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Patterson River Vet Centre Newsletter

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## Patterson River Veterinary Centre

# Winter Newsletter 2015

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## Winter Newsletter 2015

Did you know that dental disease affects over 80% of cats and dogs over 3 years old? We are again offering FREE dental health checks for the month of August. If your pet has bad breath then we advise you take advantage of our offer.

For only \$12 our hydro bath is an easy way to keep your dog fresh and clean over winter.

We see fleas all year round in this area and recommend that flea control is continued over the cooler months. Also a reminder that regular vaccination, heartworm prevention and intestinal worming are important to ensure your pet is healthy and disease free.

Keep rat/mice poisons away from your pets, as well as car coolants. These are common toxins over the winter months.

**Staff News** – Three of our nurses attended the Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia's annual conference which was held in

Melbourne this year. They came back with renewed enthusiasm, some new ideas and confirmation that Patterson River offers the very best in pet health care.

Kerrie recently attended an information night about some common cat health problems including Diabetes, Kidney disease and Lower Urinary Tract disorders. These are all problems commonly seen in our cat patients.

Meaghan and Miriam both enjoyed the RSPCA Million Paws Walk with their favourite canine companions.

Greg continues to perform regular anterior cruciate ligament surgery with excellent success. He keeps fit by playing hockey two nights per week over the winter.

We were recently relieved to welcome Barb back from Nepal safe and sound. She was trekking in Nepal when the earthquakes occurred.

## Why does your pet do that?

### Why does an angry cat arch its back?

A cat which is afraid will stand on tiptoe and arch its back and fluff up its tail to make itself appear larger. This gives it an excellent chance of intimidating the enemy, especially if it hisses and spits at the same time. A cat which runs will probably be chased by a dog, but one which stands its ground will usually intimidate the dog.

### Why does a cat move away when people stare at it?

Wide-eyed staring is an aggressive sign to the cat so when people stare at it, even in admiration, the cat becomes intimidated and will usually move away.

'If you want to know the character of a man, find out what his cat thinks of him.'

## 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

Premium Pet Food  
**ADVANCE**

Buy 10 bags + get  
11th bag FREE

**FREE**  
DENTAL CHECKS

For the month of

**August**

Appointments essential

Phone ahead for  
repeat prescriptions.

This allows us to get vet  
permission and have the  
medication ready for you.

It saves everyone time.





## Cat Friendly Clinic...

We are very proud to announce that we have recently been awarded Cat Friendly Clinic accreditation.

### What is a Cat Friendly Clinic?

The International Society for Feline Medicine (ISFM) is the veterinary division of International Cat Care (www.icatcare.org), a charity that is dedicated to improving the health and welfare of cats worldwide.

We understand that there are unique difficulties in bringing a cat to a veterinary clinic:-

- 🐾 Cats often do not travel well and feel unsafe away from their home
- 🐾 They are highly sensitive to new sights, sounds and smells

🐾 Most cats prefer quiet and solitude and are highly susceptible to stress

🐾 Most cats are highly stressed by nearby dogs in a vet clinic

🐾 Cats need to be handled gently and with respect in the clinic

### The Cat Friendly Clinic standard is important for vets...

The ISFM Cat Friendly Clinic scheme means that accredited clinics have reached a higher standard of cat care in that they:-

🐾 Understand the needs of cats and have made vet visits more cat-friendly

🐾 Understand how to approach and handle cats gently and with care

🐾 Have good knowledge and equipment to manage the care of cats

Achieving the Cat Friendly Clinic accreditation involves all staff, from receptionists and nurses, through to vets. Each accredited clinic also has at least one 'Cat Advocate' – someone who ensures the cat friendly standards are adhered to, and who would be happy to talk to you.

### Cat Friendly Clinic standard... what does it mean for my cat and me?

An ISFM Cat Friendly Clinic gives you peace of mind and reassurance, letting you know that:-

🐾 The clinic has achieved certain minimum accreditation standards

🐾 The clinic and clinic staff have thought about the specific needs of cats

🐾 The staff will be happy to talk with you, show you what they do, and show you around the clinic.

## August is Pet Dental Month...

We will be running a pet dental month promotion throughout August to raise awareness of pet dental problems, prevention and treatment. Free dental checkups available.

An initiative of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA), the aim of the campaign is to educate pet owners about the benefits of annual dental health checks.

Did you know that four out of five dogs and cats over the age of three years have some sort of dental disease which may go unnoticed by their owners?



"...most cats prefer quiet and solitude and are highly susceptible to stress..."



Early periodontal disease

## 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 4-cyte and Sasha's Blend. They are added to the pet's food and may be useful but can 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.

**NSAID's** - Non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. 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. We have had some cases that have responded remarkably to treatment for arthritis.



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



Pets often won't show pain. Even pets with sore gums, infected mouths and broken teeth will continue to eat so owners may not see any problems.

### So how can you tell if your dog or cat has a toothache?

Your pet's breath should not smell bad. Bad breath is a sign of infection. Gums may be red and inflamed and the teeth stained with tartar or they may start dropping food.

Annual dental health checks are an ideal opportunity for you to find out if your pet has existing problems which have gone unnoticed. Dental health checks also help ensure bacteria and poisons from dental infections do not spread to the heart, liver and kidneys through the blood stream.