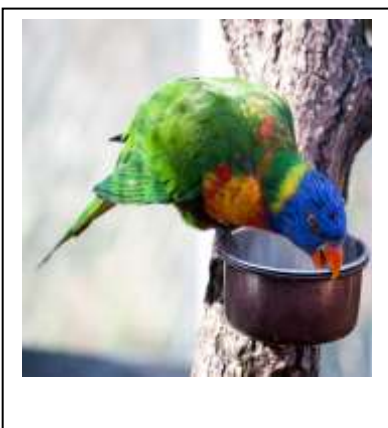


## Welcome to Your February Newsletter.

Summer is shining on us in all its glory with the heat testing even the hardy wildlife. It's nice to see people putting out water stations for the wildlife, just to help give them a little respite from the dehydrating effects of the drought. Small containers of water attached to a tree will help the birds and koalas, while shallow wide containers on the ground can assist the snakes, kangaroos and possums etc. Don't get too close to them though - maintain a healthy respect for their privacy and that way no-one will be hurt. While you are at it, make sure you have plenty of water bowls available inside and out for your parched pets, and ensure there are shady spots where they can retire to in the heat of the day.



From the Friendly team at HIGHLANDS Veterinary Hospital

### STRESS / BEHAVIOUR ISSUES

With the news media reporting an increase in dog attacks on owners and children, we need to understand the often-subtle messages our dog is trying to tell us. Rarely does a dog attack come without a warning. But if we are not heeding the warning, stress can cause a dog to snap with heartbreaking consequences. The link below covers this important subject - please take the time to view this short video presentation.

<https://www.facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital/videos/350>

### PET CARE HEALTH CHART

Something we at HIGHlands thought might be useful is a Pet Care for Life chart for all our clients. This document outlines all the stages of your pets' growth and what they need to remain healthy and full of life.

It takes the guess work out of pet care. There are seasonal issues for pets, as well as age related pointers that will help guide you through the life of your pet. Prevention is best. Many health issues caught early enough can be treated easier than a condition that has progressed to an advanced stage.

### BRUSH YOUR CAT

IT HELPS YOUR CAT TO STAY COOL



There are many grooming options available such as a mitt or brush. These tools help to prevent fur balls in the digestive system or matted knots within the haircoat. Brushing removes the loose, shed hair which avoids fur related problems. Brushing thins the coat which helps to cool your cat. So, grab a mitt, entice your kitty, and begin grooming. They'll love you for it!

## HEAT STROKE IS A VERY REAL ISSUE THIS SUMMER

While all dogs (and cats) can be subject to heat stroke, dogs who have issues with breathing because of a shorter, flatter muzzle (Brachycephalic Airway Syndrome) can succumb easier to this condition. Breeds such as the Pekinese, Pug & the Frenchie find breathing harder in the severe heat of the day.

Suffering dogs will display rapid panting, bright red or pale gums, thick sticky saliva, weakness, dizziness and vomiting.

Move your dog into the shade and cover them with a damp cool cloth. Don't dunk your dog in freezing cold water (with added ice cubes) as this may put them into shock.

Instead, get your dog into a car and bring them into us so we can help stabilize your dogs' condition. Excessive heat can be lethal, this condition needs immediate attention.

Join our Facebook Page for more information.

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



## Case studies - Bella's Root Abscess Operation

Bella the dog came in with a crack in her tooth and had a small amount of pus oozing from the fissure. She was suffering from the infection, feeling poorly as a result. While a root canal was an option, the most viable solution was to remove the tooth. The tooth that Bella had damaged had three roots so it couldn't be pulled directly out. It involved cutting each root and removing the tooth, then getting the root out using a tool called a Periotome - a useful tool that causes minimum damage to the gums. Bella was heavily sedated, and the nerves had been blocked so that she didn't suffer any pain. While we were operating, we found another molar that was cracked and badly damaged. With the permission of the owner, that one was removed as well for the sake of her health. Bella is now recovering and getting on with her life.

For more information, check our Facebook site for the video.  
<https://www.facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital/videos/391385938333785>/<https://www.facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital>

## MICRO CHIPPING & ID TAGS

With the warmer weather you may be tempted to have your homes' doors and windows open to catch the breeze. Indoor cats and dogs may take this as an invitation to go and explore the world. Having your pet microchipped can help return a lost pet to you promptly. But also recommended is adding a disc to your pet's collar with their name, your name and your phone number on it. This will save a lot of time returning your pet if a neighbor finds your fluffy!



## Gina Fallon - The founder of the Golden Oldies Animal Rescue.

Gina is one of those rare people who give their everything for a cause, and in this case, the animals are lucky to have her on their side. The Golden Oldies is a non-profit group who are dedicated to the rescue and rehoming of old souls - senior cats and dogs who are in need. The Golden Oldies work in with HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital to provide health care in times of need to these unfortunately neglected or abandoned pets.

Gina and her volunteer care givers work hard to find foster homes for these lovely mature pets so that they can live out the rest of their lives in the comfort and love of a forever home.

The sad fact is that 80% of the animals have been abused and are in poor state of health. With the help of Diederik and the team at HIGHlands, they get the pets back to good health and then work to find a home for these wonderful animals. They have managed to find 1798 older pets a home which is an amazing feat.

If you can help the Golden Oldies by volunteering your time you will be most welcome. If you can help by a donation, that would be wonderful as it costs a lot to run the animal rescue. If you can offer a home to one of their beloved rescue animals, please call Gina on 0403 265 498 - she would love to hear from you. <https://www.facebook.com/goldenoldiesanimalrescue>

## HEALTH TIP - for a dog with wrinkles or skin folds - as in the Shar Pei.

Dogs that have wrinkles in their coat like the rumped Shar Pei can often suffer from skin infections when moisture sits in the folds of the skin. If you are taking your dog out for a swim, use a soft cloth to dry out the inner wrinkle or fold of the skin afterwards. Once skin infections get a hold, they can be hard to eradicate so prevention is best.

## HOW TO MAKE A PUPPY PIE

Take one puppy, roll them over and rub belly until lightly pampered then add the following;

1 cup of kisses

1 cup of cuteness

1 pinch of correction & 2 cups of praise

Add 3 cups of fun

And blend well!

Heat with the warmth of your heart till raised or until puppy has doubled in size.

Owner and Pup will become one & enjoy a long health life.

*Courtesy of the website Schnauzers Rule.*

HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital.

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Braemar, NSW 2575

JOIN THE FAMILY:  
ENJOY THE FREEDOM

## OWNING A PET IS A COMMITMENT.

They are one of the family and as such, their health is an important issue. Just like us, pets can get sick. They can pick up injuries, get infections, and suffer a whole host of illnesses. But don't let that put you off enjoying their company. Start a health insurance plan for your pet. We have affordable packages that include vaccinations, checkups, and parasite prevention. The beauty with a plan is that you get great discounts plus you can have your pet's parasite preventative medicines sent straight to your door. Please call in and one of our friendly team will explain it all to you.



For a wealth of information, please check our Website.

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