

[highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au](http://highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au)



Learn about  
this silent killer  
of our pets.  
- page 5



Looks what's  
new on our  
website!  
- page 4

# The Better Pet Gazette



## Welcome to our July newsletter!

It has been a busy time during the last month! HIGHLANDS Veterinary Hospital brings you information that is both useful and informative to pet owners.

We have added new pages to our website, including a Pet Gallery. You can share pictures of your favourite pets [here](#). It may be a typical picture of your dog playing in the puddles - all that sloshing around is a delight they love to indulge in. Or perhaps your cat practicing its stalking skills ... on your family's bare feet as they walk past your cat's ambush zone!

Our last month's Facebook Live Talk 'When it is OK to Say Goodbye to Your Furry Friend' covered something that as owners we all dread. Dr Gelderman discusses this in an open and informative manner. If you missed this, you can watch the recording on our Facebook page [here](#). Please note that after the first 1.5 mins of the recording the sound kicks in.

This is only a snippet of what we have available for you this month! So, grab a coffee, settle into a comfortable spot with your furry friend, and enjoy our newsletter...



*The Better Pet Gazette is a monthly newsletter full of informative articles and tips on pet health as well as updates on what's happening at the practice. We hope you enjoy the read!*



## Dental Care Month **SPECIAL OFFER!**

July is Dental Care month, so for all of this month HIGHLANDS Veterinary Hospital is offering **\$100 Off** a dental clean for existing or new clients! We are also offering a **FREE** Deciduous (baby teeth) Teeth Checkup at 20 weeks. Our article on dental care inside explains why this is important.

Please note that you **MUST** refer to our July Dental Care Special when booking your appointment with us to get the discount.



Disclaimer: The content contained in this publication is for information purposes only, and may not apply to your situation. Neither the Publisher nor Authors provide any warranty about the content or accuracy of content enclosed. Information provided is subjective.



# HERO OF THE MONTH

JULY 2021



## Whether it is an accident or an illness, some animals require a helping hand to help them survive.

Recently we had a cat in our care who was in desperate need of a blood transfusion. Up stepped Kelsie, a very healthy 5-year-old dog, who supplied the blood that was so desperately needed.

Like humans, dogs and cats require their donor blood type to match their personal blood type for it to be successful. Many veterinary clinics and hospitals throughout Australia work together to coordinate blood donation programs. They even have a register of dogs and cats who can donate blood in an emergency. Having this blood available for a transfusion can increase the survival rates for animals in need.

Without Kelsie, this poor cat's future looked gloomy. Now kittie has a new lease on life and Kelsie - well, a few well-earned treats and accolades made her day for being a true hero.



The Paws The Pavement Challenge had people and pets out and moving, pounding the pavement - which was great to see! We hope the habit will continue, as exercise is so worth the effort for both owners and pets.

Thank you to all competitors - what a tremendous effort you all gave! You are all winners by participating and we congratulate everyone who entered and gave their best. If you were one of our lucky winners, please feel free to stop into the clinic at any time to collect your prize.

The winners of the competition were as follows:



### Overall Winner (most kms walked):

- A FREE holiday away (worth \$1,250):  
Cathy Putland (59.70kms walked)

### Total Distance Walked prizes:

- 15 kms - 1 x Whimzees Canine Dental Treat:  
Donna Cavanagh, Meegan Jones, David McFarlane
- 30 kms - 1 x Poop Bags:  
Donna Cavanagh, Meegan Jones, David McFarlane
- 50 kms - 1 x Your Drolly Duck Tenders Dog Treats:  
Donna Cavanagh

### Greatest Distance Walked in One Week prize:

- 1 year supply: Bravecto & worming tablets (worth approx \$300):  
David McFarlane - walked 32.50kms in one week with Rusty!

### Best Photo prize:

- 6 mos supply: Bravecto & worming tablets (worth approx \$150):  
Ro O'Donnell

### Free Consult prizes:

Each individual who turned in their total kms walked was entered into a drawing for:

- 1 of 5 FREE consultations at the clinic (worth \$85 each):  
Donna Cavanagh, David McFarlane, Lynn Mayman,  
Lindsay Ellman Brown and Ro O'Donnell

Your FREE consult vouchers are waiting for you! Please contact the clinic to let us know if you would like to pick them up or have us send them to you in the mail. Congratulations again to all competitors.



## Dental Care for Your Pet

### Why It's Important!

Stinky dog or cat breath isn't normal. Okay, maybe after your pet finds and eats a decaying piece of you-don't-want-to-know their breath may pong. But normally, their breath should be as good as yours.

#### Consider a Dental Clean for Your Pet

All pets benefit from dental cleaning, an in-depth procedure that takes place while your furry friend is under very light 'twilight' anaesthesia. It removes the plaque below the gum line where toothbrushes cannot reach.

A dental clean is especially important for dog breeds with a genetic predisposition for dental disease, like many small breeds or dogs who are fed wet food.

Dental disease can turn into serious health problems, especially later in life. It begins when bacteria turns into plaque - and this stuff sticks to the surface of the teeth like glue. The immune system reacts to what it considers an invader, producing inflammatory chemicals which cause damage to the supporting tissues of the teeth.

#### The Causes of Dental Disease in Pets

When it comes down to the cause of canine or feline dental disease, diet is the most common cause. 'Poor' quality saliva is also a big part of the problem. The dry food theory that the texture of the food cleans your pet's teeth is a myth. The reason is that carbohydrates are a large part of major dry foods and these break down into sugars, which stick to your pet's teeth. There is nothing wrong with feeding your pet dry food, you just need to brush and care for those teeth to prevent disease.

#### Good Dental Care Starts Early

A deciduous teeth check is highly advised when a dog is 20 weeks old. Sometimes a deciduous tooth is still in place when the permanent tooth comes through. This is referred to as a persistent tooth. It can cause the new permanent tooth to erupt in an unusual position, resulting in an abnormal bite and tooth crowding.

This can cause food and debris to become trapped between the teeth, causing dental decay. If the new tooth contacts with other teeth or the oral soft tissue, there will be pain and infection. So, it is important to check that all is well.

See our July Dental Month Specials on the front page for a discount on dental cleans and deciduous teeth check!



## Imagine ... 365 days of cute faces!

We are looking for sassy pet pics to grace our 2022 HVH calendar ...

Here is your opportunity to show the world your beautiful pet. The cut-off date for photos is 31 August so you have plenty of time, but sooner is better to secure a place.

All proceeds raised from the sale of the 2022 Calendar will go towards Highlands Veterinary Hospital's new pet rescue organisation called Grey Whiskers Pet Rescue.

\* Please note: photos must be hires (minimum of 1MB in size) and remember to include your name, phone number and email address.

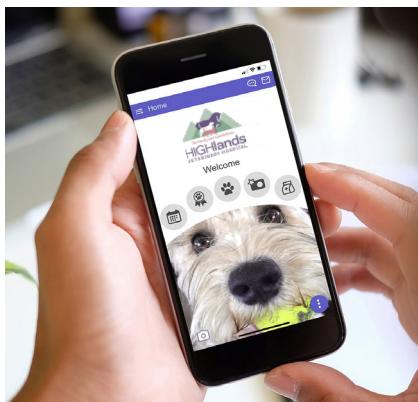
Email your favourite pet pics to: [info@highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au](mailto:info@highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au)

Or, you can upload them to our new Pet Gallery web page by [clicking here](#).

Our 2022 calendar will be full of coupons for discounted Highlands Veterinary Hospital products and services. A calendar that not only makes you smile but saves you money as well!

# look what's new on our website!

If you haven't checked out our website recently, we've just added some new pages (and revamped others) to make it even more friendly and informative. Have a look:



## EARN PAWS & GET REWARDS!

Get Our App and Save ...

Earn PAWs today on our **FREE APP** (for every \$150 you spend you earn one paw print). Collect PAWs and you can cash them in for a free dog wash, dental checkup, nail clip, anal gland expression or put them toward veterinary services.

And remember, if you leave us a review on either **Google** or **Facebook** you will earn one PAW on the app!

If you don't have the app, download it for free at the **App Store** or **Google Play**. Search for Highlands Veterinary Hospital or use your mobile to scan the code:



### Share Your Favourite Pet Pics in Our New Gallery!

We all like to think our pet is extra special, and here at Highlands Veterinary Hospital we love to see what our client's pets get up to at home. That's why we've created a Pet Gallery on our website. We'd love to feature your pets on our website and social media, so click the [link here](#) to upload your pet pics!



### Get Rewards for Reviews!

Your kind words and feedback help us to continue to provide great service to you and your pet. If you enjoyed your visit, please leave us a 5-star review on **Google** or **Facebook**. Doing so will earn you one PAW on your Highlands Veterinary Hospital App. Don't have our app yet? See our article on the left. For more information, see our Reviews page [here](#).



### Be a Hero - Refer Us!

We are most grateful for your kind help in spreading the good word about Highlands Veterinary Hospital and we would be honoured if you would join our Heroes Program. We truly love it when devoted, like-minded people come to us through existing clients. As a reward for putting a good word in for us, we'd like to give you a **\$200 gift card** for every client who joins the Highlands Family that you referred. Please [click here](#) for more information.



### New Pet Health Library!

To help answer questions regarding your pets' health, we have added an extensive library of articles. You can browse by species, breed or topic and get just about any question answered at your fingertips! Check out our Pet Health Library [here](#).

# LIVE JUNE RECAP

## Latest FB Live Talk Covered a Difficult Topic

Our June Facebook Live session covered the sad reality of when it is the right time to say goodbye - a process called humane euthanasia. When age or illness affects your pet's ability to function in a normal capacity or when they can no longer perform some basic bodily functions (such as urinating or defecating on their own) you know it is the time to let them go.

It can be the hardest decision to make, but with respect for your pet you know it is the kindest option. Dr Diederik covered topics such as convenient euthanasia, explaining to children, the process of euthanasia and the emotional toll on owners. Listen to his talk by clicking on the [link here](#).

## Don't Miss Our July Facebook Live Talk ...

Our pets can get into all sorts of trouble, mainly due to their innate curiosity. Do you know what to look for and how to help your pet in an emergency? You can save your pet's life by reacting with knowledge rather than fear.

These topics and more will be answered when you tune into Dr Diederik Gelderman live on **7 July Facebook LIVE at 7pm:**

- Avoiding Ratsak poisoning, signs to look for if your pet has been poisoned.
- What to do if your dog has been hit by a car.
- How to address various types of injuries: stake, cut, rip, tear and bite.
- Snakes: signs to look for if your pet has been bitten by a snake and how to treat.
- Ticks: signs to look for if your pet has been bitten by a tick and how to treat.



## A SILENT KILLER

This is a timely topic right now... Rat bait is called a 'silent killer' because it shows no signs in your pet of having been ingested for at least a week.

Rat poison acts as an anticoagulant (preventing blood from clotting) by depleting the body's supply of vitamin K. Daily movements results in micro damage to the blood vessels at a capillary level. This damages gets repaired automatically by a healthy body. However, when the clotting system is compromised by rat poison, these minor traumas are unable to be repaired and the body continues to bleed.

Signs of poisoning include:

- Pale gums or small pinpoint haemorrhages on the gums.
- Lethargy, vomiting, diarrhoea, seizures or muscle tremors and lameness.
- Blood in the urine/faeces, nose bleeds, continued bleeding from cuts or small wounds.
- Coughing, or laboured or rapid breathing.

Eventually, your dog will bleed into their urine, from the mouth or into the gut, and the blood will not clot. This can be **FATAL** if left untreated.

If you suspect your pet has eaten rat bait **CALL US IMMEDIATELY on (02) 4872 1144.**



*Join us for our Facebook LIVE talks the first Wed of every month @ 7:00pm:  
[facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital](https://facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital)*

*Get all of your questions answered about some of the most common pet topics. We'll also be featuring some guests to the show as well!*



**a** 66 Old Hume Highway, Braemar NSW 2575

**t** 02 4872 1144 **e** [info@highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au](mailto:info@highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au)

**w** [highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au](http://highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au)