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JULY 2020 Newsletter

Hello and Welcome to This Month's Newsletter

There is an icy nip in the air as we head into July. Older pets will feel it more than an active youngster, so be aware of their needs and provide deep warm beds, nourishing food, and gentle exercise to keep them fit and mobile. For those with pets who suffer joint pain, come in and talk to us about how we can help them cope with the long winter aches and pains. Any outdoor pet deserves a warm, insulated shelter and a water bowl that doesn't freeze over. Provide a stray cat with an off-the-ground insulated shelter and a daily nourishing meal to help them get through the winter. Make sure you check your pet's paws for cuts if they have been out playing in any snow as it can dry your pet's paws and cause them to crack which can be very painful.

Be aware when putting antifreeze in your car that it doesn't leak out and pool on the driveway. Antifreeze contains ethylene glycol which poses a danger to pets. It is sweet tasting which attracts pets and as little as a teaspoon can be fatal. Prompt veterinary attention is required immediately if they have ingested this substance. Another thing to be aware of is carbon monoxide poisoning. Never start your car and let it warm up in the garage unless you remove your pet during this time. And before you drive anywhere, check that your cat isn't sleeping on your car's motor or is curled up in the wheel cover (these places attract cats because they are warm sheltered areas). Every pet has basic needs that must be met in winter but most of all, they crave our love and attention! The bonus is that cuddling your pet will keep you warm too!



This month we cover the following topics.

- ❖ Winter & the war against the Flea.
- ❖ Cats are vulnerable during winter.
- ❖ Case study- Ringworm
- ❖ Adopt a pet
- ❖ Loss of balance in dogs
- ❖ Keep your pet lean
- ❖ Wellness plans
- ❖ Training and socialising pets

Many short haired animals feel the winter chill just as much as we do. These days you can get pet jackets and vests, dogboots, and heated beds to help your pets stay warm and cosy. Drying your pet off after a ramble in the rain will help prevent your pet from catching a cold and warm food will chase the chill from their bones!



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

KEEP YOUR PET LEAN.

It is no secret that pets that are overweight are at risk for a myriad of health issues. It causes joint issues, heart disease, diabetes, and many other conditions. Being overweight can shorten your dog or cats' life by as much as two years or more. Keep the food nutritious but keep the amount relative to your pets' weight. Regular exercise for both cats and dogs is a vital component to keep your pet lean and healthy. In winter it is a little less inviting to go outside and exercise, but by being creative, you can utilize the stairs or a hallway to get your pet moving. A dog will chase a ball forever, but for a cat, you may have to swap the game around to keep them interested. Ask us if you are in doubt about [your pet's diet and exercise](#) – we are happy to help.



Investigate our Facebook Page by [Clicking here!](#)

WINTER & THE WAR AGAINST THE FLEA!

If you think that winter will be free from the pesky flea, then think again! These adaptable pests are a year-round problem. If you think that once the snow or the freezing weather sets in your pet will be free from the flea, I am sorry to tell you that even in a frost, these parasites will find a way to survive. Their eggs hatch a lot slower in the colder months, but it is only in temperatures below 2-3 degrees Celsius (nearly freezing point) that the hardy flea will start to die. And they don't die instantly, it takes a week or more of consistently cold weather to finish them off.

Some fleas seek comfort in garages, barns, pet kennels or on your pet. If they can find a warm place to shelter, they will survive. There is no let-up from the tiny flea, they keep on causing problems such as inflamed skin, infections, and relentless scratching for your pet who may inadvertently bring them into your home. And we all know how hard it is to get rid of them once they set up residency. So keep up with the flea treatments, continue your vigilant war against the flea, and take advantage of the winter because they are vulnerable and their life cycle is slower, so you do have the upper hand to win the war! Check out our [podcast about fleas!](#) Just scroll down the page to get to the flea podcast.

CATS ARE VULNERABLE IN WINTER!

Your cat is very vulnerable to winter's rain and chilling winds. If you notice that your once feisty cat is sneezing, has a runny nose, watery eyes, and is visibly more apathetic than usual, bring your kitty into us for a check-up as soon as possible as these symptoms can quickly change for the worse. Shorter haired cats are prone to suffer more than their long-haired friend as they don't have the same depth of coat to keep them warm. If your cat suffers from other diseases, they will require special care in winter.

Defend your cat from illness by keeping up with their [annual vaccinations](#) because it will help to strengthen their immune system. Another way to protect your cat is to feed them quality food over the winter so they have plenty of energy and strength to fight any health threats. A cat that spends a lot of time outdoors will require more food in winter than at any other time of the year. But if your cat is an indoor kitty who sleeps a lot by the fire, additional food and less exercise will make them fat! Every cat should be assessed by their unique lifestyle. If you have any questions, bring your cat in for an assessment at our hospital.

CASE STUDY – JOEY – Ringworm Affliction.

Joey is a 14-year old Golden Oldie Rescue dog that has recently found his forever home. He was brought into our hospital with a nasty skin irritation. On further investigation, it was confirmed that Joey had ringworm which is very uncommon for an older dog. He suffered hair loss, but the skin lesions didn't fluoresce under a blue light, a sure sign of ringworm. But a week later on his return, the skin lesions did 'glow in the dark'. Ringworm is a form of skin fungus of which there are three varieties but not all three glow under the blue light – often a biopsy is required to analyse the skin condition. Usually ringworm is found in young dogs or cats in the first year of their life. It is rare for a dog like Joey to catch it at his age. But he had been in a pound prior to finding his new home, and the time at the pound and the time when he first came to see us corresponded with the incubation stage of ringworm. For the next 6-8 weeks Joey will be brought in to us to have a special ringworm wash to alleviate and cure his problem.

See the full story on our video – please [CLICK HERE](#) to view.



Adorable Rhys needs a home. Can you help?

OUR APP IS FREE!

We all know how handy Apps can be, and HIGHland's has its own special App. You can book an appointment at any time of the day via the APP. Order your pet medications, research pet health issues, and get bonus rewards. It is FREE to join up. Just go to the APP Store, type in our name, and download within a couple of minutes!

Follow us on
[Instagram](#) 😊

A Bit of A LAUGH.

I went into the pet shop & asked for a dozen bees. As I was paying for them, I said "Hey, I bought 12 bees but there are 13 in this jar!" The pet store replied, 'Yes, that's because one of them's a freebee.'



Courtesy of bullwrinkles.com

ADOPT A PET – Just Look At That Face!

All Rhys wants is a forever home with someone that he can cuddle (cause he is a real cuddle bug). His heart-warming purr and antics make him a real personality who is hard to resist.

Rhys is staying with us at the clinic till he finds his new family and is free to anyone that will love him as much as we do! Roughly seven years old, he is desexed, microchipped and his vaccinations are all up to date. He is not suitable for families with young children, but for couples or someone on their own, he will give you unconditional love and you will never be lonely again. Rhys is a special fluffball who deserves the sanctuary of a home and an owner or two to idolise.

Please contact us at the clinic for any questions 4872 1144

TRAINING & SOCIALISING FOR PETS.

As a pet owner, the most important aspects of responsible pet care is to ensure your pet (cat or dog) is well trained and properly socialised. Starting when they are young is best, but with patience and rewards it is never too late for an animal to learn. Toilet training is the number one priority for a pet that shares your home, as is obedience training. Learning socialising skills will help your puppy or kitten to bond with you and other pets. If in doubt, come and visit us for some tips and recommendations for good trainers in your area. A well-trained pet is a happy pet which translates to having a happy home. Check out our **podcast** about teaching an old dog [new tricks here](#).

WELLNESS PLANS FOR PETS.

Whether your cat or dog is young or old, there is a wellness plan to match their age. Prevention is always better than a cure, and a wellness plan is tailored to cover your pets' needs. From annual vaccinations, preventative health care, to health checks and home delivery of medications, depending on your plan these are covered plus so much more. For kittens and puppies, you can add on Best Start to the health plan so that it includes sterilisation and their Annual booster vaccinations. Protection against heartworm, intestinal worms, as well as flea and tick prevention will help your pet to flourish and grow. Check out our wellness plans – [click here](#) – or come in and talk to us about your pet's requirements. With a simple on-going monthly payment, your pet is getting the best preventative health care regardless of their age, size or sex.

A DOG'S LOSS OF BALANCE

There is no good reason for loss of balance within a dog. The cause could be an injury, a stroke, poisoning, or an infection. These conditions can cause your dog to lose its balance. These are all serious health issues and your dog needs to see a vet immediately. Even a simple ear infection can take on a more sinister tone if it's left untreated. Ear infections are common in dogs, especially for the floppy ear canines. Head trauma such as your dog getting hit by a car is another cause of loss of balance. Dogs are amazing how they will mask their pain with behaviours such as wagging their tail or grinning. Other signs of canine pain include slower reflexes, heavy panting, anxiety, reluctance to lie down and of course, falling over. Masking their pain is a reflex action dating back their past history, when a slow or injured animal would either be left behind in the wild by their pack, or they would be attacked by a stronger animal. If your dog is unsteady on their feet and seem off balance, they need our help as soon as possible.