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

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# Patterson River Veterinary Centre Spring Newsletter 2016

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

**After a long, cold, wet winter it is nice to welcome Spring with longer days and warmer weather.**

You may have noticed a familiar face back at the desk as we have recently welcomed Meaghan back onto our nurse staffing roster after her time off on maternity leave. She will be doing some Saturday mornings and maybe a bit more as time goes on.

Greg has recently attended a dermatology (skin disease) seminar where our local specialists were speaking. Here at Patterson River we commonly see skin problems particularly in our canine population. Allergy based skin problems are very prevalent and can have a hereditary basis. Fleas are prevalent

in this area and contribute to many skin conditions seen by our vets.

Our hydrobath has always been popular and is such an easy way to freshen up your dog at this time of the year. We are planning on a bit of a makeover for our hydrobath in the near future as is it starting to show some wear and tear.

We are able to offer you a wonderful deal when buying Comfortis or Panoramis during Spring and Summer. These are our favourite parasite control products and a great buy until the end of January with \$20 off each 6 month packet purchased.

If you would like your pet's photo included in our newsletter then please email to [prvet@tpg.com.au](mailto:prvet@tpg.com.au)

## 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

**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



## Baby Birds in Spring...

Flight training begins in Spring for most of our native birdlife, which is when we start getting calls about young birds on the ground who are unable to fly or look like they have a broken wing.

How you can help – If you see a baby bird on the ground, it's most likely its parents are nearby and still looking after it.

The first thing to do is determine if it's a nestling or fledgling.

Nestlings are fuzzy or have naked skin and don't have their feathers yet. They're too young to survive long out of the nest.

We've all heard about how birds will reject their offspring if humans touch them. Well, it turns out that's not true! If you can reach the nest, the best thing you can do is to gently pick up the nestling and put it back in.

If you can't reach the nest, try fashioning a makeshift one out of an old hanging planter-just make sure water can drain out if it rains-hang it up in the tree high enough to avoid predators.

Fledglings have most of their feathers and it's quite common for them to fall out of their nest and spend several days hopping around on the ground while learning to fly. Their parents will continue to feed them and distract potential predators by swooping anything that comes near-which can be terrifying if they think you're a predator, but a lot more understandable when you know they're just protecting their babies.

If you see a fledgling on the ground or in low bushes and there isn't any immediate danger then the best thing you can do is leave it alone, keep pets and kids away and keep an eye on it from a distance.

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## Chronic kidney disease in cats...

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a progressive condition that is common in older cats and is, so far, incurable. However, with vet and owner working together, a cat's quality of life can be maintained and its life can often be prolonged.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is one of the most commonly diagnosed diseases in older cats, and may affect more than 30–40% of cats over 10 years of age. Although it is a common problem, it is complex, and how it manifests can vary from cat to cat. Management of CKD is largely focused on improving the quality of life of affected cats and, where possible, slowing the progression of the disease.

### Diagnosis

Other than age, no clear risk factors for the development of CKD have been identified. Signs such as weight loss, and drinking and urinating more may indicate the presence, or predict the development, of CKD. If your cat exhibits any of these signs it is important to make an appointment to see one of our vets who will be able to investigate further.

### Staging

Once a cat has been diagnosed, the severity of its condition can be assessed based on the International Renal Interest Society's staging system. This helps to determine the most appropriate way to manage the condition and can also provide a guide to the outcome.

### How can you help?

A good relationship between an owner and our staff is vital in the management of CKD and owners can play a particularly important part in two key areas:

**1. Diet Special CKD diets:-** (available through the vet) that are restricted in phosphorus and protein have been shown to significantly prolong life. They should be introduced gradually and as early as possible. These types of diets generally aren't as tasty as other foods, so your cat may not like it at first.

You can help your cat to accept the new food by giving it the new and old diets together (eg, mixed up or side by side in a dish). You can then increase the proportion of the new food over several (eg, 4–8) weeks.

**2. Hydration:-** Cats with CKD are more likely to become dehydrated, especially in the later stages of disease. In order to help cats stay hydrated:

- ensure they have access to water at all times
- offer a variety of water sources, such as running water and flavoured waters
- feed your cat a wet diet
- add extra water to the food if necessary.

**Veterinary treatment plan.** The veterinary treatment plan may also include medications for common secondary complications of CKD (eg, high blood pressure and anaemia) and will require regular monitoring of the patient.

### Conclusion

CKD may be incurable but with early diagnosis and appropriate management, by both vets and owners, affected cats can survive comfortably for long periods.

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## Xylitol intoxicosis...

Why your dog should not chew gum! (and other artificially sweetened food products).

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.

## Did you know?...

Dogs can hear sounds that are too faint for us to hear, and also can hear noises at a much higher frequency than we can. Their hearing is so good that they probably rely more on sound than on sight to navigate their world.

## Cleaning tip...

When cleaning up accidents in the house do not use ammonia base cleaners. They smell like urine to your pet and this can make the area more attractive next time they need to go to the toilet.



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