



HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital

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Welcome to Your September Newsletter.



Spring is a busy time for pets and owners. Now is the ideal time to up the grooming and help your pet to shed it's winter coat before you are overcome with tumbleweeds of pet hair rolling around your home. There is also an increase of worms, fleas, toads and ticks to contend with as they get more mobile. Even the mosquitoes are buzzing in the warmer air and they may be loaded with heartworm disease to spread to unwary animals. Now is the perfect time for preventative pet health care. Don't wait till your beloved pet gets hammered by these pests when a simple visit to our Hospital can take care of all these nasty parasites and save your pet from suffering. We can help you choose the right combination of care preparations that will keep your pet happy. Spring is a time to enjoy, so implement your preventative care and then get on with enjoying the season. Check out the [list of services](#) that we can offer you and your pet!

From the Friendly Team at HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital

Clients are Loving our new HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital App! It's FREE so make sure you get yours!!

To keep up with the times, we have a new App to manage your pet's health, appointments and earn loyalty points that is the quickest, most effective way to pet management

- Download the FREE APP from **Google Play** or the **App store** and search for HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital
- Create your account on the login page using the email we have on file for you.
- Click the link in the verification email and you are good to go!

Check out the loyalty points, the pet library where you will find tons of information, and our special animal poisons page. Loaded with important information, our HIGHlands Veterinary APP is easy to use! Don't forget to upload a picture of your pet for our pet selfie contest which has great prizes and is on until the end of September. Try our APP, it is free, and gives you immediate contact with our dedicated team who are there to help you.



HEALTH CARE PLANS are designed to provide the best opportunity for good pet health and a long life. To find out more, [click here](#) to see for yourself about what you get and what your pet needs at an affordable monthly payment. Health plans give you peace of mind with easy payment options designed just for you.

THE IMPORTANCE TO TREAT AND PREVENT FLEAS!

Fleas are the number one cause of skin disease and debilitating allergies in pets, ranging from simple itchiness to open weeping sores. Fleas can also transmit tapeworms in dogs and cats, and they also bite humans! It is almost impossible to eliminate these aggravating pests, but prevention is the best management for your pet. Start your pet's prevention treatment before you even see a flea, as once they get a hold they can spread very quickly. Would you believe that the fleas you see on your pet only represent about 5-10 % of the fleas in the environment. Egg and larval stages can be found in your carpets, furniture, bedding and garden. There are products available to help you in your battle, ranging from spot on treatments, flea shampoos, rinses and sprays. Collars and powders are also available. For the home, vacuum your carpet often, wash your pet's blankets weekly and dry them in the sun, spray the house, kennels and yard with an adult flea killer. Talk to the team at HIGHlands - we have been battling these parasites for years and can advise what works best for your situation. Please don't wait for your pet to bring home a flea family, act now to ensure your pet (and your home) are protected. This is one instance when prevention is easier than the treatment. Fleas are not just a summer problem, they can survive all year round, but they are more active in the spring and summer. Implement your flea control plan now and win the war against these tiny dark brown parasitic insects.

Case studies - Bloat - Preventative surgery

The large or giant breed of dog such as Great Danes, German Shepherds, Bassets, Doberman etc. can be prone to a health condition called bloat. This is where the stomach swells up and then twists blocking the inlet and outlet tubes and trapping the gases. It causes massive pressure on the chest and can result in death if not treated. Bloat can occur when your dog eats too quickly, exercises too soon after eating, or even drinks too much water. Treatment for this condition is expensive hence the need for the preventative surgery that is 95% effective against large deep chested dogs getting bloat. A simplistic way to describe this procedure is to say that it involves surgery where the stomach is stitched to the abdominal wall so that the stomach cannot twist. This procedure has a 4-6-week healing time before your dog can get back into active life. Check the [link here](#) where Dr. Diederik Gelderman explains on a Facebook video how this procedure is done - it is fascinating to watch and will give you an understanding of the debilitating condition known as bloat.

HIGHLANDS HAVE JUST HAD OUR FIRST CASE OF TICKS FOR SPRING - Check it out on our [FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

Pluto the dog was brought into see us today as he was having problems walking, was weak in the back and having toileting problems. His owners had found a tick on him and removed it earlier in the week. After a thorough check for more ticks, we gave him some tick antiserum and Bravecto was applied. Pluto was kept in the hospital overnight so that we could monitor his progress, and by the time he went home the next day he was his usual happy bouncy self! Remember to check your pet regularly - including behind and inside the ears, around the eyes, under the collar, under the front legs, between the back legs, and around the tail and between your pets' toes. You can protect your pet by regularly applying a preventative such as Bravecto.

There is a wealth of information about ticks in our Highland Veterinary Hospital APP

Go into the menu and select Pet Health Library and type in 'ticks' and you will find list of articles.

Dr Diederik Gelderman has written a Handout called 'Surviving Tick Paralysis In the Southern Highlands.' For your FREE copy call 02 4872 1144 or email us at

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



DOG OWNERS ARE MORE ACTIVE THAN NON-DOG OWNERS according to a new study in England.

Researchers in England have completed a study which has examined the activity levels between pet owners and non-pet owners.

Not surprisingly, the study found that most people with a dog walked about 300 minutes every week compared to 100 minutes for non-dog owners! Another thing to come from the study was that owners engaged in other physical activities such as pet play with a ball, jogging, or riding a bike. Dog owners seemed to be outgoing simply for the fact that dogs need outdoor activity. A dog is a wonderful excuse to get out and about, and they offer fabulous companionship. With a dog, you will have a devoted and loyal friend for life!



Interesting Vet News - veterinarian uses Codfish skin to heal a badly burned dog.

Brea Sandness and her team at Michigan State University Veterinary Medical Centre have used grafts made of de-scaled codfish skin to heal second and third degree burn wounds on Stella, a one-year old Rottweiler who survived a house fire. The composition of the tissue and high omega 3 fatty acids in the cod skin have anti-inflammatory and antibiotic properties. They act as an organic covering while the skin underneath heals itself. With minimal sedation required to place the skins, this new technique could become a highly effective treatment of the future.

HIGHLANDS Veterinary Hospital.

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JOIN THE FAMILY:
ENJOY THE FREEDOM

It's Time for a Laugh, and a Bit of Fun.

Q. Why does a giraffe have such a long neck? **A. Because his feet stink!**

Q. What do you get when you cross a roll of wool with a kangaroo? **A. A Woollen Jumper....** 😊



For more in-depth information, please go to our Website.

[HIGHLANDS Veterinary Hospital - https://www.highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au/](https://www.highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au/)