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AUGUST 2020 Newsletter

Hello and Welcome to This Month's Newsletter

With only one month left of winter, we can look forward to enjoying the milder spring. Covid-19 is still making its presence felt, and the reminder to continue social distancing, the hand sanitising, and wearing of masks is important in this pandemic era. The first six months of this year have been a challenge to say the least. It helps to keep a positive attitude, keep up with news re the virus, and to support family, pets, and friends during these testing times.

Winter tips for happy pets.

It is tempting to stay indoors on a cold day, snuggled beneath a warm blanket with your fur baby. But cats and dogs still need to exercise as it helps to avoid boredom. Indoor play with a soft ball or running up and down the stairs or hallway will help to keep the blood moving. Braving the cold to take your dog for a walk will be worth the effort, as both of you will feel better for the exercise. Cats will enjoy a feather flicking toy to chase, and they will enjoy attacking a ball that you throw for them. An active pet is a healthy pet.

Word of Caution.

Animals are notorious for sitting too close to heaters, so be wary of this and protect them from themselves. Pet heating pads and disks are a safe alternative that can be placed on their beds or favourite chair. These heated pads are perfect for the older pet as they will be feeling the winter chill. So, snuggle up and stay warm together this winter, there is nothing like lots of cuddles to keep the winter blues at bay!



This month we cover the following topics.

- ❖ Managing a dog-on-dog attack
- ❖ Cat Spraying within the home
- ❖ Case study- Wattle's Podoplasty
- ❖ Adopt a pet
- ❖ Regular vet visits prevent disease
- ❖ Skin problems- that itchy scratchy feeling
- ❖ Why is tartar so bad for teeth?

The mental health benefits of owning a dog or a cat has been proven by many scientific health studies. Pets help to relieve stress, depression, anxiety, and loneliness. The companionship they provide is priceless, while their playfulness and antics can have us laughing when all else fails. Pets provide us with valuable companionship, and they are devoted and caring friends.



Explore our Website by [Clicking here!](#)

CASE STUDY – Wattle’s Fusion Podoplasty!

Wattle was rescued from the recent bushfires where she suffered from severe burns to three of her feet. She has found it incredibly painful to walk. The pads on the two front paws almost fused and cannot work independently. One of the rear legs is also affected. Every time she walks, she is breaking the scar tissue that forms between the pads. Every time it heals - it is a bit worse than before. Therefore, we are going to do a fusion Podoplasty; this is where we are going to stitch the pads on each foot together, so it becomes one big pad. This is an unusual surgery procedure but once healed, the foot will be fully functional. We will do one foot at a time, allowing it 3 -4 weeks to heal before she has another foot done. Wattle will need ongoing care, but once healed she will be able to walk freely without pain. Click [HERE](#) to view the procedure!



For the latest news and events, check out our Facebook Page by [Clicking here!](#)

PREVENTING CAT SPRAYING WITHIN YOUR HOME.

Cats spray urine to mark their territory and to communicate information such as health status, rank, and sex to other animals. Reasons your cat may spray could be that they have a urine infection – this requires medical help so bring them into us for a checkup. Stress is also a factor such as a new addition into the family, lack of your attention, or the stress of moving to a new house can trigger anxiety and spraying. The secret is to keep kitty happy by giving them lots of attention and remaining calm during times of change. Another reason could be that the litter box may be too small, too dirty (cats are exceptionally clean animals), or the location such as next to the washing machine may scare them when it is working. [Spaying & neutering](#) your pet reduces or eliminates spraying and marking and is worth considering.

To clean urine stains, use a good quality enzymatic cleaning solution to break down the uric acids and salts in the urine. Most home-made cleaning remedies do not dissolve the enzymes that can keep releasing smells for years! Avoid ammonia-based products as your cat will likely urinate there again to cover up the smell and the cycle will continue. To deter your cat from spraying again, use a citrus based essential oil spray such as orange, citronella, or lemongrass to repel your kitty from doing it there again. Mix three parts water to one-part oil and shake well. Spray the areas well. White vinegar can also be used either diluted or full strength.

HOW TO MANAGE A DOG ON DOG ATTACK.

Never get in the middle of a dog attack as you may end up being attacked yourself. Instead, it is important to know how to break up or prevent an altercation without injury to yourself or your dog.

Be aware that if a smaller dog is running around with a larger dog or two and they get knocked off their feet, they will yelp in distress which may trigger the other dog into attack mode. It is so important to keep your behaviour calm and control your dog during a meeting, especially if it is an unknown dog. If you see an off-leash dog approaching in a determined manner try to quietly move your dog away. This can be done by holding a handful of treats in front of your dog’s nose and using the treats to keep your dog focused on you. Avoid moving away too fast or running, as this may cause the dog to chase you. If the other dog follows you or you do not have time to move away, keep your pet as still as possible and order them to sit or stay down position beside or just behind you. This is where practicing the stay and hold position is important. Step in front of the other dog and use a loud, powerful voice to issue a familiar command such as STOP, or SIT! Put your hand out in a ‘stop’ signal to further your message. While it may not stop them completely it will break their concentration on your dog. If the dog stops for even a minute, toss a handful of treats in front of them and make your escape while they Hoover up the treats.

If that does not work, it is time to break out the serious tools. Air horns, citronella sprays (they are safer than pepper spray), rape alarms, and a mini umbrella can help. A loud noise or the sudden opening of an umbrella can intimidate the dog. Use a loose garment such as a jacket and use it to protect your arm against an attacking dog. Do not bend over to pick up your dog in a fight as you leave your neck and face open to attack. Keeping calm and controlling your dog is important. Most dog spats are over quickly, although your dog may suffer anxiety when meeting other dogs after such an event. Do not fuss or make a big issue out of it. Reward them for being calm and obeying orders and if there are any bite marks after a fight, bring them in to us [for a checkup](#). Many bite marks look okay, but they can become severely infected as bites are often deeper than they look.



Adorable Pets Requiring a Home. Can you help?

FREE HIGHland App

Apps make planning on the run easy, and HIGHland's is no exception. Crammed with special features, it will help streamline your pet care. Get your HIGHland App at the online App store today.

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A Bit of A LAUGH.

Two men are hiking through the woods when one of them cries out, "Snake! Run!"

His companion laughs at him. "Oh relax. It's only a baby." He says. "Can't you hear the rattle?"

Q: What do you call a lazy baby kangaroo?

A: A pouch potato ...



Courtesy of bullwrinkles.com

ADOPT A PET – The Golden Oldies Animal Rescue!

The Golden Oldies Organisation is dedicated to saving older pets from shelters. Often these pets must be rehomed through no fault of their own. When families move away or go overseas, or when an older person is too ill to care for their pet, then the Golden Oldies come to the rescue and find these wonderful animals a new home. Their first commitment is to ensure that they are healthy and a trip to HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital is the first thing on their list. There are so many pets who need a new home, and the Golden Oldies would love to help you find your perfect four-legged friend. An older pet is past the destructive puppy stage, and they would love to be your loyal companion.

Please contact us on 0403 265 498 or go online to [our website HERE](#).

REGULAR VET VISITS CAN PREVENT A MAJOR HEALTH CRISIS.

Regular veterinary visits and preventive steps are the ideal solutions to keeping your pet in tip-top condition. If you notice any unusual behaviour or symptoms, getting your pet prompt attention at our hospital will often mean a speedy recovery for your pet. Any lumps, swelling, sores, rapid weight loss, lameness, sudden decrease of appetite, difficulty in breathing, excessive urinating or defecating, or lack of energy or black stools all need urgent attention. The earlier the diagnosis, the quicker and more effective the treatment will be. It is a lot cheaper to treat an early stage condition than to fight the battle with an established disease. Regular [checkups are important](#) as your pet will not always tell you that they do not feel well.

WHY IS TARTAR SO BAD FOR YOUR PETS TEETH?

Tartar is the thin brownish-yellow layer that may be visible on your pet's teeth up around the gum line tissue. The tartar is formed after a meal and if not removed in 2-3 days, it will mix with bacteria and the minerals in the saliva will calcify which results in forming tartar. These deposits can lead to bad breath, bleeding of the gums, infections and abscesses, dental disease, and possibly some loss of the teeth. Eating becomes painful and your pet's health can deteriorate quickly. To keep tartar under control your pet needs a good healthy diet, dental chews, chew toys, and regular brushing. Start while your cat or dog is young so that brushing will just become a part of their normal routine. Book a [regular dental check](#) with us to ensure the health of your pet's teeth and prevent other diseases from becoming established as poor dental health often leads to other serious health issues!

SKIN PROBLEMS ... THAT ITCHY, SCRATCHY FEELING.

The most common skin problems in dogs are caused by parasites, skin infections, and allergies. Fleas, ticks, ear mites and sarcoptic mange mites (which causes scabies) are to blame. Allergens such as pollen, mold, and dust mites can also trigger itching and irritations. Food allergies can be caused by some common food ingredients such as soy, corn, or wheat and can result in skin irritations. So, what can you do to avoid the aggravation of your dog's skin condition? Treatments with special medicated shampoos can kill the parasites while antibiotics or antifungal medications, as well as antihistamines to control itching, may be required. We can advise dietary measures to reduce food allergies or an injection can control an aggravating allergic reaction. Fleas and ticks, well these are a year-round pest and treatment needs to be consistently maintained. We are here to help with any of the above problems, just bring your dog (or your cat for that matter) in for treatment. We will have them happy and healthy again in no time at all.