

THE VETERINARY SURGERY

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Welcome

Welcome to our first clinic newsletter of 2020.

We know that this year has been crazy and inconsistent, so we hope by producing a monthly newsletter it will help to keep you on track with the times.

From the whole team at The Veterinary Surgery, we hope our newsletter catches your interest and that you learn something new. Stay safe.

Get to know our team



Meet Dr Nikkie Chadee, the newest member of our team. Nikkie graduated from Melbourne University with an interest in mixed animal practice. She started in a country practice where she became quite familiar with all things weird and wonderful, being one of the only out-of-hours emergency options available. We love having Nikkie in our clinic and know that you'll love her too when she treats your animals.

The impact of COVID-19 on puppy socialisation

There has been an influx of adorable puppies coming through our doors the last few months. As a clinic we promote early socialisation for your puppy, which means being exposed to new sights, smells, people and vaccinated dogs prior to their final 14-16 week vaccination.



Our biggest worry during the lockdown period is that it will create a generation of dogs that are scared outside of their home, leading to poor behaviour and aggression. So how do we introduce your puppy to new experiences that are COVID-19 safe? We get creative in lockdown style!

Try these activities to build confidence in your puppy:

1. Get your puppy used to on-lead walks. Start slow by first allowing your puppy to wear the collar and lead, then progress to short walks.
2. Handle your puppy daily. This includes touching their paws, ears and mouth.
3. Enjoy the recent sunny days we have had in the garden with your puppy, listening to all of your noisy neighbours.
4. Take your puppy on a house tour. Introduce them to normal house sounds like the TV, vacuum cleaner and doorbell.
5. Prevent separation anxiety by allowing plenty of alone time. This is done by creating a safe place in a separate room with food, water and toys.
6. Provide plenty of mental stimulation by spending 5-10 minutes a few times a day, teaching your puppy commands like sit, stay and come.

Breed profiles

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE DOG



Commonly referred to as the Blue or Red Heeler but both are in fact the same breed, and are born mostly white!

The 'Heeler' name comes from the breeds working origin to move cattle by nipping at their hooves. This dog is suited to an active home with owners that understand the breeds desire to work and be mentally pushed every day. If you can cope with the 6 month long, twice-yearly shed the Australian Cattle Dog has... then you will find yourself with a fiercely loyal best friend.

Preventative care

Now that the weather is warming up, don't forget to get your dogs & cats up to date with a flea preventative!

Fun animal fact

Did you know that dog's have three eyelids! One upper, one lower and one third eyelid (otherwise known as the nictitating membrane)

Q & A

Please email us at nurses@thevetsurgery.com.au if you have any suggestions for topics you would like covered in our next newsletter.

Diabetes in Dogs

In dogs diabetes is due to 1) a deficiency of insulin, 2) a resistance to insulin, or a combination of both. Insulin is a hormone produced by cells in the pancreas that regulate blood glucose levels.

When blood glucose levels are not controlled, we see clinical signs such as:

Unintentional weight loss

Excessive thirst, urination, hunger

Changes in behaviour e.g. lethargy

Cataract formation (cloudiness in the lens of the eye)

Predisposing factors for the development of diabetes in your dog:

Age - middle to mature aged

Gender - females > males

Diet - e.g. high amounts of fat

Medication - e.g. lengthy steroid use

Genetics

Concurrent diseases - e.g. Pancreatitis, Cushing's

Please arrange a consultation if you believe your dog is exhibiting any of these clinical signs.

How to wear a mask...

