

THE VETERINARY SURGERY

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Welcome

Welcome to our October newsletter of 2020.

This month's newsletter focuses on a common small animal disease, a clinic diagnostic tool and of course meeting some of our staff and their animals.

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 Amy Hitchins.

Amy grew up locally - you might recognise her from working at Bunnings Eltham or Edendale community farm. She completed her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at Melbourne University.

She has thoroughly enjoyed starting her career in a mixed animal practice and has developed a keen interest in small animal soft tissue surgery and general practice equine work.

We hope you enjoy having Amy treat your beloved pets as much as we enjoy her being part of our team (and her baking!).

Farewell to Dr Shane McCarthy

We are sad to announce that Dr Shane will be leaving our team at the end of the month due to COVID restrictions impacting his plans to explore Australia.

We know many of you have loved having Dr Shane treat your pets as in his short time he has been with us, he has by far received the most 5-star Google reviews!



It has been a pleasure working with Dr Shane for the last 12 months. He has added to our team with his mixed animal veterinary knowledge as well as his easy going and friendly nature. We hope to see him again soon!

Hyperthyroidism in Cats

This is one of the most common diseases we see in older cats. It occurs when the thyroid gland becomes over active and produces too much thyroid hormone. This causes an increase in the rate of metabolism and often owners will notice the following clinical signs:

- * Weight loss with an increased appetite
- * Increased thirst and urination
- * Vomiting and diarrhoea
- * Unkept hair coat
- * Increased activity levels and vocalisation



Hyperthyroidism can be diagnosed with a simple blood test and is often a very rewarding disease to treat. Please book a consultation if you believe your cat is exhibiting the above clinical signs.

Breed profiles

DACHSHUND (or Badger dog)



Originally bred to hunt badgers and other burrowing animals, this is a tenacious little fiend well known for their good watch-dog abilities and clownish temperaments when surrounded by their family.

Dachshunds can be predisposed to some genetic and environmental health issues with a major concern being obesity - to ensure your dachshund can live a long and happy life, maintaining a lean physique is essential.

Preventative Care

Spring is in the air... and so are baby birds!

Fledglings will have a mix of fuzzy down and adult feathers and often do not need rescuing. They are learning how to fly and the parents are often nearby. Nestlings will have few to no feathers and will need help returning to their nest.

If you find an injured baby bird, seek veterinary attention.

Fun animal fact

Cow's nose prints are as unique as human fingerprints and can be used as a means of identification!

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.

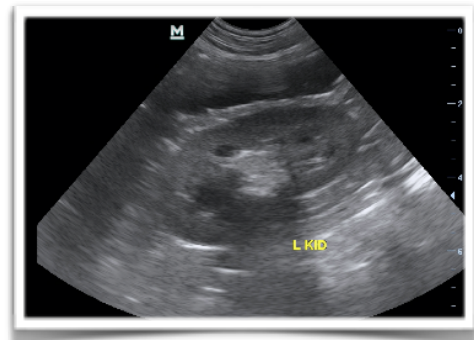
What do we see when we ultrasound?

Ultrasound is a diagnostic tool we have available in our clinic when we need to know what's going on inside your animal.

It is a safe and non-invasive method that can tell us some very useful information about:

- * The size and shape of organs within the abdominal cavity including the bladder, kidneys, liver, spleen, gastrointestinal tract and reproductive tract
- * Whether your animal is pregnant
- * The presence of abnormal tumours (e.g. cancer) or fluid in the abdomen or chest
- * The presence of foreign bodies within the gastrointestinal tract (like socks stuck in a dogs stomach!)

The image above is what we see when we image a kidney. It can be challenging at first to differentiate between the greys!



Clinic Animals

Owner: Nurse Jaimee

Gunner: 4 year old Anatolian Shepherd Dog. A poultry guardian, Australian show champion, and jogging buddy.

Ida: 2 year old German Wirehaired Pointer.

Always up to mischief, deer detection dog and lure coursing fanatic.

