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

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Patterson River Veterinary Centre

Winter Newsletter 2013

Dr. Greg Rodgers B.V.Sc (Hons), M.R.C.V.S.
Dr. Kerrie Rodgers B.V.Sc, M.R.C.V.S.

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Winter Newsletter 2013

Winter has arrived and brings with it some special considerations for our pets.

Our elderly pets in particular need nurturing through the colder months. Many have some form of degenerative joint disease (arthritis) and will benefit from warm bedding and regular exercise. There are a number of other ways to assist your arthritic pet over the winter and we have included some tips in this newsletter.

We do suggest that you continue your preventative flea treatments over the winter as we regularly see fleas all year round on our patients. Be careful with the flea control products available at the supermarkets as some of them do not kill adult fleas but merely render them infertile - this type of product will take a very long time to control the fleas on your pet. Some flea control products for dogs can be

fatal to cats so it is very important to read the label carefully. If in doubt please phone our staff for advice.

Greg has recently attended an evening seminar by one of our local surgery specialists Dr. Charles Kuntz. It was "The Bees Knees" and was all about knee surgery, which is one of Greg's special interests.

Kerrie spent an evening learning more about the Domestic Animals Act and our obligations as a Veterinary Clinic.

Meaghan attended a seminar about rehabilitation and physiotherapy after ACL (cruciate) surgery.

We are running a fabulous 'Favourite Pet Photo' competition at the moment and every entry wins a prize. More details in this newsletter or on our Facebook page.

Stay rugged up and keep warm this winter.

Did you know...

how easy it is to use our **HYDROBATH?** We will show you the first time - it is so easy and convenient. It is such a great way to keep your dog clean over winter. It only costs \$12 and we provide everything. All you need is a dirty dog! **Phone for an appointment.**

THUNDERSHIRTS

- use gentle hugging to calm your pet.

These work by applying gentle, constant pressure on a dog's torso and this pressure has an amazing calming effect for most dogs. They can be used for dogs that are fearful of noise, for car travel, dogs that have separation anxiety or dogs that are generally anxious or fearful. Phone us for more information and to work out the best size for your pet. These are also now available for cats.



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

Like our **Facebook** page and you will be kept up to date with our clinic. We post pet care tips regularly.

Enter our pet photo competition and **WIN!**

Fleas!!!

Continue to be a problem for many pet owners - even over winter.

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





"...Exercise is

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Degenerative Joint Disease (Arthritis)

Does your pet take a while to get moving in the morning? Does he hobble out of bed? Is he reluctant to use the stairs? Is your elderly cat not jumping up on the bed or couch anymore?

These can all be signs of DJD (degenerative joint disease or arthritis). They can be subtle signs and can develop very slowly so that often owners may just think their pet is getting old and slowing down.

There are a number of ways that you can make your pet more comfortable during the winter months.

BEDDING is very important. Trampoline type beds can be very useful as they get your pet up off the ground. Bedding should be thick and padded. There are many types of bedding available these days. Snooza have a fantastic range of good quality bedding. Speak to our staff if you would like to know more. We can order in Snooza beds.

NUTRICEUTICALS - There are many types available including Sasha's Blend and Joint Guard. They contain GAG's - glucosaminoglycans - glucosamine and chondroitin that have joint protective properties. They are added to the pet's food and can

be useful but do take some weeks to have effect.

PENTOSAN POLYSULPHATE - These are a course of injections that are given weekly for four weeks. They work to retard the progression of arthritis. They treat the underlying disease process not just the symptoms.

Non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID's). These provide pain relief as well as having an anti-inflammatory effect. These can be used long term in chronically arthritic patients.

EXERCISE - This is important as joints benefit from regular movement.

DIET formulated specifically for joint problems. These are beneficial but also take some weeks to have an effect.

WEIGHT LOSS - If your pet is overweight just shedding those extra kilo's can make a big difference to the joints.

CATS are very discrete creatures and often owners are unaware their elderly cat is suffering from joint pain. Reluctance to jump up on to the bed, couch or bench is often a sign of arthritis. If in doubt it is worth booking an appointment with one of our vets.

Losing a pet can be a very sad time...

Are you grieving over the death of a pet? It can be a difficult time. There is a helpful website :- www.ourwonderfulpets.com that is worth taking a look at. If you are on Facebook then it is worth liking 'The Rainbow Bridge' page - it has been set up by one of our clients.

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 pet's 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.

Pet Photo Competition

We are running a pet photo competition on Facebook and invite you all to submit (via email) your favourite pet photo and we will post it on our Facebook page.

Every entry wins a prize.

The photos with the most likes by the 1st August win the prizes. There are some fantastic prizes to win including

annual vaccination vouchers, bags of premium pet food, Hydrobath vouchers and more... more details will be available on our Facebook page.

Send your photos to...

prvet@tpg.com.au

or you can send them via our email address from our website...

www.pattersonrivervet.com.au

Pets and Winter...

Just like people, pets can suffer from the "winter blues".

Although pets need responsible care throughout the year, as the chilly days of winter approach it is time to make sure that the effects of cold and damp are minimized. Long dark days can mean changes to exercise routines and cold weather can aggravate arthritis.

There are a few simple steps you can follow to ensure your pet is happy and healthy throughout the winter months. You and your pet can enjoy the brisk winter weather together and you will have the satisfaction of knowing you are providing the best possible care for your four-legged-friend.

Provide fresh water at all times. It can be easy during winter to make the mistake of thinking that pets need less to drink. Clean fresh water should be available at all times.

Provide shelter from rain and wind. All pets, no matter the length and thickness of their coats, need protection from winter damp and wind. If your dog sleeps outside, or is outside for long stretches during the day, then an insulated doghouse should be provided. Make sure it faces away from any prevailing wind and keeps the pet warm, dry, out of drafts and up off the damp ground. Older cats should ideally be kept indoors and young cats also need shelter.

Keep up the exercise! It can be

too tempting to stay by the fire on winter days, or avoid a walk around the block after a long day at work. It is important for you and your pet to maintain a regular exercise routine throughout winter. Remember to dry the dog if it becomes wet from walking in the rain.

Watch the diet! Like people, pets don't require more food just because it is cold outside. However, pets that spend a great deal of time outside or dogs that work and run during the winter may need additional calories to meet their body's demands. On the other hand, if pets are kept indoors all winter, make sure they don't gain weight.

Dogs and cats are generally well equipped to face winter weather so long as they have warm, dry shelter, although this may not be true for breeds like Greyhounds, Whippets or arthritic dogs. You could consider purchasing a winter jacket for your dog.

Bedding is an important consideration. Thick warm bedding in a draught free area is essential.

There are a number of treatments for the arthritic pet and these can be tailored to suit the individual. This is covered in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter.

The best thing of all is that your dog or cat is the ideal companion for those cold winter nights.



"...we invite you all to submit (via email) your favourite pet photo and we will post it on our Facebook page..."

