



CLINIC HAPPENINGS

This is our first solely small animal newsletter—we are now providing in-depth bovine and equine newsletters, which are available both from the clinic and on our website.

We would like to welcome Dr Lauren Stevenson, who joins us from Tasmania. Lauren will be a regular face both at our Mooroopna clinic, working with small animals, and at Tatura, where she predominantly works with dairy cattle.

Recent visitors will be familiar with our grey kitten 'Miss Muffin'. A wonderful family recently fell in love with Missie, and although we adored her cuddles, we are pleased to have successfully adopted her out.



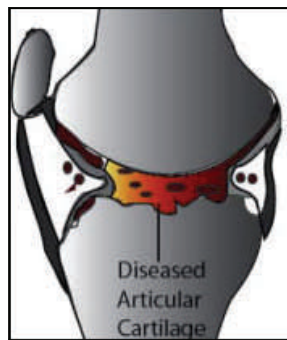
ARTHRITIS - A CONSTANT ACHE

Does your dog have trouble getting up in the morning and seem a bit stiff?

Arthritis, a degenerative joint condition, causes real pain in our pets. Recent studies have shown more than 65% of dogs over six suffer from arthritis. Older cats are also affected by arthritis.

The problem lies in a pet's inability to communicate their pain to us. You are in the best position to recognize changes in your pet;

- Limping or lagging behind
- Difficulty in rising
- Joint stiffness in the morning or after a sleep
- Licking or biting of joints
- Change in personality – less happy or playful, sometimes aggressive and irritable
- Poor grooming habits (cats)



Animals with untreated arthritis may be in continual pain, reducing their quality of life.

Management of arthritis involves a combination of weight loss, dietary review and gentle exercise, plus some form of medication. Soft bedding and warm coats are also appreciated.

Arthritis is a degenerative condition, and medication is not a cure. In many cases, animals affected by arthritis will need to be on medication for the rest of their lives.

Please book an appointment to discuss your pet's arthritis concerns.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

A reminder that any pet on ongoing prescription medication should have a medical check-up at least every 12 months.

This ensures that we are able to;

- Monitor your pet's condition
- Review and/or adjust their dosage of medication
- Explore new treatment options available
- Detect and discuss any new health concerns

This ultimately means we give your pet the best level of care that we can provide.



AMAZING AXOLOTLS (AKA MEXICAN WALKING FISH)

Have you met our new addition 'Chilli the Axolotl'?

Axolotl are amphibians, and make an unusual and interesting pet as they are very entertaining. They are a relatively hardy animal, and under the right conditions, they can live up to 15 years!

TANK CARE

As axolotls continually grow, a large tank is essential. This will ensure that they can walk, swim and somersault to their heart's content.

Axolotls value their privacy, and it is a good idea to include a hiding place in their tank, allowing them rest and relaxation away from bright light.

Water quality is essential to good health, and water should be gently filtered, or changed regularly. They prefer cool conditions (14-20°C).



FEEDING

It is important not to overfeed your axolotl as they can become overweight. Special formulated food is available from pet shops and the occasional fresh worm makes a good treat.

FRIENDS OR ENEMIES?

As axolotls are carnivores, they do not make good tank mates for small fish. Larger fish may become distracted by your axolotl's gills, and try and nibble them for lunch. For these reasons, axolotls are usually kept alone.

Axolotls make weird but wonderful pets, and our own axolotl Chilli is no exception. And they have a special skill—should they lose a limb due to injury, it will grow back over time!

STAY WARM WITH WEATHERBEETA AND FUZZYARD



Now that winter is upon us, why not treat your best friend to a stylish new winter coat.

We are currently stocking Weatherbeeta's new season of warm and wonderful designs. Even the fussiest pooch will love these.

We would also like to introduce our new range of FuzzYard pet products—plush pet beds, matching collars and leads or even diamante pet tags will ensure that your pet stands out in the crowd!



PET OF THE SEASON

'Tiff' presented to our clinic with a suspect case of poisoning. Within 30 minutes she was having seizures...



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

www.tatvet.com.au

TATURA VETERINARY CLINIC

29 ROSS STREET, TATURA
PH: 03 5824 1755

MOOROOPNA VETERINARY CLINIC

71 ECHUCA ROAD, MOOROOPNA
PH: 03 5825 3511

WWW.TATVET.COM.AU