



CLINIC HAPPENINGS

Spring is in the air, and shedding season is upon us! GV Pet Grooming Services work out of our Mooropna clinic on Monday's, and provide the full range of pampering services. To make a booking, call Darlene on 0417 513 474.

We are pleased to announce that we have recently purchased a digital x-ray system, which gives us superior quality images.

Those pets lucky enough to visit us at Tatura recently will have noticed the smell of paint in the air, as our clinic receives a makeover! The warm colours make a fresh change for spring.

SNAKE BITES.... A SSSERIOUS MATTER

Armed with curiosity and natural hunting instincts it is not uncommon for our pets to cross paths with a snake.

Tiger snakes and brown snakes are the most common snakes found in the Goulburn Valley, and can be deadly to our pets .

Several factors will determine what sort of reaction your pet has to a snake bite. The type of snake, the amount of venom injected (depends on the size and maturity of the snake) and the site of the snake bite are all contributing factors. At the beginning of spring, when snakes first come out from hibernation, their venom glands tend to be fuller and their bites at this time are much more severe. The length of time since the snake last struck can also be a contributing factor.

Snake venom contains different components which prevent your pet's nerves from working, blood from clotting, and in the case of tiger snake venom, cause muscle breakdown.

The usual signs of snake bite include;

- Sudden weakness followed by collapse
- Shaking or twitching of the muscles
- Vomiting
- Dilated pupils not responsive to light
- In the later stages paralysis may occur
- Your pet may have blood in his or her urine



If you suspect your pet has been bitten by a snake you should immobilise your pet and try to keep them as quiet as possible. It is vital that you bring your pet in to us as quickly as possible. We can perform laboratory testing to assess their clotting time and muscle enzymes levels, enabling us to quickly diagnose a snake bite. The sooner they are treated, the better their chance of survival.



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Protect your pets-inside and out.

Advocate® has the most complete spectrum of parasite protection available, and being a simple monthly 'spot-on', this takes the stress out of parasite control!

Advocate® provides;

- Flea and lice treatment
- Prevention of flea infestations
- Gastrointestinal worm control
- Heartworm prevention
- Control of ear mites
- Treatment of lungworms
- Control of demodex mites in dogs
- Control of sarcoptic mange in dogs



So say goodbye to tricky tablets and grumpy pets, and relax knowing that they are receiving the best in parasite protection.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF OVER-FEEDING

We all love seeing a healthy and loved animal, but often we mistake chubby for cuddly and fat for fluffy. Obesity in our pets is a growing issue—literally!

HEALTH RISKS

The dangers of obesity are nothing new. By over-feeding, we are putting out dogs and cats at risk of 'lifestyle illnesses', including joint issues, diabetes, heart disease, decreased exercise tolerance and lowered immune function. In short, we are decreasing their quality and length of life.

WE KNOW BETTER, SO WHY DO WE DO IT?

Research has shown that owners of obese pets are likely to over-humanise their animals, and often associate giving food as showing love.

We commonly see 3 types of pudgy, over-fed pets;

1. The Beggar- "He won't keep quiet without his treat.."
2. The Good Pet- "He's such a good pet, we don't want him to go hungry.."



3. The Gourmet Pet- "She refuses to eat her pet food..!"

Do you recognise your own dog or cat?

SO WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

We recommend a veterinary check-up to rule out any underlying medical conditions that may be exacerbating the problem.

Weight loss doesn't have to mean boot camp. Low calorie diets are designed with high fibre to allow you to feed a bigger quantity of lower quality food, thus keeping tummies fuller for longer. And most dogs think exercise is fun!

Cats can be more challenging, but with correct feeding and some strategically placed toys, your cat

can enjoy a new lease on life.

So let's not "kill" our pet with what we may consider kindness. Love them by gifting them good health and a long life with a proper diet, exercise and companionship.

THE IMPORTANCE OF DE-SEXING YOUR FERRET

Ferret's are fascinating little critters that are very inquisitive and entertaining to watch.

Unfortunately, female ferrets have a quirk that makes desexing a must—unless you are planning to breed from her of course!

Mature female ferrets remain in season until they are mated. If your 'jill' is not mated, there is a very high risk of her developing a life-threatening anaemia or pyometra. Up to 90% of entire female ferrets will die from these conditions.

All ferrets produce a scent, however when the male ferret is sexually mature, his odour become very strong and unpleasant. This scent is emitted from two glands located under the tail and is a breeding trait - it is not due to poor hygiene. Castrating your male ferret will reduce this scent.

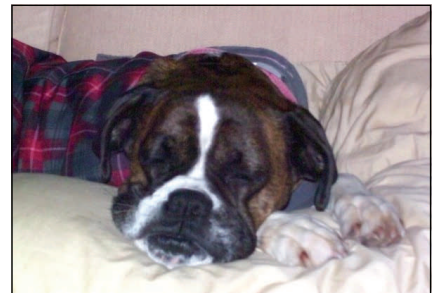
One thing is common in both desexed males and females—they get along a lot better and do not attempt to escape... quite as much!

We recommend routine de-sexing at 6 months of age.



PET OF THE SEASON

Ellie's owner thought that her lumps were normal for her age. Unfortunately, it was 'The Big C'...



To read about Ellie's hospital stay, visit our website.

www.tatvet.com.au

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