

Dandenong Veterinary Hospital

Guaranteed Preventative Petcare



www.dvh.com.au



Newsletter August 2012

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Meet The Team
- Dental Awareness month
- You are what you eat
- Lost & Stray Pets
- Pet Insurance
- Winter Coat Care

Meet The Team 2012

Over the past year we have had some 'new blood' in the team and wanted to use this opportunity to allow you to find out a little more about the fantastic team we now have caring for your pets at Dandenong Veterinary Hospital. Further information can be found on our website www.dvh.com.au in the 'Meet the Team' section.

Meet the Vets

Dr Darren Shortt joined the DVH team in 2001 after graduation, joining the partnership with Dr Robert Jones in 2006. Dr Darren grew up locally, attending Eumemmering Secondary College and studying Veterinary Science at Melbourne University. He is passionate about providing a high standard of veterinary care to our clients and their pets. He is pictured here with his cheeky cat 'Leroy.'

Dr Jessica Morse joined the team in 2004, and joined the partnership by taking over the reins from Dr Robert Jones in 2009. She grew up in country Victoria, moving to Melbourne to study Veterinary Science, and has stayed ever since. Dr Jessica currently works part time after taking time off last year for maternity leave. Dr Jessica knows that pets are a much loved part of the family these days, and is passionate about offering the best for them. She has two Cairn terriers – 'Monty' and 'Hunter', a Birman called 'Safi', a lizard and some fish.

Dr Maureen Anderson is the newest Vet to join our team, and with over eight years experience she brings a wealth of knowledge to our hospital. She was born in Namibia, trained in South Africa, and after working for four years in England she decided to come to Australia. Dr Maureen and her husband fell in love with our country, and decided to emigrate here and stay. She recently adopted an epileptic Beagle called 'Anoosheh.'

Dr Cathryn Costantino assists on a part-time basis and has been associated with Dandenong Veterinary Hospital for many years. She even started her career at DVH.



Dr Jessica Morse with Safi. If only her dogs Monty & Hunter enjoyed the camera as much!

Meet the Nurses

Heading up our nursing team is UK born **Kelly Heaton** who has over a decade of nursing experience and knowledge in a wide variety of fields, which led her to the special interest of orthopedics, dental and emergency/critical care. While working in the UK Kelly had the privilege of working with the pets of the English Royal Family! She has four 'furr babies' – two dogs 'Jade' and 'Jack', and two cats 'Amber' and 'Phoebe'. She joined the team in August 2011.

Lauren Wood has been with the hospital since 2008, and runs our puppy school. She is also very fond of cats, and often has foster kittens which she cares for until

they are old enough to find homes. She has two cats 'Gypsy' and 'Gaia,' which are quite tolerant of the kittens and help teach them 'how to be cats.'

Melissa Goulden joined the team in 2011, and also has a wide variety of knowledge. With ten years experience in Veterinary Nursing, she has a special interest in emergency and critical care, having worked in this area before joining our team. Melissa enjoys spending her spare time with her horse 'Ebony,' three cats 'Mista,' 'Rampage' and 'Bella' and her Labrador 'Riley.'

Cassandra Goldsmith joined the team in 2011 and has always had a love and passion for animals. She is now following her dream to be-

coming a Veterinary Nurse and is currently completing her Certificate 4 in Veterinary Nursing. She has a large family of pets on her home property – including 4 dogs, 3 cats, some fish, and a goat!

Meet the part timers

Ashleigh Painter is our part time nurse who joined the practice as a junior nurse's assistant in 2008, started full time work in 2010, then took some time off on maternity leave. Between work and being a mum, Ash is kept very busy.

Elisabeth Haacke joined the team this year, working a regular weekend shift and occasional weeknights. She is also a mum, and being a qualified Veterinary Nurse she enjoys her part time

work with us.

Chantelle Watt works as our Sunday Nurse. She is currently studying at University, and hopes to transfer to Veterinary Science next year. She has been with us since 2010.

Tanja Fraser is currently on maternity leave after having her second baby. She joined the team as a junior nurse's assistant in 2007, and worked full time for many years before starting a family.

Not to forget our fabulous groomer (and award winning writer) **Amanda Marr**. With fifteen years experience, Amanda has been styling the pets of Dandenong for the last four years. There has been many suggestions that a sitcom set in a dog grooming parlour would be a smash hit!

Dental Awareness Month



...if only they could learn to brush their own teeth!

PLAQUE : an accumulation of food particles and bacteria on the tooth's surface is the initial stage of dental disease. The plaque calcifies to become

TARTAR, which is formation of mineralized deposit on the tooth. Plaque and tartar lead to and promote

GINGIVITIS, which is infection of the gums. Gingivitis is recognized by redness and swelling of the gums around the teeth. Gingivitis can lead to

PERIODONTAL disease, which is associated with bad breath, pain in chewing, loose teeth, tonsillitis, tooth root abscess and possibly blood poisoning (septicaemia).



Significant tartar like this may require teeth removal.

Where prevention is crucial...

In veterinary medicine, the most common disease we see is a preventable one – dental disease. Around 80% of dogs over 3 years of age have dental disease, and 70% of cats.

We all know how important dental health is to us humans, but most people do not appreciate that dental health is also very important for the health, wellbeing and longevity of our pets. Importantly, dental disease is not just a disease of the mouth and teeth. The bac-

teria which live in the deep pockets formed next to unhealthy teeth can enter the bloodstream and travel around the body, and they also produce toxins which can enter the bloodstream.

During the month of August, we are offering free dental checks to help you manage your pet's oral hygiene. Please feel free to call the clinic to make a time that is convenient for you, 9792 4787.



'Around 80% of dogs over 3 years of age have dental disease, and 70% of cats'

Dental disease is sadly often a hidden disease

Dental disease in our pets is often a 'silent' disease. Many animals show little or no symptoms until the disease is **well advanced**, which means that once they shows symptoms, the treatment options may be limited to major dental work and tooth extractions. Pets with advanced

dental disease will have increased sensitivity and pain, may have loose or lost teeth, and suffer from bad breath. Animals mask and hide long term pain very well, particularly dental pain, and they have often learned to eat differently using only the teeth in the mouth which

are not painful or loose. Some animals hardly chew at all if it is too painful, and swallow their food whole. On the surface, your pet appears to behave in a normal fashion, still eating and maintaining weight, and you may have no idea they are living day-to-day with pain.

Regular checkups allow early intervention and help avoid extractions

Every time your pet receives an examination at Dandenong Veterinary Hospital, the vet will assess their teeth. We aim to pick up any problems early, when there are still many less-invasive options to treat and prevent worsening of dental disease. We would much rather all our patients had clean healthy teeth, as we

know the long term health benefits this will bring for your pet. Performing dental surgery on patients with advanced dental disease often means we need to extract many rotten teeth. Extraction is performed only as a last resort when the dental disease is too advanced to save the tooth. Regular check ups help us avoid this situation. If your pet is

starting to accumulate tartar but the teeth are otherwise healthy, we will often advise that they need a professional dental scale and polish; being a teeth clean only, no extractions are expected. By removing the tartar we are reversing the negative cycle which leads to periodontal disease, aiming to avoid the need for future extractions.



You are what you eat...

Exciting news... we have expanded our Royal Canin nutrition range and we now stock, sell and promote the Royal Canin feline and canine *maintenance* nutrition. DVH has stocked the Royal Canin *therapeutic* food range for many years. (The therapeutic foods are specially developed based on health conditions experienced by dogs and cats).

Our team has grown to *love* the Royal Canin range, and in fact, we feed Royal Canin to our own pets! Today, Royal Canin is represented in over 100 countries and is the European market leader in canine and feline nutrition. Royal

'Our team... feed Royal Canin to our own pets'

Canin foods are renowned around the world as being the tastiest of the premium food available, so your pet is also going to LOVE their food, just like our own pets do.

We can still receive order requests for Eukanuba or Hills Science diets as we always have, but sadly we must report that both Eukanuba and Hills Science diet have decided to discontinue their loyalty (buy 10, get one free) programs in

their current form. You must make your Eukanuba claims BEFORE December 31st 2012. But don't despair...

The GREAT news is that Royal Canin are EXPANDING their loyalty program, so you can still receive fantastic VALUE for purchase, AND there are some wonderful discount offers available now during this transition period.

Royal Canin Pet Nutrition Offer

\$5.00 off

Mention this advert when you make your purchase
ONE offer only per client. Whilst stocks last.

Lost & Found pets...what happens?

What do I do if my pet goes missing?

Don't panic! If you're with someone, send them out looking straight away. Contact us to inform us of your missing pet. We'll list them in our computer system in case someone brings them in or rings about a stray pet. **We have a "Lost Pet" emergency procedure we can provide you.** Also contact other clinics and shelters in the surrounding area, in case your dog or cat has already been picked up.

If you have a recent photo, 'missing' flyers with your contact details will help other people know who to call if they find your pet.

The best way to ensure they get home quickly is to have them microchipped!

Working in a veterinary hospital, we see time and again lost pets brought in that either don't have a microchip or the owners' details aren't up-to-date. Unfortunately this makes it much more difficult to reunite lost pets with their owners. The BEST way



to have your beloved family member returned home is to have them microchipped and to keep your contact details UP-TO-DATE!

What do I do if I find a stray/lost animal?

The most important thing is to take the animal to a local vet, animal shelter or council. There the pet will be checked over and scanned for a microchip. If one is found, we are then able to contact the owner and return the pet home quickly. If there is no microchip, we are legally obligated to contact the local council and they will collect the animal. This is the best place for the pet to be as this will be one of the first places the worried owner will contact!

If you hold on to the pet and just post signs in your local area, then the pet has a very slim chance of getting home as a scared animal can travel a fair distance from their home.

Another important reason for taking the found pet straight to the vet clinic is that they could be on necessary medications, some which may be treating life threatening conditions. They therefore need to be quickly returned home.

Occasionally we come across people reluctant to bring a lost pet in, as they think the animal "looks neglected" or the fact that they have been "allowed to wander the street means the owners must not care," so they decide to keep them. This is not your decision, as their unkept appearance may be due to a medical condition which they require daily medications for, and they may be lost as a workman left a gate open..... These situations have both happened recently to pets of our clients.

The bottom line - if you find a lost pet, please bring it straight in.

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

DANDENONG VETERINARY HOSPITAL
118 PRINCES HIGHWAY, DANDENONG, VIC, 3175
TELEPHONE: 9792 4787 WWW.DVH.COM.AU



Pet Insurance

It seems these days the cost of living is getting more expensive and caring for your pet is no exception. Unfortunately there is no Medicare for pets or government funded hospitals like there are for us - you have to pay for all your pet's treatment at full cost. Vet bills can quickly add up and may mean you have to make decisions while considering the budget, rather than what is best for your pet. So what is the solution? *Pet insurance!* You are much more likely to make a claim on pet insurance than you are on house or car insurance, so why not take out cover for your beloved pet?



There are a variety of plans ranging from budget plans to supreme care. Pet Insurance is a way of budgeting for those unexpected events that involves expensive vet fees and surgeries that accidents or illness can bring. Having pet insurance will make it easier to help give your pet the best care you can without having to worry as much about the costs. There are numerous companies offering insurance. It is important you investigate for a product that suits you and your circumstances and expectations. If you have any questions regarding pet insurance or would like a brochure, please feel free to come in and speak to one of our friendly staff members.

Do you stop having a bath in winter?

Even in the cooler weather it is important for your canine family member to maintain a healthy skin and coat. The motivation to wash your pet in the cooler weather is often, and understandably, lacking.

There may be less need for a full haircut, but a wash, trim or brush out to keep their hair tangle and knot free is valuable to their comfort and coat maintenance.

If you need a hand, our professional groomer, Amanda can help. From \$33-\$44 (small dogs), Amanda will lighten the load by tidying up your dog's face, feet and tail, leaving most of the coat long for warmth. Knots will be brushed out, nails trimmed and we'll make sure your dog is fluffed up and smelling great. By the end of winter they won't be weighed down by knots.

