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March 2021 Newsletter 🐾 🐾 🐾

March is the beginning of autumn, a beautiful time of the year when the heat of summer starts to drop to more bearable temperatures. Cats and dogs especially love the fallen leaves that tumble around in the wind and make for a good chase, while some dogs love to launch themselves into a newly formed pile of leaves and explode out the other side. All it takes is a few minutes to rake all those leaves into a pile then let your dog loose! It will burn off that excess energy younger pets have and it's easy to organise to provide an entertaining activity for your furry friends 😊

Regardless of the season, remember to stick to your flea and tick prevention measures. It seems these persistent pests never have downtime. Pet owners must be vigilant regardless of the season. If you have an older pet who is starting to suffer from joint pain or arthritis, we recommend **Osteo Advanced 300gm**; it is a new supplement that produces awesome results. There are many copies of 'similar' products, but they don't do as well. Come in and talk to us about the right way to use Osteo Advanced which will give you the best results. But remember many supplements take 4-6 weeks to become effective, so the sooner you start giving them their supplements, the sooner they will get relief in the colder weather. Prevention and early treatment are always best when it comes to pet health.

The Humble Donkey. Earning Their Place in our hearts.

These humble, often sad looking animals are endearing and are a relation to the horse family. The donkey has been used as a working animal for at least 5000 years. You can often see them in poor countries working with their owner, who has piled produce or products onto its back to cart around. They are often referred to as beasts of burden. The donkey adapted to the marginal desert lands and can vary in size depending on the amount of feed available. They like companionship and are often used as a paddock companion for a horse or pony, as they willingly form lasting friendships. Working donkeys in the poorest countries have a life expectancy of 12 – 15 years, whereas in a more prosperous country they can live from between 30 - 50 years. The loud bray of the donkey which typically lasts for about 20 seconds, can be heard as far away as three kilometres. This enables them to communicate with other donkeys when in the large expanses of desert. Their large ears are their trademark, as are their sad looking eyes. One cannot help but love the humble donkey. But they can be stubborn, as they prefer to keep safe rather than take a risk. And they can defend themselves; their kick can deliver a fatal blow and their bite is debilitating. Diederik has been the vet for the organisation [Donkey Welfare with Heart](#) since 1977 and he has a profound knowledge of their diseases and ailments. If you have any questions at all in relation to care of the donkey, please give Diederik a call and he can help. In the past donkeys have had to tolerate misuse and abuse, but they forgive us our sins and the humble donkey has come of age and is now an equal and dependable partner.



Thinking of Buying a Rabbit for Easter?



If you are thinking about getting the children a real live bunny for Easter, please stop and think about it carefully. Like any other pet, a rabbit is a commitment (7 -10 years). You can't toss it in the corner like a toy, it is a living, breathing creature. Rabbits require plenty of hay, vegetables to munch, and a warm cozy nest. They also need a run so they can hop to their hearts content. The rabbit run needs to be shifted often, to give them fresh green grass. And they need protection from the family dog, cat or even small children who can hurt a little bunny without intending to do so. A rabbit isn't low maintenance. Those large floppy ears need care to prevent infection. They have three sets of teeth in their mouth – some in the front for biting, they have four upper front incisors instead of two, plus they have the molars from grinding up food. Like other pets, these teeth need to be cared for and a health checkup with our clinic is required. Have you got the time for a rabbit? If not, buy your children a lovely soft toy bunny, it will be easier to care for and it will decorate a shelf after the fun stops.

Homemade Delicious Treat for Dogs and Cats.

2/3 cup pumpkin puree 1/4 cup peanut butter
2 large eggs 2 1/2 - 3 cups whole wheat flour

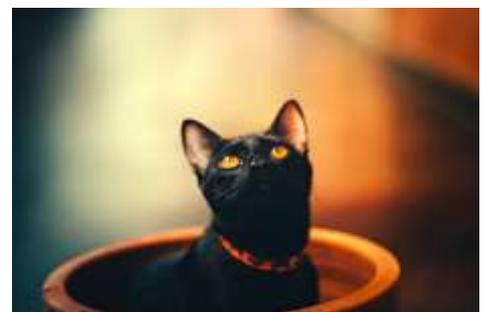
In an electric mixer beat the pumpkin, peanut butter, and eggs for 1-2 minutes. Then gradually add the wheat flour on a low speed. If it is still sticky, add in another ¼ cup of flour. Knead the dough thoroughly then roll dough into ¼ inch thickness. Use cookie cutter to cut out the desired shape, and place onto a prepared baking sheet.

Place into the oven and bake until the edges are a yummy golden brown. – about 20 -25 minutes. Let cool before giving in to those pleading eyes of your dog or cat.

Case Study – Parvo Virus Season.



Every year around summertime, we have an outbreak of Parvo Virus. When it first appeared in 1976 it killed 9 out of 10 dogs infected with the virus. Now that horrendous number has been changed to 9 out 10 dogs who get the virus will survive! There is a misconception that because your dog doesn't go to dog parks or meets with other dogs, that your dog is safe. You think you do not need to [get the vaccination](#) because your dog stays within the boundaries of home. But this is far from the truth. Direct contact is not required to pass this virus around. It has a willing helper to transmit the disease. Flies carry the Parvo Virus which means that the flies can land on infected dog poo in one area, and then bring it right to your dog via special delivery. Treatment for the virus is a long, hard, and expensive process. Getting your dog treated with an annual vaccination is far cheaper, easier, and less invasive for your dog. The vaccination is quick and effective. Why risk your dog's health or life when it can easily be avoided? Check out our video for more details [CLICK HERE](#)



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Check Your Dog's Eyes Regularly to Prevent problems

Problems with your dog's eyes are common, and can range from a mild irritation to conjunctivitis, ocular tumors, blindness, and eye loss. Their eyes are prone to injury from normal dog behaviours such as exploring the great outdoors. Grass seeds and abrasions from generally poking their nose into places they should not, all cause injury to the eye or surrounding area. Bacterial infections will cause eye redness and a mucous discharge. Canine Conjunctivitis can cause swollen eyelids and excessive redness.

Sometimes it can be hard to pinpoint the actual place of irritation, but if your dogs' eye(s) is weeping, red or inflamed, **then it is vital to bring them into us** to find where the problem originates from. Do not try to treat your dog's eyes at home! Eyes are very delicate, and if you try to investigate or use something like a pair of tweezers to extract a small seed, any sudden movement from your dog can cause additional injury. If the cause is internal, we can do a test of the eye area to find what is happening and locate the problem. Sometimes all your dog may need will be a series of eyedrops to ease their discomfort. To stop your dog pawing at their eyes, which only leads to further aggravating the injury, your dog may need a cone around the head for protection. Rather than go into more detail about eye disorders, we just want to stress that if your dog is showing signs of any discomfort relating to their eyes, [it is vital to bring them in](#) and get the condition checked out. Early treatment can avoid an escalating condition. Do not try to treat your dog's eyes at home, their movements are too quick, and the eye area is such a delicate area to risk unprofessional probing.



Looking Ahead to Easter. *Easter is early this year and comes in the first week of April. Easter Eggs are already in the shops and are making their way into homes. Pets love sweet treats, but their bodies are not designed to break down the alkaloid theobromine that is the toxic element in chocolate for dogs. A small chocolate treat can result in an upset stomach, vomiting or diarrhea. In a large amount of chocolate, the theobromine can produce muscle tremors, seizures, an irregular heartbeat, and internal bleeding. Too much can be fatal. Some sweets and cakes are made with xylitol to cut the calorie count, but this substitute has proven to be highly toxic for pets so please cut out giving your pets anything with this sweetener in it. Have some tasty pet treats on hand so your furry buddy can still enjoy something special*



Inappropriate Urination by Your Cat.

Finding cat pee around the house can be distressing to cat owners, but it is important to realise this is not your cat being 'bad' when they pee outside of the litter box. They are behaving in a way that suits their needs at the time. A urinary tract infection or diabetes or even kidney disease are just three common health issues that can cause this change in your cat's toileting behaviour. They require medical assistance to regain their control. Commiserate with your cat and get on with cleaning up the urine. Make sure you remove all the odour so that your cat is not drawn back to the spot because of the smell.



Regarding the litter box, check that it is clean. If it has not been changed for a while, they may do their 'business' beside the litter box rather than in it. Cats are very fussy about cleanliness and will not use a smelly box. If you have a large house, you will need more than one litter box. If your cat is at one end of the house and needs the litterbox, it is a long way from one end of a home to the other and that is when mishaps can occur. A new cat in the house may also make your resident cat feel anxious and they may be marking their territory. A cat that sprays to mark its territory usually squirts a small amount of urine onto a wall or upright object. Whereas with urination your cat will usually leave a puddle. There is a difference between behavioural or health changes. Bring your cat in for a health check and we can help find the cause of the change in their habits. If a health issue is caught in the early stages, it is much easier to treat. Help your cat retain their dignity, get the issues sorted and everyone will be happier.

Senior Care.

Many pets are living longer these days due to better medical services, which is great news. But just like people, their needs often change when they approach those golden years. A cat is considered a senior from 11 to 14 years. Whereas dogs in general may be considered a senior from seven years of age although large dog age more quickly. Putting that into perspective, a Great Dane is a senior at say 6 or 7 years of age, whereas a Chihuahua is only middle aged at 7. Ultimately it comes down to genetics, nutrition, and environment as to when your pet becomes a feisty senior. Age related disease can be very subtle and can creep up on your pet. Through regular examinations and blood tests, we can establish a baseline of what is normal for your pet. This is an excellent tool to check when their appetite wanes or their mood or energy levels are different to normal behaviour. As your pet ages, they need to be examined every six months. Early detection of a disease is vital to successful treatment. A senior pet will require less calories so a change in diet is appropriate for the aging less active pet so that they do not pack on the weight. We can design a diet with a ton of suggestions for your pet's specific nutritional needs. Plus, we can add some supplements that will help your pet enjoy those golden years by staying healthy and mobile. Obesity is a serious condition that contributes to many diseases so avoid this condition in your pet. Exercise will help your senior cat or dog to stay mobile and healthy but do not expect them to do the same level of exercise as when they were young. Walking is excellent, even for cats who can be trained to walk on the lead. Steps are harder to manage for the older pet (as they are for the elderly person) so consider using a ramp for your dog to get in the car, or a ramp up entrance steps. This will save their joints. Many (not all) dogs love to swim, which is a great low impact exercise. But don't over tire them. A dog swim vest can be used for those dogs having trouble remaining buoyant. Maintaining dental health and physical examinations in your senior are important. Pets may experience loss of sight or hearing. If this happens, use hand signals to communicate with a deaf pet. If their sight is impaired, remove obstacles from your pet's path and use pet gates to keep them safe from falling down any stairs. Use your common sense to ensure your senior pet adjusts to the life of an elderly pet. You can teach an old pet new tricks. Finally, mental stimulation is important for pets to enable them to live a healthy happy life so ensure they are mentally exercising as well as physically.

Preventing the preventable! A program for senior pets designed to keep them alive, happy, and healthier for longer. It includes all the health checks plus a lot of freebie extras. It is a 12-month program, and the cost can be paid in monthly instalments. Interested? If so, contact us now as there are limited spots available.

Interesting Facts

Snakes are cold blooded. This means their body temperature changes according to the temperature of their environment, unlike warm blooded animals whose temperature remains constant.

A group of parrots is called a Pandemonium which means wild and noisy, a fitting description for this group of social chatterboxes!

Wombats can run at speeds up to 40 kilometres per hour!! A group of wombats is called a wisdom, mob, or colony of wombats.



Call us anytime you need our help or advice.

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Dealing with Injured Birds.

We have such a wide array of birds in Australia, ranging from the hilarious Kookaburra to the chatty Rainbow Lorikeet and everything in between. But if you find an injured bird, be careful not to restrict their breathing when you pick it up. Put it into a cardboard box with holes punched in the side for ventilation. Birds of prey can inflict a nasty injury with their talons or beak as can large sea birds. Contact an experienced wildlife rescuer to effect rescue. Smaller birds, you can place a towel over the bird ensuring the head is covered, and gently place them in the cardboard box. Wild birds stress easily, so it pays to take them to a vet or wildlife hospital for treatment. It helps to have the local numbers of wildlife experts listed on your phone, as you never know when a wild bird will require your help.

We are here to help for any animal health & welfare concerns.

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