

# THE VETERINARY SURGERY

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## Welcome

Welcome to our September newsletter of 2020.

Spring is in the air and the warmer weather is on its way! This month's newsletter focuses on a patient success story, equine Cushing's syndrome and a few common issues we see this time of year.

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 Phil Downey and his beautiful girl Eilidh. Phil has been working at The Veterinary Surgery for close to two years.

Phil grew up in suburban Adelaide, where he also completed his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. He enjoys mixed animal practice and has developed a keen interest in small animal ultrasound and small animal emergency medicine.

We think Phil is a great addition to our team and know you will enjoy having him work with you to treat your animals.

## Meet Scruffy

Scruffy recently came in to see us for a number of concerns including weight loss, excessive drinking and vision loss. A number of tests were performed and Scruffy was diagnosed with diabetes and cataracts in his eyes.

Treatment for diabetes was started and Scruffy was referred to the ophthalmologist for cataract surgery. He has made an amazing response to his diabetes treatment, so much so that he is a healthy weight, has a beautiful coat and bountiful energy! He has also had his cataract surgery which has so far been a complete success and unmasked his beautiful brown eyes.

Well done to Scruffy's owners, Jakki & Dennis, for being so dedicated to Scruffy's diagnoses and treatment. We can't wait to see him at his next check up!



## What's down the microscope?

Smelly, sore and itchy ears are one of the most common issues we see in our patients. If you have been in with your pet for an ear issue, you might have wondered what we find when we take samples and look down the microscope!

Sometimes we see yeast, we like to think of them as little purple snowmen! Sometimes we see bacteria, these are much smaller than yeast and include cocci (grape-like or round) and rod shaped bacteria. All will cause a smelly and painful ear that will need medical treatment to correct.



## Breed profiles

### AUSTRALIAN KELPIE



Well known for their unwavering endurance and agility... this dog is bred to move! Perfectly suited to farms or highly active households who are willing to put plenty of effort into keeping this dog physically and mentally stimulated.

Kelpie's will learn whatever you can teach them. A very bright and attentive dog that strives to please.

### Preventative Care

Please watch out for snakes now that the warmer weather is here. A snake bite is an emergency. Please contact us immediately if your pet is sighted with a snake.



### Fun animal fact

Animal behaviourists have concluded that cats don't meow as a way to communicate with each other. Rather it's a method they use for getting attention from humans! @Mentalfloss.com

### Q & A

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

## Pars Pituitary Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID)

Colloquially known as Equine Cushing's Syndrome, PPID is a condition where excess hormones are produced by the pituitary gland.



PPID is uncommon in horses less than 15 years old and has no breed or gender predilections.

In early stages of the disease, you might notice:

- Changes in attitude, lethargy
- Areas of excess hair with delayed shedding
- Weight gain, especially a 'cresty neck'
- Abnormal sweating
- Laminitis & tendonitis episodes

Without treatment, these clinical signs will advance to:

- Dull attitude, exercise intolerance
- A generalised hairy coat with delayed shedding
- Loss of top-line muscle, rounded abdomen
- Abnormal sweating, excess drinking & urination
- Recurrent laminitis episodes & sole abscesses
- Recurrent infections, dry eye/corneal ulcers, infertility

A simple blood test can be performed to determine if your horse has PPID (Equine Cushing's Syndrome). Please contact us to arrange an outcall consultation if you believe your horse is exhibiting any of these clinical signs.

## Clinic Animals

Owner: Dr Amy

Macaroni, 11 month old domestic short hair, hand-raised from 10 days old.

Lana, 12 year old fox terrier, who only recently decided she was friends with Macaroni!

