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Patterson River Vet Centre Newsletter

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## Patterson River Veterinary Centre

# Summer Newsletter 2014

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## Summer Newsletter 2014

Summer is our busy time here at Patterson River. We see more skin conditions, grass seeds, flea problems, accidents and with the holiday season approaching we will be giving more vaccinations.

Ensure your pet is up to date with vaccinations long before boarding to get the best immunity; at least two weeks prior is preferred. Parvovirus is also seen more in the summer season and it is a nasty and very infectious virus that will exist for a long time in the environment. Regular vaccination is the only way to prevent this potentially fatal disease so if you are not sure when your dog was last vaccinated give us a call. Parvo has been seen recently in our area.

We do not like keeping anyone waiting so please phone ahead for an appointment. If you have an emergency we will always accommodate you but try and get someone to phone ahead for you so that we can be prepared. It also

helps if you can phone ahead for prescription medication so that we can get the okay from the vet and have the medication ready for you to pick up.

Kerrie recently attended the ASAVA's Feline conference in Melbourne. Cats are a special interest of hers and she picked up a few tips over the two days of attending. We understand that cats have special requirements and we take the gentle, gentle approach when handling them. This makes for a better experience for all concerned. We now have a quiet area for cats only in our waiting room for those cats that get anxious around dogs.

Christmas is just around the corner and we have a great selection of gifts for your special four legged friend. This year we also have Hydrobath gift vouchers available for just \$12. They are an easy and economical present for any dog loving friend. Call in for that last minute gift.

## 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



### CATS ONLY!

Next time you bring kitty in to the clinic we encourage you to wait in our new "Kitty Corner" - just for cats

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.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for sharing the care of your wonderful pets with us in 2014.

Wishing you all a healthy & happy 2015.

With best wishes,

Greg, Kerrie, Barbara, Joanna, Fiona, Miriam, Meaghan, Nicole &...Frankie-Meow!

## Amazing sense of feline smell...

Cats have a very acute sense of smell. They also have a special organ in the roof of their mouth that allows them to detect pheromones.

Pheromones are chemical messages that individuals of a species use to communicate with others of the same species. This way cats can leave messages in their urine, in their faeces, and by rubbing their cheek glands on objects.

They can advertise their presence and sexual availability to other cats. When you see a cat grimace and lift or curl its top lip it is actually taking the smell into this organ. Some cats respond to catnip in this manner.

Cats have glands on the chin, the forehead, and on top of the tail that are used for scent marking. Cats also use urine and faeces to

## What is Pancreatitis in dogs?

We regularly see Pancreatitis at Patterson River.

The pancreas is a small but vital organ that sits near the stomach. It has two functions. One is to produce insulin, which is necessary to control the blood sugar level. The second is to produce chemicals called enzymes, which are essential in the digestion of food.

Sudden inflammation of the pancreas produces a serious and very painful condition termed 'Acute Pancreatitis'. The cause is often unknown. Some cases occur subsequent to an overindulgence of very fatty food. Digestive enzymes released from the inflamed pancreas cause severe inflammation of the pancreas

mark territory. When your cat rubs around your legs being friendly it is actually rubbing scent from the cheek glands on you. This bunting behaviour (cheek rubbing) is really a marking behaviour.

We use this to our advantage in dealing with cats. Feliway is a synthetic pheromone analogue that is used for stress related problems in cats. It is available as a diffuser or a spray. We use it daily in the clinic environment as well as for many of our client's cats.

If you would like to know more please contact us and we can give you more information. It is also available for dogs and very useful when a new puppy or dog is introduced to the family.

itself and rarely death can be the result.

**Signs** - Overweight, middle-aged female dogs are more likely to be affected, but acute pancreatitis can occur in any dog.

The dog usually has a very painful abdomen. She will be depressed and usually will not eat and may vomit. She may be tense with a hunched back and disinclined to move. In severe cases the dog may collapse.

Other conditions can also produce these signs and diagnosis requires a careful examination, laboratory tests and perhaps X-rays.

**Treatment** - Includes intravenous fluids, antibiotics, pain relief and withholding food for a period of time.

## Share retirement with a pet...

When many people retire they can have a period where they miss the routine of their working day.

A dog can be a wonderful way to get motivated to start the day. Regular exercise is essential for the older generation.

A leisurely stroll around the block is not only good for the body, but also for the soul. It can be surprising what one notices when walking the dog – the roses in the neighbour's garden, the street trees changing to autumn colours, the first daffodils of spring.

Walking the dog is a wonderful way to meet people. Few people talk to strangers walking alone these days, but add a dog to the end of a lead and people seem much friendlier. Often it is the dog that is spoken to first, but eventually the owner gets included in the conversation also.

There are many more pleasures to owning a dog besides walking. Dogs are especially adept at watching

television with their owners and are ever ready to participate in a conversation at any level without arguing the point!!

For the less active person the company of a cat provides companionship and immeasurable pleasure.

Cats are playful, curious, beautiful and graceful with a certain character or personality which is distinctly their own. If you fancy an afternoon nap, the cat will be happy to join you as two thirds of the cat's day is spent sleeping.

Cats are extremely tactile, love being patted and the rhythmic purr of a cat is particularly pleasant and soothing to humans.

If you are thinking of retiring in the near future or have already retired please consider a new pet to keep you company. Adopting an older pet from a shelter or a rescue group can be very rewarding.

## Feline bronchial asthma...

This is a condition in cats in which there is a spasm of the smooth muscle of the bronchi.

This results in a substantial narrowing of the air passages through the lungs. The cat consequently has increased difficulty breathing. Affected cats make a distinctive wheezing noise.

Cats are less likely to develop asthma than humans. Siamese are more commonly affected than other breeds.

During severe bouts of asthma the cat might wheeze and cough, gasping for breath. It will be reluctant to move and might sit or lie in one spot with elbows out, breathing

laboriously, perhaps even mouth breathing.

**Cause** - The underlying causes of this condition are not completely understood but they do include an allergic reaction to agents (allergens), such as pollen or house dust.

If the cat's attacks are seasonal only, then it is likely that some agent such as pollen is responsible. Often a definitive cause cannot be established.

**Treatment** - Treatment includes corticosteroids and bronchodilators. Oxygen may be necessary if the cat is severely affected.



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