



# HIGHland Veterinary Hospital

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## April 2020 Newsletter

## Happy Easter to All

### Hello and Welcome to This Month's Newsletter

April is a lovely time of year; the temperatures are cooler, and the weather seems more settled. As you are all aware, the Coronavirus or Covid-19 as we have come to know it, is causing all sorts of problems within our communities. We want to let you know that HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital is classified as an 'essential service' which means yes, we will be here for you and your pets during this current crisis. Also note that we are offering house calls if you cannot come to the hospital, we have the facilities to help you via telemedicine or telephone where required. If you are sick and have no other alternative but to bring your pet in, please ring ahead of your visit and notify us so we can take the appropriate precautions. While it is a testing time, we will get through this and if we all pull together this crisis too shall pass. It is so inspiring to see community members coming together to help one another! For more information about our services please [check our Facebook](#) page here for more information.

To dispel any rumours re pets and Covid-19 we advise you watch [Dr Diederik's Video on the Coronavirus](#) for information about animals and the virus. Human Covid-19 and the Dog Corona are two different viruses. If you are tested Covid-19 positive, wear a mask at home as you self-isolate, restrict your contact with all family members including your pets. Drink plenty of water and do everything the medical people advise you to do. Again, this too shall pass. Keep safe, use common sense and let's all work to overcome this crisis – it can be done!



### This month we cover the following topics.

- ❖ Covid-19 Stay safe everyone – we have a few tips throughout.
- ❖ Value Plans for pets
- ❖ Case study- Roxy & Rat Poison
- ❖ Coping with the lockdown
- ❖ Heart Disease
- ❖ Fun facts and humor
- ❖ Adopt a pet

### CAUTION.

**Some brands of hand sanitisers contain ethanol glycol which is found in anti-freeze products. These are poisonous to pets. If you use these then pat your pet while the product is still wet, your pet could lick it off while cleaning themselves and they could become very sick.**



## APRIL IS HEART MONTH.



### FREE HEART CHECKS FOR PETS FOR ALL OF APRIL.

It is important to monitor the health of your pet as they grow and age. Any abnormalities that are detected early make treatment so much easier. We are focusing on heart health this month and have made this special offer to you. Bring in your BFF (Best Furry Friend) and let us check their heart, as prevention is always the best course of action. Ring to book your pet's appointment today.



### Why PETS and EASTER EGGS are not a good mix.

Chocolate contains theobromine with the darker chocolate containing higher concentrates of the substance. Symptoms of chocolate toxicity include severe hyperactivity, panting shaking, muscle tremors, and sometimes seizures. All are serious conditions which require immediate veterinary assistance. Instead of chocolate, give them a tasty dog treat so they won't feel left out!



## HEART MONTH ♥ RAISING AWARENESS OF HEART DISEASE IN PETS

Heart failure happens when changes in the body such as increased blood pressure, increased heart rate and fluid retention cause the heart to fail in its duty to pump enough blood to meet the body's demand.

*Symptoms include the following.*

Coughing, swollen abdomen, weight loss, fluid in the lower legs, difficulty breathing, your pet tires easily, or pale or blueish mucous membranes. Any of these symptoms need prompt veterinary attention

Heart disease can have many different causes, such as a change to the heart's muscular wall, or perhaps a narrowing of the vessels leaving the heart. A heart abnormality can exist at birth or it may develop later in life. Heartworm can be a major contributing fact. Diagnosis methods include blood and urine tests along with an X-ray or Ultrasound which can provide a picture of your pet's health and can assist us to determine the most effective form of treatment. Early diagnosis is vital, as treatment is easier and more effective. A healthy diet is essential for pet health, they need a diet that is tailored to them, not the human food that many meals or treats are becoming. A [Pet Health Plan](#) is a great tool to monitor your furry friends health and is very effective as it allows early intervention which can mean a quick return to an active, joyful life.

Join our Facebook Page for loads more pet healthcare information.  
<https://www.facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital/>

### WHAT IS A PET HEALTH PLAN and Why Do We Need One?

Pet value plans have been designed to keep your pet healthy. It is designed to give your pet a full health examination every 6 months. Not only do we check your pet for health issues externally, but we also look internally to find potential problems that you may not have noticed in their behaviour. At each examination we perform a different test; we may do a blood test One month, then urine tests another time. When we have all this information it allows us to see how well your pet really is. If we don't find a problem then we are happy, 😊 but if we do see a problem it allows us to start treatment early to nip the problem in the bud. All ages and times of life are catered for in [our pet value plans](#), from puppy/kitten to the adult or senior pet in cats and dogs. With the Pet Value Plan, you can relax knowing you have given your pet every opportunity for a long happy life.

### CASE STUDY – Roxy & Rat Bait Poisoning.

Roxy was brought into us as she was unwell, but her owners couldn't determine the reason why. We did some blood tests that showed that she was anaemic, but we couldn't find the cause. The next day we tested her urine and found that she was bleeding internally. Roxy's owners admitted that they had put out a rat poison product to get rid of the rats, but it was up high, so they thought it was safe. But what can happen is if a rat nibbles and drops some of the bait, or the dog eats an affected mouse or bird, then the poison is transferred to the dog. What rat poison does is that it affects the ability of a body to clot. Vitamin K is a top-level vitamin that works with the body to cause clotting, so that the pet or human doesn't bleed out. Rat poison offers something that looks like Vitamin K but isn't, and the bleeding continues. The affected creature becomes anaemic and it's all downhill from there. This type of poisoning is treatable but requires veterinary help. If your dog is unwell, check their gums... paler gums than usual indicates a serious problem. Watch Dr Diederik's [video here](#), where he explains this condition more fully!



BRUNO

Also Check out RSPCA list of adoptee pets. You can call the NSW head office on 02 9770 7555 and find the closest center nearest you. Let's give these waiting pets a home!

Follow us on  
[Instagram](#) 😊

### Our HIGHland Veterinary Hospital App!

Did you know our APP has information titled **Covid-19 FAQ for Pet Owners!** Check it out under the Pet Health Library. If you don't yet have our APP, then download it for free in the App Store – it's under our name!!!

### PLEASE NOTE!

Because of the Coronavirus Crisis, we can do *telemedicine and house calls*. If people need meds and want to come to the clinic, then ring and park out front and give us a beep /text/whatever and we will come to your car. You are not alone, we have you and your pet covered!



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**ADOPT A PET** – Everyday scores of cats and dogs sit patiently in their cages waiting for people to come and take them home. All they want is the security of a home, a kind word, people who love them. If you are looking for a pet, don't overlook these wonderful animals who for no reason of their own are sitting and waiting for you. The choice is amazing, there are plenty of gorgeous furry friends who are just waiting for their forever home. You will be rewarded with a lifelong loyal friend and a companion who loves you. Won't you help us to find homes for these deserving souls? Call the Golden Oldies Rescue Group on 0403 265 498 or [go online here](#). Bruno is waiting for you – his gorgeous face is in the adjacent column.

### SOME TIPS TO KEEP YOUR PETS HEART HEALTHY!

Start with a healthy diet. Choose a well-balanced high-quality food and keep treats to a minimum. Obesity can lead to heart problems

*Keep your dog fit, go for long walks, swimming if they like it, or just a series of fetch in the back yard. Keep cats fit with games, climbing frames or even a type of treadmill for cats!*

Schedule a regular health check with us here at HIGHland's Veterinary Hospital so we can prevent any health issues

Make [dental care](#) a priority as there is a strong connection between dental condition and heart disease. Call us today to book a checkup.

Heartworm disease can lead to inflammation of the blood vessels and can cause heart damage. A simple once a year injection can protect your pet.

*We are here to help. Ask us about measures you can take to keep your best furry friend fit and healthy.*

### SELF ISOLATING WITH YOUR PET

The good thing about the confinement to home due to the Covid-19 virus, is that your pet gets to see more of you! But if you are not working, what can you do? Well your dog or cat could probably do with a bit more training which will fill in a few hours. Games in the back yard are perfect if it's just you and your dog! Cats will love curling up on your lap while



you watch a movie or do some computer work. Maybe your dog could use a new outdoor shelter, or your indoor cat would love a cat run that is attached to the house. Use this time and focus on your pet buddy. See what you can do to enhance their life, especially for when life returns to normal. Make some bulk pet treats and freeze for later. Design and make a few new toys. Go online and checkout Pinterest for great ideas! Keep active and healthy!

### DID YOU KNOW – WEIRD PET FACT

Did you know that fingerprints of a Koala are indistinguishable from a human, that they have on occasion been confused at a crime scene? And they don't just have generic fingerprints shared on the pads across the species, but each Koala has its own identifiable fingerprints– just like us! How amazing is that?

### Just A Little Humour

A boy with a monkey on his shoulder was walking down the road when he passed a policeman who said, "Now, now young lad, I think you had better take that monkey to the zoo." The next day, the boy was walking down the road with the monkey on his shoulder again, when he passed the same policeman. The policeman said, "Hey there, I thought I told you to take that money to the zoo!" The boy answered, "I did! Today I'm taking him to the cinema."

Our Website ... HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital

<https://www.highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au/>