abscess draining

and repair, traumatic wound repair, orthopaedic repair (pinning, wiring and plating), lump removal, and hernia repair-just to name a few.

When your pet becomes ill and requires treatment and testing or if your pet needs surgery we will always discuss options with you. We will also inform you of the costs involved and if this changes during the course of treatment then you will always be made aware. We are able to handle most cases on site, however, if we feel that a specialists opinion is warranted then we will always make that option available to you. Melbourne boasts a wealth of fantastic small animal Veterinary specialists in all fields of medicine and surgery.

If at any stage you are unsure of your pet's treatment or you are not happy with how things are progressing PLEASE discuss this with us and we will endeavour to change the situation. If you are happy with our services PLEASE pass the word around.

Why does your pet do that?

Why does an angry dog raise its hackles?

The hackles are the hair which stands up along the back of an angry or scared dog. In some breeds it stands up in a ridge along the back but there are many breeds where the nature of the coat prevents the dog from raising the hair. Dogs raise this hair in an attempt to make themselves look bigger than the enemy - either another dog or a human.

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!

"...Dogs live with you, cats' board with you..."



"...The smallest feline is a masterpiece..."

