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Patterson River Vet Centre Newsletter

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Patterson River Veterinary Centre

Winter Newsletter 2016

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Winter 2016

This year we are celebrating a huge milestone...

Greg and Kerrie have been providing quality pet care in the Patterson River area for 25 years. 15 McLeod Road was originally an old weatherboard house that was owned by Springvale Veterinary Clinic and run as a branch practice.

Greg and Kerrie purchased the practice in 1991 and Kerrie ran the practice for the first year whilst Greg worked elsewhere. The clinic grew and Kerrie took time off to raise four children. In 1997 a brand new purpose built surgery was developed as it now stands today.

Greg and Kerrie continue to feel passionate about providing the very

best care for pets and enjoy the work that they do. They are fortunate to have wonderful and dedicated staff; some of who have been with them for up to 18 years.

Greg continues his passion and interest in surgery and in particular surgery to repair anterior cruciate ligament damage and Kerrie is proud of the Cat Friendly Clinic accreditation that they have achieved.

Greg has recently had a flying visit to Adelaide for a workshop about surgery for cruciate ligament repair. He is always keen to keep abreast of any new developments in this field and can offer the latest information regarding this common condition.

Ethylene glycol toxicity in dogs...

One of the major advances in car cooling systems over the last 20 years has been the replacement of water in the radiator with commercial coolants.

These liquids have a number of properties the most important of which is the ability to allow car engines to more effectively avoid overheating.

The main ingredient in these compounds is ethylene glycol more commonly known as antifreeze. This chemical is sweet tasting to dogs AND is also very toxic.

Over the years we have treated cases of accidental poisoning with this substance and thought it prudent to draw your attention to this significant nasty. In high enough doses ethylene glycol causes acute renal failure.

Treatment involves intensive care in hospital for a number of days with intravenous fluids as well as the concurrent administration of ethanol to displace the ethylene glycol out of the kidneys.

It is important to be ever vigilant with this common household compound. You can never be too careful.

It has been established that people who own pets live longer, have less stress, and have fewer heart attacks.

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

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Winter has arrived!

The outside air is brisk, so it's time to curl up under a blanket inside. It's also time to think about how your furry friend will cope this winter season – is their fur really enough?

Here are some tips on keeping your pet comfortable and healthy this season.

Keeping your fur baby warm...

For pets housed outside, a warm shelter is vital. Place kennels in sheltered areas, such as a shed or along the side of the house, and cover the opening to the kennel, for example with plastic flaps, to reduce cold drafts. If possible, raise the shelter off the ground to prevent cooling, and provide thick warm bedding. For shelters in uncovered areas, check for leaks and ensure all bedding remains dry.

Fur coats can be kept a bit longer over winter to provide additional warmth to pets. As with puppies, some dogs, particularly short-haired breeds, will find comfort in wearing an extra layer, which not only provides warmth, but also protects their skin from the harsh drying wind. Ensure any clothing is fitted appropriately and always remove wet clothing. Most commonly, cats will not accept clothing. Completely dry animals after bathing or if they have been out in the rain, as wet fur has poor insulating properties.

Smaller pets...

Rabbits and guinea pigs have a larger surface area to body ratio, like puppies and kittens, and may be housed in rather cold locations. Where possible, move them to a shed or garage, provide extra straw bedding for warmth, and ensure their drinking water is not too cold. Exercise them regularly, to prevent stiffness, and ensure

there is plentiful food supply.

Open flames and heaters...

Just like humans, many pets find comfort in lying by the fire or heater to warm up. It is important to monitor pets around heating elements - always place a barrier in front of an open fire and ensure pets are not lying too close to the heater.

A warm car for a cat...

During winter, cats love to curl up under the hood on the warm motor of a car, which can be fatal to the cat when the car starts up. Before starting the car, always bang on the hood or blow the horn to wake them up. If you know your cat sleeps in the hood, it is best to see them leave before starting the engine. On this note, never leave a pet in the car, even during winter. Cars can reach freezing point overnight, whilst during the day they can still rapidly heat up, leading to heat stress and possible death.

Take care with anti-freeze...

Anti-freeze toxicity is less common in Australia compared to other colder parts of the world. Anti-freeze, commonly found in car radiators and windscreen washes, as well as around the house to make pipes 'winter ready', contains the toxic chemical ethylene glycol. Spills or leaks of anti-freeze pose a serious danger to pets that will readily lick up the sweet tasting liquid. Ethylene glycol damages various organs, particularly the brain and kidneys. Symptoms of toxicity include vomiting and nausea, lack of coordination, twitching muscles, frequent urination, seizures and salivation. It only takes a very small amount of anti-freeze to cause toxicity, so ensure any spills are cleaned up immediately, keep pets out of the garage and ...cont

all dogs on a leash when walking in the street. If concerned about ingestion, contact your Vet immediately for treatment.

Caring for senior pets...

Older arthritic pets often suffer from joint stiffness and pain during winter. Symptoms of osteoarthritis include slow rising, particularly after a long time lying down, or a cat's reluctance to jump or groom. Senior pets may also be suffering from other diseases, such as endocrine or heart disease, making it harder to maintain their body temperature. Senior pets should be housed inside overwinter, with a padded bed raised off the cold floor. Joint supplements may assist in relieving joint pain. Talk to your Vet before it gets too cold about possible pain-relief and/or anti-inflammatory medication or

underlying diseases that may need to be monitored and managed.

Parasite protection...

It is important to continue flea and worm protection all year round. Part of the flea lifecycle is completed in the environment - flea eggs, larvae and pupae live in dark hidden places such as between floorboards and in carpets. Although the lifecycle of fleas from egg to adult is completed more slowly in colder weather, heating up of houses maintains a perfect environment for flea development and emergence of hungry adults from pupae. And your pet provides a very yummy blood meal! Also, worm eggs can survive the cold, and animals that continue to hunt rodents and birds can become infected with worms.



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



Luxating Patella (Slipping Knee Cap)...

This is a condition we commonly see in small dog breeds, such as Pomeranians, Poodles etc.

The condition is hereditary and breeding from these dogs is not recommended. The patella runs in a groove at the end of the femur (thigh bone) and in some dogs it can slip back in or stay luxated (out of place). It can occur in some dogs as the result of a traumatic injury.

Clinical signs of a slipping knee-cap

Some dogs may appear only to be mildly discomforted, whilst others can be acutely lame. The dog may suddenly yelp and hold the affected leg high. Quite often you will see little dogs running along and then they will start hopping and holding the leg up. They may then spontaneously start running normally again shortly after.

Causes of a slipping knee-cap

Luxations usually occur due to indirect force, such as the animal turning at speed. In these cases, the joint is often swollen and painful. The leg is held up, but if gently extended, the patella may slip back into place. Some dogs are just born with the conformation that underlies a slipping kneecap ie. a narrow groove.

Treatment

If causing problems, surgery may be advised to stabilise the knee-cap and sometimes it is also necessary to deepen the groove in which the knee-cap sits. Greg regularly does this type of surgery and we would recommend you make an appointment to see Greg and he can discuss what he can do to assist you and your dog getting back to normal mobility.

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