

Welcome to Your August Newsletter.



With just the one month to go of winter, it's time to take stock of how your pet's health has fared during the long cold months. Have they put on a bit of weight, or perhaps lost too much? Perhaps the cold has affected your senior companion and they need a little help from us to manage their joint pain? It's an ideal time to book your pet in for a health checkup so that they are primed to cope with the ticks, fleas and other things that will occur when the seasons change. [Click here](#) to book an appointment. It's always a better strategy to plan to prevent these health hazards than to leave things to chance. Prevention is always easier on your pet and your pocket. Bring your pet in for a full body health check (and a lot of spoiling from our animal mad team) and then you can face spring with enthusiasm rather than dread

From the Friendly Team at HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital

SALT LAMPS AND CATS

Salt lamps are an attraction for your pet because of the changing light and the lure of salt. Excessive licking can cause weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, tremors, coma and even death as too much salt is toxic to animals.

Some owners have reported that even just the change in the air with the salt lamp going has brought on seizures in both cats and dogs. If you have a salt lamp, monitor your pet carefully for any changes and keep the lamp out of their curious reach. Contact us immediately if your pet has any of the above symptoms.

7 WAYS TO SAVE ON PET CARE

Regular Health Checks detect any health issue. Treatment costs less in the initial stages.

PET Insurance can save you expensive costs if your pet is injured or develops a disease.

Keep your pet at a healthy weight with a good diet and adequate exercise to maintain good health.

Protect your pet. High secure fences keep pets on the property and safe from cars. Keep cats indoors at night to prevent injuries from fights, or from catching disease from wild cats.

Lock medicines or any toxic substance away from curious pets to prevent poisoning.

Brush your pet's teeth regularly to keep the gums healthy and prevent disease.

Check your furry friend for any lumps - this can prevent cancers getting a hold.



VACCINATIONS - and why your pet needs them.

Check out our website on [this link](#) which explains everything you need to know. We also explain the requirements for your puppy or kitten that are vital for good health.

EXCESSIVE BARKING AND HOW TO STOP IT!

Barking is very normal behavior for your dog to communicate their needs. They bark to express emotion or to call attention from their owners. Dogs also bark out of boredom or anxiety at being left alone. They will bark out of fear, for example during a thunderstorm. But when barking is excessive it can cause a problem with the neighbors, as who wants to live next to an excessive barker.

You need to find the trigger that is causing the problem for your dog. Once you find that, you can use some simple obedience training to correct the situation. Reward based positive reinforcement for good behavior works best. Slowly expose your dog to their trigger; for example, if they bark when people walk past the property, get a friend to walk past the fence several times. Have them start a few meters out and then get them to come closer each time. Every time your dog doesn't bark, reward them with a treat. If they bark, simply ignore them and do the exercise again. Be consistent and patient and resist the urge to yell at them! This will only encourage them to bark more! You may have to make environmental changes such as blocking their view of the people walking past. It takes time to sort out what your pup is upset about and you might want to talk to our veterinary behavioral experts for a bit of help. If you can nip a barking issue at the beginning, it will be easier to retrain your dog.

Case studies - Lumps & bumps in pets

HIGHlands are on a mission to check all lumps and bumps in cats and dogs. While these lumps are often harmless fatty cyst, they can also be a mast cell tumor – a particularly nasty type of cancer. You can check your own pet by comparing the right side of their body to the left side and feeling all over with a firm grasp. We advise to also look inside the ears, inside the mouth, check the toes, back, breast, tummy and under the tail. In other words, check everywhere! If you do find a lump, colour that area with a distinguishing colour so you can find it again. Bring your pet into us and we will do what is known as a FNA test. We will insert a fine needle into the lump and check the cells on a microscope. It doesn't hurt your pet. For August, the FNA test is FREE if you mention the video below. We will do the same for a friend of yours too. Check the link below where Dr. Diederik Gelderman explains how to check your pet for lumps on a short video. Please click [HERE](#).



HIGHlands staff profile - Kirra.

We mentioned last month that staff member Kirra had achieved her Cert IV and is now a fully qualified Vet Nurse. But here is a little more about Kirra.

She has a passion for animals and always knew her career would involve caring for them in some way. Kirra loves to solve pet health problems and to enable animals to live a better life. There is a great sense of satisfaction from knowing that she was instrumental to adding extra valuable years to their lives.

Anyone who cares for 6 horses, 4 dogs, numerous cats and a few geese at home must be an animal lover! Not only that, Kirra proves her dedication by travelling for long hours each working week to and from her work at HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital.

When queried about those hours she says it's worth it because she just loves her work! The HIGHlands team are a dedicated lot and she feels proud to be a part of that team.

Providing information and educating pet owners about caring for the health of their new furry friends is the goal of everyone here at HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital. Click [HERE](#) for all our staff profiles.

"A well-trained dog will make no attempt to share your lunch. He will just make you feel so guilty that you cannot enjoy it." Helen Thomson

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JOIN THE FAMILY:
ENJOY THE
FREEDOM

HEALTHCARE PLANS.

When your pet is well all is rosy. But the unknown is always lurking, and it can often be the things that happen that you cannot foresee. This is where a Healthcare Plan can take away the financial burden of a sick or injured pet who needs veterinary help. Our plans are based around prevention and early diagnosis which we believe are the keys to a happy pet. Do yourself a financial favour and decide on a plan - come in and talk to us or [click this link](#) for more information.



vetapet

INTRODUCING THE NEW HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital App!

**Making it easy to connect with us, our HIGHlands
APP is super easy to install and use.**

- Download the APP from **Google Play** or the **App store** and search for HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital
- Create your account on the login page using the email we have on file for you.
- Click the link in the verification email and we are good to go!

When you download our FREE APP, you can earn **loyalty rewards points** straight away. When you fill the loyalty stamps in you receive a \$50 Dental reward for eight stamps, or \$100 reward for 16 stamps! Not only that, but you can manage your pet's health care and request appointments, or product refills direct through the APP.

You can even snap a photo of your pet and share their pic with us and others.

There is a great page on the APP about animal poison control which has information about people foods to avoid feeding your pet and poisonous household products. It also includes a pet health library crammed full of useful information about pet health conditions.

Designed to make your pet care easy with
HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital.

TRY IT OUT NOW - IT'S FREE & IT'S EASY!



For more in-depth information, please go to our Website.

HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital - <https://www.highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au/>