

**3 Maroondah Highway
Lilydale Vet Centre
(03) 9735 4211**

Clinic Hours

Mon-Friday: 7:30 – 6:30 pm

Tuesday: 7:30 – 5.00 pm

Saturday: 8:30 – 3.00 pm

**Emergency Vet 24 hours
(03) 9735 4211**



Choose us as your family vet

March 2010

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Let's enjoy our last month of daylight saving before we need to turn those clocks back. The milder weather has certainly caused the gastro-enteritis cases to drop back and the allergies have settled as well. The oldies however are starting to feel the coming winter in their joints and there have been some stiffness complaints. If you have an older cat or dog in the household, it is a good idea to start with some treatment now and not to wait till June- July. There are very effective nutraceuticals available as well as disease modification treatments. These can however take up to 2 months to have an effect ~ so now is the time!

SURVIVOR OF THE MONTH

Curiosity killed the cat. But a busy puppy nearly became another statistic as well. Her owner was trimming some bushes with a hedge cutter when Nhala pushed her nose in the way. Some guardian angel was close by and only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the nose was cut away. Living close to the practice, Nhala was seen within minutes after it happened. She was sedated straight away to prevent self-mutilation. There was a thin bridge of skin attaching her nose to the rest of her face and this supplied the vital blood supply to the detached area. The nostrils were realigned and within a few hours the surgery was completed.

It was a nail biting three days that followed. Will the blood supply be good enough to prevent sloughing or not? Nobody can imagine the joy in the clinic when we pricked the area after the wait and bright red blood droplets appeared. The surgery was successful.

She does not have a lot of feeling in her nose but cosmetically she looks good with only a small area of scarring in one corner of a nostril which causes a bit of respiratory noises.

Nhala will be in for a spay this month and if need be, this last defect will be corrected.



HOME MONITORING

We do a health check annually, or in the case of older patients two or three times per year. For a person with an animal at home who has entered its twilight years, the uncertainty between visits can be the source of great anguish. When does that cough become serious or how much water drinking is adequate or too much?

There are some guidelines that can be followed to help with the decision whether to call the vet or not.



- ~ Healthy dogs generally consume between 50-60 ml/kg/day depending on the moisture content of their diets, the ambient temperature, humidity and their level of activity. Water intake of more than 100 ml/kg/day is abnormal and needs to be investigated. As always cats are more complex. A healthy cat drinks, on average, less than 10 ml/kg per day if fed canned food and less than 60 ml/kg per day on dry food. So more is not always better!
- ~ Owners of animals with heart disease can monitor their pet's Sleeping Respiratory Rate (SRR). This is a simple tool that can be used at home as an indicator of developing fluid build up in the lungs of dogs and cats. Normal SRR in dogs and cats is less than 30 breaths/min, often in the high-teens or low 20s.
- Consistent SRR >30 breaths/min in patients with underlying heart disease strongly suggests the development of complications and needs to be seen by a vet.



WORMS AND VACCINATION

Most pet owners deworm a new puppy or kitten but as the pet approaches midlife it is one of those things that slips off the radar. The same happens with vaccinations ~ we do it while our pets are young and then we get complacent. I will just briefly recap why these are still important.

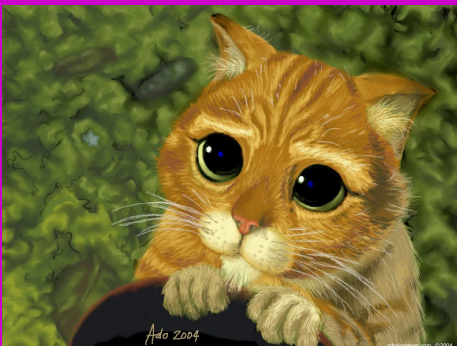
Firstly, and I will whisper this: “ as we and our pets **get older** our immune systems don't work that well anymore and we are in fact more susceptible to diseases”. Secondly people can actually contract roundworms, tapeworms and hookworms from pets.

Humans are not the usual host for these parasites, which means that they can play havoc with your health. For example, roundworm infestations can lead to blindness as the roundworm migrates throughout the human host and settles in the eye. In Australia there are 100 new cases each year of hydatid worms in humans. These are horrible cysts that can develop in our bodies for which is seems the only treatment currently is surgery.

Good news is that humans cannot get pinworms from animals.

Take care of the older pets and keep their vaccinations and parasite control up to date. They are good friends and their health care is in our hands.

[Worms in humans](#)



SECRET CAT CAMPAIGN

Do you have a secret cat?

Forty percent of cat owners secretly feed a cat they don't own!

To help these wild, stray or homeless cats, do the right thing and follow these steps:

- If she loves a pat and isn't shy, ask around the neighbourhood. She may just be dining-out at your place!
- Take her to your vet to be scanned for a microchip. Your friendly cat may be someone's missing family member.



- Having a Community Cat can be a joy, but when she arrives with kittens in tow, you'll have a problem. **Take the plunge and have her desexed**; consider it a donation to cat welfare! (The boys also need 'the snip' as this cuts down on macho behaviours that drive neighbours batty).

- Put a note in your diary for an annual vaccination and health check up. Give her somewhere warm to sleep in the winter and make sure she has plenty of water in the summer. Your community Cat needs your help to stay happy and healthy.

Every council has different requirements relating to companion animals. If you're a Community Cat carer, be sure to check with your local council to ensure you're working within the laws in your area.

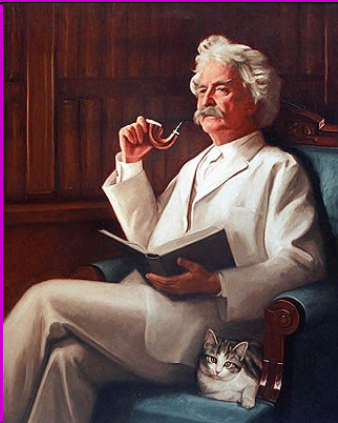
TIMID CATS

If your Community Cat is shy around humans, you may need a cat trap to get her to the vet. Cat traps can be hired from most councils and some branches of the RSPCA.

Do you have a secret cat? [*Join the Secret Cat Society*](#) and help build a community of cat lovers, to share tips, information and ideas on caring for Community Cats.

Unsubscribe, comments and remarks

We really invite feedback on any aspect of the newsletter, clinic & services we offer. Just click the address below and return to us
<mailto:admin@lilydalevetcentre.com.au>



Food for thought

A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn in no other way.

~ Mark Twain