

THE VETERINARY SURGERY

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Welcome

Welcome to our November newsletter of 2020.

This month's newsletter focuses on the importance of equine dentals, urine diagnostics and what to do if your pet is bitten by a snake.

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

Dr Simone Hardinge



Dr Simone has spent eight years in practice after completing her Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Melbourne University. She started out in a busy practice in Mildura, then worked in England for two years before heading back to Melbourne.

Simone has a cat called Bandit who came with a house she once lived in, and a slightly naughty greyhound cross named Amber. In her spare time Simone enjoys hiking, camping and all kinds of travelling and exploring.

Simone is looking forward to all the interesting creatures and cases we see in our mixed animal practice. Welcome to the team Simone!

Keep your horse smiling!

Dental examinations are very important to ensure your horse friend is happy and healthy. Like humans, dental issues can cause dental pain which can ultimately lead to the inability to eat and loss of body condition.



Equine teeth will continue to erupt and get worn away through grinding of food. If any area of the mouth becomes painful, they will alter the way that they grind their food and this can lead to unwanted changes to the shape of their teeth.

We recommend annual dental procedures performed under sedation to inspect their teeth. This allows us to file back any sharp edges that may be forming before issues occur. We can also assess teeth for food impactions, loose or rotten teeth and fractures.

Maverick recently had a dental at our clinic with Dr Andy and Dr Simone. He had to have some sharp edges filed down to prevent ulcer formation. He recovered very well after his sedation and is now back to what he loves doing... eating!

Snake bites

It is important that you seek veterinary assistance immediately if you believe your pet has been bitten by a snake. Although we love our clients, we recommend taking your pet to the CLOSEST veterinary hospital for assessment and treatment.

The sooner treatment is started, the better the outcome for your pet. DO NOT wait to see if your pet develops clinical signs before seeking medical attention. We are always available to contact via phone for advice in these stressful situations.

Breed profiles

GREYHOUNDS



The Greyhound can make an amazing companion for almost all lifestyles. This ancient sighthound has been appreciated for its insane speed for thousands of years. These days we frequently find them lazing on a soft bed or in the sun.

The Greyhound is known for its impressive health in the veterinary industry - although thin skinned and prone to acquiring cuts and grazing from seemingly nowhere the breed overall has few hereditary conditions.

If you're interesting in acquiring a Greyhound for your life, GAP and Racing2Rehome are some fantastic organisations.

Preventative Care

GRASS SEEDS

Tis the season for grass seeds... down ears, up noses and into paws! Make sure to check your pet frequently for grass seeds to avoid a vet visit for removal.

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 information do we gain from a urinalysis?

One informative test we can perform in hospital is a urinalysis which is a collection of tests we use to analyse a patient's urine. There are three components to a urinalysis:

1. Urine specific gravity (USG). This tells us the concentration of urine and gives us a guideline for kidney function
2. Dipstick. This can tell us quite a lot of information including the presence of blood, the pH of the urine, if a patient is losing sugar (i.e. diabetic) or bilirubin (i.e. liver issues) into their urinary tract
3. Cytology. Lastly we look at the urine under the microscope. This is by far the most valuable step as we can see the presence of urinary crystals (image below), bacteria, inflammatory cells or cancerous cells...guiding our treatment plan or our next diagnostic step



Clinic Animals

Owner: Nurse Caitlin

Indy: 5 year old Australian Kelpie. The sweetest dog you'll ever meet. Indy grew up in the vet clinic and is often seen comforting our hospital patients.

