

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



Learn about unwanted parasites!  
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Check out our new Grow Cart.  
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# The Better Pet Gazette

For the month of October we are focusing on parasites - of which Australia has its fair share! There are a host of internal and external parasites that can affect your pet's health.

As the weather warms up, so do the parasites - with fleas, ticks and worms being the most common parasite affecting Australian pets. They can cause severe illness, or even death.

Prevention is the best option to control external parasites, while regular worming treatments can prevent internal havoc. Worms are an uncomfortable topic, they are not fun in any sort of way. But you must be aware of them and act accordingly to prevent these invasive pests from causing harm.

For more information on parasite prevention and tips in dealing with them, please see the articles inside this issue. Also read up on these topics:

- **The October Hero of the Month:** Unicorn, one courageous cat.
- **Our recent Puppy School graduates:** cute and smart!
- **HVH's latest recycling efforts:** including our new Grow Cart.
- **October's Adopt-a-Pet orphans:** loveable Zelda and Shadow.
- **Notice something different?** We've got new uniforms!
- **Introducing our Work Experience stars:** Tara and Anna.
- **Santa Paws & Claws Photos:** an update on this fun event.
- **Facebook LIVE talks:** some great topics for pet owners.
- **Our website:** a great resource, plus new pages added!



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!



We have created a new video on parasites to help you understand how they work to undermine the health of your pet. It shows you ways to prevent and treat these loathsome pests! Check it out [here](#).

This month only, if you refer to our parasites video, you will get a healthy **10% discount** on the price of any of our parasite-related products, such as Bravecto, worming tablets, etc.

Please note that you **MUST** refer to our 'October Parasite Video Special' to get the discount.



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# 5 dreaded worms in dogs

## 1. HEARTWORM

is contracted from the bite of an infected mosquito. It's the deadliest of all canine parasites. The larvae of the worm mature into adult heartworms that lodge in the heart and lungs. They can be up to 30cm long! Symptoms include difficulty in breathing, lethargy, weight loss, vomiting and diarrhoea.

## 2. TAPEWORM

infection follows the ingestion of flea larvae. Tapeworms attach themselves to the small intestine wall. A common symptom is white segments that look like rice either on your pet or in their stool.

## 3. ROUNDWORM

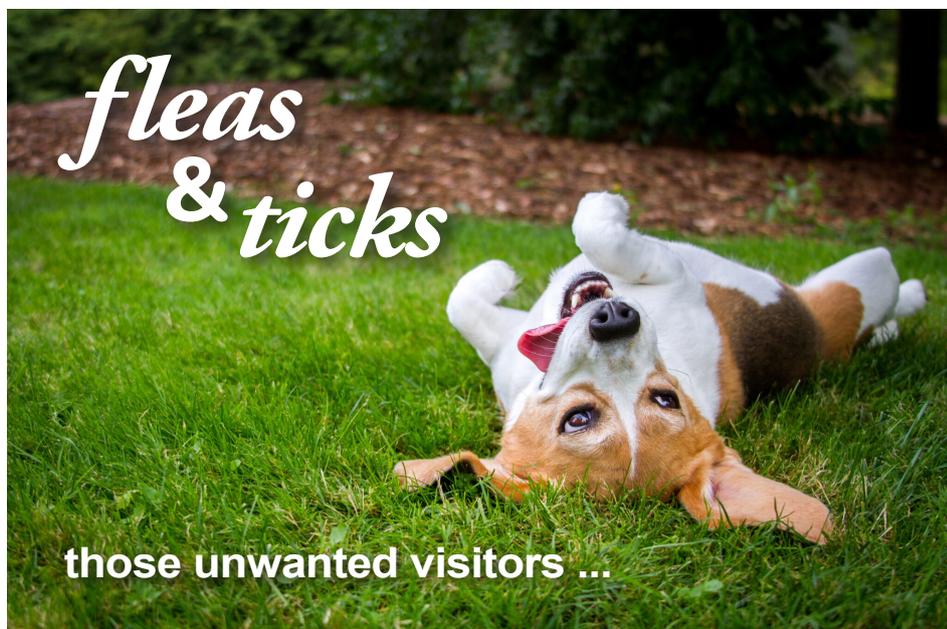
pretty much every puppy is born with roundworms, or they can become infected while nursing. They reside in the intestines, feeding off partially digested intestinal contents. Roundworms affect cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and mice.

## 4. HOOKWORMS

are small, thin worms that live in the intestines and they have hook-like teeth that help them to attach to the intestinal wall to feed off blood. Symptoms include intestinal distress, bloody diarrhoea, weight loss, pale gums, and general poor condition.

## 5. WHIPWORMS

these parasitic worms are only found in dogs. They inhabit the large intestine and feed on their host's blood (kind of like a vampire worm)! The whipworm eggs are highly resistant and can survive in the external environment for up to several years.



*Fleas and ticks are two of the most frequent pet care concerns in Australia. While prevention is the best defense against these parasites, it's important to be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of fleas and ticks so you can help your pets if necessary. Prevention products work best with these parasites and keeping up with the prevention treatments is vital.*

### **Fleas are the most common parasite of our pets**

The adult flea is a prolific breeder and the adult lays the eggs right onto their host (i.e. your cat or dog), many of which roll off into the garden environment. Your dog or cat doesn't have to come into contact with other animals who have a case of fleas. They can just pick the eggs up from the environment, which is why it is so hard to get rid of these pests once they move in.

Some pets have a severe allergy to flea bites, which can be unbearably itchy. Significant damage can be done by your pet trying to relieve themselves of this discomfort. To get rid of fleas, you have to treat not only your pet(s) but the home and garden.

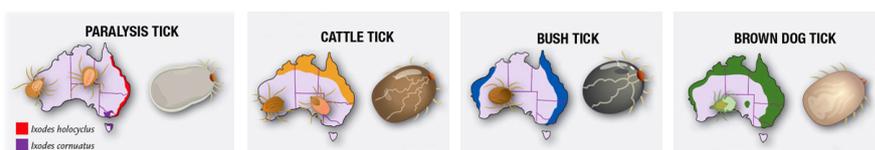
### **Always be on the lookout for ticks on your pet**

With the relatively mild winter and then recent wet weather, followed by warm weather; this is the ideal time for ticks to be out in force. Pet owners need to be vigilant.

Paralysis ticks live along the east coast of Australia where they flourish due to the warm, humid conditions. Tick eggs hatch into six-legged critters that go looking for a nice tasty host - i.e your pet. The adult tick is dangerous. The paralysis tick produces a nasty toxin in their saliva that affects the nervous system of the host animal. It is usually the female adult tick that causes paralysis.

Finding a tick is tricky as they like to hide in your pet's fur. When removing a tick, take care not to squeeze the body of the tick as it could inject more toxin into the dog. Your pet is still not out of the woods once the tick is removed. If you are in doubt, bring your pet to us and we can check their health..

*See the front cover regarding our October special of 10% off parasite-related products when you cite our new pet parasites video!*



# 'Tis the season for ... itches, scratches & bites!

**f LIVE** Highlands  
Veterinary  
Hospital

06 · OCT · 2021 · 7:00PM



If you dread spring-time, when your pet spends most of their time kicking or itching themselves - then **this Facebook LIVE talk** is for you! Dr Gelderman will discuss how to handle the effects of pesky parasites such as: fleas, ticks and ear mites. Plus, he will cover allergy reactions that can make you and your pets' life miserable. From simple preventative measures to how to manage medications or creams for your pet. This talk is packed with useful information you won't want to miss!

Tune in **here** to Facebook LIVE on Wed, 6 October 7:00pm:  
"Tis the Season for Itches, Scratches and Bites!"

## SEPTEMBER FB TALK RECAP

### "Why Vets are So Expensive ... and What You Can Do About It"

This video was an eye-opener for many, as the perception of the veterinary career is quite different to reality. Whilst you may think that being a vet catapults you to instant wealth and glory, this is the exception rather than the rule.



Just one of the reasons vets and staff struggle to make a living is due to the high cost of medicines and drugs - and the latest equipment that requires a crippling investment. Cheaper drugs pushed by online outlets are not the answer. Studies have found the quality of the drug varies dramatically depending on the firm that makes it, how it is stored (sunlight and heat during storage or shelf displays can render a drug useless), and the grade of the ingredients used to make the drug. Most vets are ethical and buy the more expensive but trusted brands.

I advise you to view this Facebook Live talk, where Dr Gelderman also divulges the two most important ways to keep your pet healthy and live longer. If you missed this talk, you can view **Part 1** and **Part 2** [here](#), or read the transcript [here](#).



The friendly road to pet Wellness

**HIGHlands**  
VETERINARY HOSPITAL



## Notice something different?

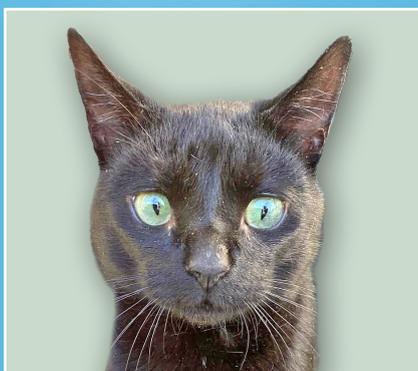
HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital is always changing and updating - our uniforms are no exception!

You may notice something different on your next visit to our hospital. We have added a new uniform for the nurses when they are working in the surgery area. The new scrubs are more comfortable and appropriate for surgery work and general animal handling.

The purple tops are the same, but the trousers are a more updated business-style pant. We also added a very smart black jacket for cold days. This uniform will be worn for reception work also.

Talk about stylish! I hope Ava (our clinic dog) scored herself a new cape or collar to match!!

# Adopt A Pet



**Shadow** was sadly surrendered to **Little Beans Cat & Kitten Rescue** recently. He is a one year-old boisterous boy. He still adjusting to his new environment, but is good-natured and loving.

Shadow is a brave one, ready to explore and very curious. He loves a good scratch and cuddle. Bursting with good health and eager for his forever home, Shadow is raring to go. He seems to be great with children and has been nose-to-nose with dogs without an issue.

If you're looking for a companion, please act quickly, as this beautiful cat will assuredly find a loving new home soon.

Enquire at:  
[facebook.com/littlebeansrescue](https://www.facebook.com/littlebeansrescue)  
Or email:  
[littlebeansrescue@gmail.com](mailto:littlebeansrescue@gmail.com)



## work experience: working their way to the top

To be given the chance to do work experience means you can develop your skills and 'test' a position out to see how it fits with you. It also makes you more employable and could lead to a full-time position.

Not only that, work experience broadens your network while increasing your motivation to achieve the education and qualifications that the job requires.

Tara is a confirmed animal lover and has two energetic Border Collies to prove it. She is now working on her Certificate 4 in Veterinary Nursing and has found a niche that she loves. Her goal is to become a full-time Veterinary Nurse, but for now she enjoys every moment at HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital for her work experience.

Anna is originally from America and has made Australia her home. Her passion for animal welfare has led her to her current studies of a Certificate 3 in Animal Studies. Her ultimate goal is to become a Vet. That is a true commitment, as it takes approximately 8 years of study to get the qualifications. Anna loves animals and lives on a hobby farm, where she has a menagerie of animals that call it home.

HIGHland Veterinary Hospital is an avid supporter of these two dedicated people, and Tara and Anna are loving the Highlands experience. Make sure you say 'hi' to them on your next visit to the clinic.



Recently we talked about our proposed **Santa Paws & Claws photos** for your pets. We've had a great response to this idea already!

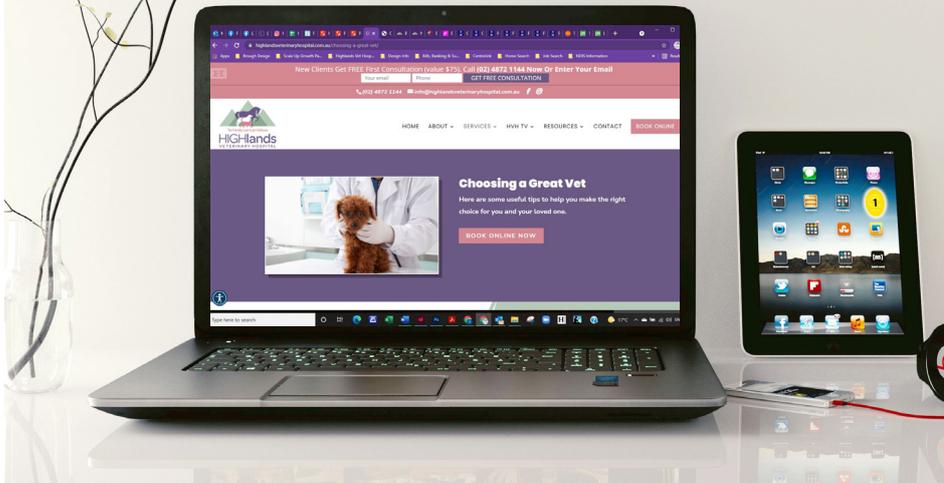
We've decided to go with a typical Australian Christmas setting, and are busy planning the details so that we can confirm those with you soon.

We all know how busy life gets around Christmas-time and we don't want our pets to miss out, so what could be more fun than getting an early holiday photo of your pet?

Part of any profit made will also help a worthy cause, our newly formed **Grey Whiskers Pet Rescue Group!**

*No date is set for this yet, but expressions of interest would be great - please let us know you are interested so we can save you a spot!*

# what's new?



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

We are trying to make our website the hub for all your pet care health and welfare information. Each new page on HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital's website offers a wealth of information so you can decide on the type of care required for your beloved pet.

Some of our new website pages have a ton of tips designed to help you understand what your pet requires and where to go from there. Others have questionnaires designed to save time, such as registering as a new client - so you can spend more time interacting with our vet and staff rather than filling in forms.

## What's new under 'Services'

Not only have we revamped the **Services** page, we've also added some pages to the Services menu (so you know what we can do): **Choosing a Great Vet**, **New Pet Owners** and **Prices**. These explain what our services are - we don't just gloss over these, we explain why the service is required, how we will do it, what your costs may be and much much more.

## New online forms and tools

In the Resources menu, **Online Forms** now includes the form

you need to register as a **New Client** (you can do this any time it suits you), add a **New Pet** or give **Authority for Euthanasia** as well as questionnaires about **Osteoarthritis & Lameness**, **Quality of Life** and **Skin & Allergies**. These

questionnaires help us understand your pet's health issues, which assist us in giving your pet the best care possible.

## Pre-book online!

Did you know that you can pre-book appointments for your pets by logging into our website or by using our HIGHlands App?

Go to our website **home page**, log in to **book online**, fill in your details (your email address and your password), and then log into the appointment area to book the time and date that suits you best.

How easy is that? Just follow the prompts. You can scan the QR Code (take a photo) with your phone to keep track of your appointment.



## the benefits of a HYDROBATH

Persistent scratching can consume a dog's life and can drive an owner insane! To help you out, we

are giving away a **FREE dog wash token** with every shampoo purchase of *Blackmores Nutriderm Itchy Skin Replenishing Shampoo and Conditioner*.



A deep cleansing soak in our hydrobath will provide soothing relief for your dog. The spray head produces a unique action that massages and stimulates the skin. It is an effective way of washing your dog, but it also provides a therapeutic water massage while still preserving the natural oil layer of your pet's fur.

The hydrobath is easy to use - the hardest thing will be to get your dog to get out of the bath! Hydrobaths are a great way to keep your dog clean and help with allergies. It also assists in killing fleas, controlling parasites, and is a great way to keep your dogs' skin and coat healthy.

The *Blackmores Nutriderm Itchy Skin Replenishing Shampoo and Conditioner* is ideal for itchy skin. It's a gentle, hypoallergenic product that's designed to soothe your dog's itches and calm the skin. So, grab your anti-itch solution and head to the hydrobath - and let dog itching be a thing of the past!

*\* Please note that bringing your dog to the clinic's hydrobath is permitted under current lockdown regulations. Just remember to wear your mask and adhere to social distancing rules.*



# COME. PLAY. SIT. STAY.

What could be cuter than graduation night for the *For Paw's Sake* Baby Puppy Preschool Program puppies and their dedicated guardians? Our congratulations go out to: Paddy the Border Collie, Jimmy the Australian Silky Terrier, Florence the West Highland Terrier, Marvin the Curly Coated Retriever and all their wonderful guardians.

Also congratulations on a great effort from our most recent class: Ralph the Dachshund, Marty the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and Rubble the Australia Cattle Dog, Coco the Cavoodle and their amazing guardians. Well done everyone!!

Every puppy deserves the best start to life in their new home with their guardians. And our *For Paw's Sake* Puppy Pre-school does just that - it catapults them to new heights and gives them a booster shot at life. Have a look at our *HIGHLANDS* Veterinary Hospital Facebook page for more engaging photos of the graduates:

[facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital](https://facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital)



think green.  
be smart.  
recycle!



### Introducing our new grow cart ...

[highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au/braemer-nsw-grow-cart](http://highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au/braemer-nsw-grow-cart)

Like many people who care for the environment, HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital is doing its part to reduce waste and recycle. You may have noticed our new Grow Cart out the front. Feel free to take anything you need! Or, contribute any excess produce you may have, such as eggs, herbs, veggies, chutney, fruit, etc.

Worm tea is a natural liquid fertilizer from our two worm farms and is ideal to help boost plant growth in your garden. We also have an abundant supply of shredded paper that you can use for your chickens, rabbits, or guinea pigs. Or, use it as packing material.

Call in anytime and take what you need - you don't need our permission. Just help yourself!



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### Unicorn initially came to us through Little Beans Cat & Kitten Rescue for a check-up and a little TLC.

She was very nervous at first, but was soon smooching with Dr. Diederik and the team. Now this lovely little cat has found her forever home. The caregivers at the *Little Beans Cat & Kitten Rescue* say that she has adapted very well to her new home and has the most doting, loving parents.

Did you know that white cats aren't linked to a specific breed? This colouration is caused by a dominant W gene, known as a masking gene. It 'hides' every other coat colour and pattern in your cat's genetic makeup and as a result: a beautiful snowy white cat! All white cats have striking eyes, which are linked to melanin production. Some have two completely different coloured eyes.

Unicorn is a true hero, adjusting first to our clinic (where we were blessed with her presence) and then to her forever home. All cats deserve a safe home. HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital is a continual supporter of **Little Beans Cat & Kitten Rescue**.