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March 2020 Newsletter

Hello and Welcome to This Month's Newsletter

March is often a time of slightly cooler weather which we will welcome after the summer that we have all endured. But as the seasons change, so too does our pet's requirements. With calmer cooler evenings, the necessities of pet care can be often overlooked. Fleas and Ticks are still around even in wet weather, and owners need to maintain their cat or dogs [preventative care](#). We all know how hard it is to get rid of the parasites once they get a hold on our fur baby! If you have shaved your pets over summer, allow the hair to grow back in anticipation of cooler weather. Check when your pet last had a health check and book one if it is due.

The storms have been spectacular over summer, and March will still have a few more to throw at us, so keep your pet calm and secure them safely inside, tucked away from the lightning and thunder. Calming music can help, as can a calm owner! If you get upset by storms, then your pet will follow your lead.

The bush fires have forced many of the surviving wildlife to move around to find new sources of food to replace that which the fires consumed. Sadly, that means they are encountering roads and vehicles more often. If you have rescued injured wildlife, or animals injured in the fires, bring them into [our hospital](#) to be treated at no charge to you. We will care for them and provide what they need, and then ensure that they can be released back into the wild at the right time and the right place. Animals and people deserve our compassion after the hard summer we have endured.



This month we cover the following topics.

- ❖ Hip Dysplasia in pets
- ❖ Cataracts in dogs & how we can help
- ❖ Case study- Tankies progress
- ❖ Pet vaccinations
- ❖ Feline asthma
- ❖ Adopt a pet
- ❖ Fun facts and humor and so much more

If your pet has a consistently stinky breath, it is time for them to have a health check. It could just be a dental clean will do it, or it may signal a deeper concern that needs attention. It is always better to have a problem checked [so book a health check appointment here](#).



Feline Asthma

Podcast Link [HERE](#)

Dr Diederik Gelderman Talks about Feline Asthma

Feline upper respiratory disease (URI) is caused by one or more viral or bacterial agents. Some symptoms include wheezing or rapid and laboured breathing, squatting with their shoulders hunched, neck extended & low to the ground. Sometimes they breathe with their mouth open. Dr Diederik explains everything you need to know in this podcast which provides valuable Information for any cat owner.

True or false – dogs can smell bad people! *This interesting video provides scientific proof about how dogs, regarding whether your pup can tell a true dog lover from a dodgy character. It is something that many people wonder about. But dogs do tend to have that insight into the character of a person. The video only takes a minute or two, so have a watch and find out the truth! [Click here to watch.](#)*



All About Cataracts in Dogs

A cataract is best described as an opacity in the lens of your dog's eye which causes their vision to become blurry. The cataract is small to begin with and doesn't affect your dog's vision too much, but if left untreated the become thicker and denser and can lead to blindness. Cataracts can be a result from a disease, trauma to the eye, but usually they come from inherited conditions. If your dog's eyes look cloudy or a bluish gray, then bring them into us for an eye check. Older dogs' eyes can become like this with age (nuclear sclerosis) but it is always a wise move to get this condition checked out. A cataract that is untreated can slip from the tissue that holds it in place, where it can 'float' around in the eye and may block the natural fluid drainage. This in turn can lead to glaucoma which can cause permanent blindness. Some dogs are more prone to cataracts such as the Bichon Frise, Boston Terriers, or Miniature and Standard Poodles. Vision loss caused through cataracts can often be restored through surgery which requires postoperative care. After care requires a relaxed, calm environment and your dog will be required to wear the protective collar (otherwise known as the Elizabethan Collar or Cone) while their eyes heal. Even if your dog has clear eyes, it pays to monitor their health which can be done during a routine health check. As we are fond of saying, prevention is easier (and cheaper) than curing a full-blown health issue. [Call us today](#) and book your pets health check.

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

HIP DYSPLASIA IN PETS – Or Abnormally Formed Hip Joints.

Hip dysplasia in dogs and cats refers to an animal that has abnormally formed hip joint(s) which over time, becomes more painful. It is often an inherited condition although pets don't have to have that genetic link to get the disorder. Early stages of this condition are hard to determine as there are often no symptoms, but it can develop into a limp. Your pet may have difficulty climbing up the stairs or they may show signs of pain when the hip is touched. Constant licking of the hip area is another sign that all is not good. There is no cure for hip dysplasia but there are measures you can take to relieve the pain. To start with, we recommend reducing your pet's weight. Pain relief medication, gentle massage and in some case, surgery can help. Early detection can help your pet, as hip dysplasia worsens as they grow older. Large and giant breeds of dogs are more prone to hip dysplasia, but this condition can affect any dog or cat.

CASE STUDY – Tankie's Progress.

Tankie is a 9-year-old Staffy who was rescued by the Golden Oldies and brought to us with a huge lump on his groin, which was causing considerable discomfort. Sadly, the lump had been there for many years and had now reached a critical stage. The lymph nodes had been affected as well as his penis sheath. After many tests, three weeks of chemotherapy, and a lot of TLC, Tankie is now healing and is well into recovery. The whole surgical procedure was a 3 -4-hour process, and the tumors have been reduced to a much more manageable size and this procedure has extended his life as well as improved the quality of life that this tough stocky character deserves. Since the surgery his healing has been rapid, his chest is clear, his lymph node cancer has disappeared, and this lovely dog is one of our hospital's true characters as he acts as though the place belongs to him including everyone in it. There are 2-3 videos on Tankie which are well worth watching. Tune in [HERE](#) for Tankies story.



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!

To schedule appointments, order pet food and **access FREE information** about pet care - download our app. Go into the App store and type in Highland's Veterinary Hospital. Click the 'Get' button and there you have it!

Do You Have A Horse?

HIGHlands offer veterinary [care for horses](#). From dentistry to health checks, pre purchase or lameness investigations, or the right care for your senior horse. We have you covered so please call us for any health issues your horse may have.



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ADOPT A PET – A new pet is always an exciting time, and if you are adopting a pet from a shelter or rescue service, then you may be a bit unsure of what to expect. The Golden Oldies Animal Rescue have a page on their [website](#) with 10 Tips for bringing home your new best friend! These tips offer valuable information about what to be prepared for, what you need for the new family member, and tips about helping your new pal to adjust to you and your family. Often in the excitement to get a new dog the basics are forgotten. So check out [this page](#) for this excellent resource. They also list dogs that are up for adoption, so it is worth checking out. These dogs are just waiting for their forever homes, so can you help?

Most Popular Pet Names Predicted for 2020

Do you have a new addition to your fur baby family but are stuck for names? Remember that the name should reflect the personality of your pet such as Buster for a strong, outgoing character, or Lady for a gentle, sweet pet. Check out our popular names list, I hope it will give you a few ideas.

Popular Male Pet Names:

Sparky, Bruno, Voodoo, Tyson, Chico, Buddy (an oldie but a good one) Yoda, Bear (perfect for a large fluffy pet), Milo, Caesar, Cody, Ewok, Ninja, Pickles, Salt, Tucker, Whisky, Amigo, Apollo and Karma ... for a dog you don't want to mess with!

Popular Female Pet Names:

Dakota, Luna, Ginger, Dixie, Willow, Angel, Bella (always a popular name), Duchess, Ebony (ideal for a black dog or cat), Munchkin, Mango (as sweet as one), Paisley, Amber, Chaos, Cinnamon, Diva, Foxy, Jewel, Keesha, and just for fun – Jellybean!

Why Vaccinate Your Pet? Safeguarding your pet from a potentially serious or fatal disease is where a vaccination is best, rather than waiting till they get a disease. Most of the diseases we cover with vaccinations are viral by nature, therefore they don't always respond to medication once your pet is affected. Treatment can be long and costly, so prevention is the best option. Your pet will have a comprehensive physical examination prior to the vaccination. This is done to determine what program is most appropriate for your pet and the lifestyle that they live. Both cats and dogs require certain vaccinations for their area and age. Come and talk to use about getting your pet protected, or check out more on our [website page](#).

What is pandiculation in cats?

While this sounds ominous, it is simply the act of yawning and stretching that cats do to warm up their muscles and increase the flow of oxygen to their brain after a relaxing snooze or little activity. Just like an athlete warms up before exercising, so too does your kitty. Stretching and yawning gently limbers up the muscles and it energizes the brain so that your cat can go chase that feather ... if they want too.

Just A Little Humour

Q: Why did the dog keep chasing his tail?

A: He was trying to make ends meet!

Our Website ... HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital

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