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Look how much we appreciate your referrals...
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The Better Pet Gazette



“ Thank you for being part of the HIGHlands family, we care as much for your pet’s health and happiness as you do! ”

We would like to thank you for your unwavering support and the trust you place in us with your pet.

They are such valuable members of your family, so we want to ensure that when they visit us, they feel like we are a home away from home for them. Starting with a calm warm welcome, a stress-free environment, plenty of loving cuddles and of course a few well-earned treats, your pet will happily settle in. Your pets are an integral part of our family of pet care professionals.

From dental care to arthritis management and everything in between, we can help your pet to live a healthy dignified life free from pain. Thank you for being part of the HIGHlands family, we care as much for your pet’s health and happiness as you do!



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!

contents

Look what we’ve packed into this month’s edition. Grab a cuppa and enjoy:

- **Getting the snip:** compelling reasons to desex your pet.
- **Facebook Live talks:** new date/time for upcoming talks!
- **Get it while it’s hot:** our Super Soak Special is still on!
- **Our Feb ‘Hero of the Month’:** Parkie the brave kitten.
- **February’s ‘Adopt-A-Pet’ Orphan:** the stunning Stella!
- **Referral Rewards 2022:** earn huge rewards for referrals!
- **Competition Winners:** of our Australia Day Pet Photo contest!



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the facts about **desexing** *and why it's best for your dog*

Many pet owners agonise over whether they should get their pets desexed. Unless your pet is for the purpose of breeding, desexing is the right thing to do in this overcrowded pet population. There are also many very good reasons for having your pet desexed, all health and behaviour-related.



7 benefits to male dogs:

- 1 Eliminate hormone-driven wandering:**
Desexing eliminates the hormonally-driven urge to wander the neighborhood.
- 2 Inappropriate Leg Lifting:**
Most undesexed male dogs have the hormonal urge to constantly mark their territory. Reduction in the level of testosterone in the body by desexing reduces the desire to scent mark.
- 3 Houstraining:**
Some male dogs, especially small breeds, can be impossible to houstrain if you leave it too long before desexing.
- 4 Prevent testicular cancers:**
Desexing is the only foolproof method of eliminating testicular cancers in your dog.
- 5 Reduce the risk of prostatic disease:**
Prostatic disease is a fairly common disorder in mature, undesexed male dogs. Your dog will suffer from constipation due to an enlarged prostate causing narrowing of the bowel. Desexing greatly reduces the risk of this developing, as it removes your dog's main source of testosterone.
- 6 Dominance behaviors:**
Many problem behaviours are a result of a testosterone-driven, "frustrated" dog.
- 7 Aggression towards people or other dogs:**
Desexing is the first step in the management of problem aggression.

8 benefits to female dogs:

- 1 Prevent Ovarian and Uterine Cancer:**
Desexing your female dog removes both the uterus and ovaries, preventing cancer of these organs.
- 2 Reduce the risk of Mammary Cancer:**
If desexed prior to her first heat season, the risk of mammary cancer later in life is virtually eliminated
- 3 Prevention of Pyometra:**
Treatment is expensive and without it Pyometra is fatal. It is inevitable that Pyometra will eventually occur if a female dog is left undesexed.
- 4 Escape and wandering:**
When in heat, hormones will drive a female dog to escape even the most secure house or yard. Desexing removes this urge.
- 5 Cleanliness:**
Desexing eliminates the female dog's need to urinate more frequently and bloody stains around the house when she is in heat.
- 6 Population control:**
Unwanted pregnancies quickly contribute to the huge numbers of abandoned and unwanted dogs.
- 7 Unwanted behaviors and pain:**
When in heat, a female dog may show erratic behaviour and sometimes signs of pain that may be similar to cramping in humans.
- 8 Aggression:**
Being in season can cause "moodiness" and hormonal changes during pregnancy, making some females downright aggressive.

upcoming

@  **LIVE TALKS**

**NEW
DATE &
TIME!**

Join us on your
lunch break:

02.02.22
@ 12:30pm



desexing your pets

why it's important

 **LIVE** Highlands
Veterinary
Hospital

02 · FEB · 2022 · 12:30PM

ALERT: We have a change in time and date for our Facebook LIVE Talks. They will be on the first Wed of each month, at a new time of 12.30pm.

Listen as Dr. Diederik explains the process and expounds on the benefits of desexing your pet: from population control to better health and eliminating problem behaviors.

Pets live longer and are a lot healthier after this operation. As an example, desexed female pets are less likely to get mammary cancer or uterine infections. Male cats and dogs are less aggressive, more tolerant and better behaved animals afterward. Your pets won't be tempted to stray, yodel at night or spray around the house.

With so many pets looking for homes and an exploding pet population, the best way to overcome this sad situation is to get your pet desexed to avoid unwanted puppies and kittens being dumped or euthanised.

Join us on your lunch break on Wed, 2 Feb at 12:30pm on Facebook Live [here](#).



summer soak

SPECIAL

Its summer, and your dog loves to get out and make the most of it. That means rolling around in the dirt, splashing around in a muddy puddle, and anything else they can find to roll in. Which means they will need a bath before heading home!

Take advantage of our doggie day spa - our special is still going.... get a **FREE** dog wash token with the purchase of 5 tokens.*

PLUS, receive a voucher for a **FREE** nail clip for your pet!

PLUS, receive a complimentary microfibre towel if you are one of the first 10 people that claim this offer!

No more hassles trying to bathe your dog at home. No more stinky dog. It's a win-win situation!

Our hydrobath is available for use 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, with lights and security cameras after hours.

** Please note dog wash tokens must be purchased in the same transaction.*



Join us on your
lunch break:

02.03.22
@ 12:30pm



getting the jab...

a must, especially
in parvo season!

 **LIVE** Highlands
Veterinary
Hospital

02 · MAR · 2022 · 12:30PM

Canine Parvovirus (aka 'Parvo') is a deadly virus in Australia that affects dogs and puppies. Parvo kills more pet dogs than any other virus. The disease causes terrible vomiting, followed by diarrhoea, then sadly dehydration and often death.

Vaccinations are the weapon to fight against this deadly virus. Tune into hear Dr Diederik on Wed 2nd March at 12:30pm. He will tell you all you need to know about Parvo and how to protect your beloved pooch.

Join us on your lunch break on Wed, 2 Mar at 12:30pm on Facebook Live [here](#).

Adopt A Pet



Stella not only looks stunning, but she has a caring, loving nature. She is 1½ years old and has just finished raising her own 4 kittens, but also cared for 3 orphan babies at the same time! Stella has the tolerance of an angel and enjoys the company of other animals.

She has a long coat and soft fur, green eyes, and a loving gaze that could melt butter. Stella would make a loyal and caring companion or would fit into a lively modern family.

Getting Stella her forever home would make 2022 the best year ever for her and the team of care givers at *Little Beans Cat and Kitten Rescue*.

If you are interested and would like to know more, contact *Little Beans Cat and Kitten Rescue* by clicking on their website [here](#) or their Facebook profile [here](#). Or email:

littlebeansrescue@gmail.com



A couple of weeks ago, a little kitten and his siblings were surrendered. One of them, Parkie, was not enjoying the growth and development that his other siblings were.

On closer examination, it was discovered that Parkie had a congenital birth defect called Pectus Excavatum. This literally means his ribcage goes up inside him. This is a very rare condition, which means Parkie only has a third of the capacity of his chest compared to that of a normal kitten.

Although Parkie is walking and eating well now, he would not have survived without surgical help. The solution was to fit a splint/brace over his chest, using sutures in the sternum to pull the ribcage back to its normal position. Luckily, a kitten as young as Parkie has flexible bones at this stage of life, so this procedure frees up his chest area and gives his heart more room to grow.

The operation will be done in two to three stages, 7-10 days apart, allowing for growth and rehabilitation. The first stage has been done and Parkie has been a little trooper. He was walking around the next day, grumbling for

cuddles and attention. He is on pain relief medication, and his body has been wrapped in soft padding to avoid pressure sores. For the next few days, Parkie will be in recovery mode. After that we will proceed with stage two, which won't be quite so extensive. His courage and acceptance of the situation goes to show what a true hero this little ten-week-old kitten is. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

Parkie Update:

Parkie is an amazing little kitty - his xrays show great improvement with his ribcage placement. He is a tiny ball of energy with a lion-sized personality! Brighter, happier and adjusting well to his surgery.

In about another week, we will adjust and tighten his sutures. In another three weeks, his splint will come off, leaving him to attack and capture as many hearts as he can! Check the update video by clicking [here](#).



contest alert!

You don't want to miss this fun competition...

March is the month, but here is a little teaser for you. It is about counting the puppies on an Xray. So, I hear you, you think that will be easy? We'll see.

What do you win?

Well, we will keep you in suspense, but it will be worth your while.



2022 REFERRAL REWARDS

We are so grateful, honoured and proud when one of your friends, colleagues or family members comes to see us by your referral.



You can earn a **holiday voucher, worth \$1,250** just be one of the 2 people with the most referrals for 2022!



Earn an extra **special gift** if you refer more than 4 people to us!



Plus, earn a **gift card, worth \$200** each and every time you send someone our way!



highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au/highlands-veterinary-hospital-referral-rewards

When you recommend our business or suggest us to a friend, family member, workmate or whomever, it shows how much you trust and rely on us. To us, that is the highest accolade that we can get. And we are so grateful for your referral that we will reward you for your effort!

As you may or may not know, we so appreciate your trust in us that when you send someone our way, you will receive a \$200 voucher from us to spend on any way you like! You can also earn an extra special gift from us when you refer more than 4 people to us.

In 2022, we are keeping track of the number of referrals we get from you and in addition to the \$200 voucher, we will give the two people who sent us the greatest number of referrals a holiday voucher valued at \$1,250!

Be sure you tell the person referred to tell us that you sent them, so you get the kudos! Thank you for all your help, you are a valued client and friend!

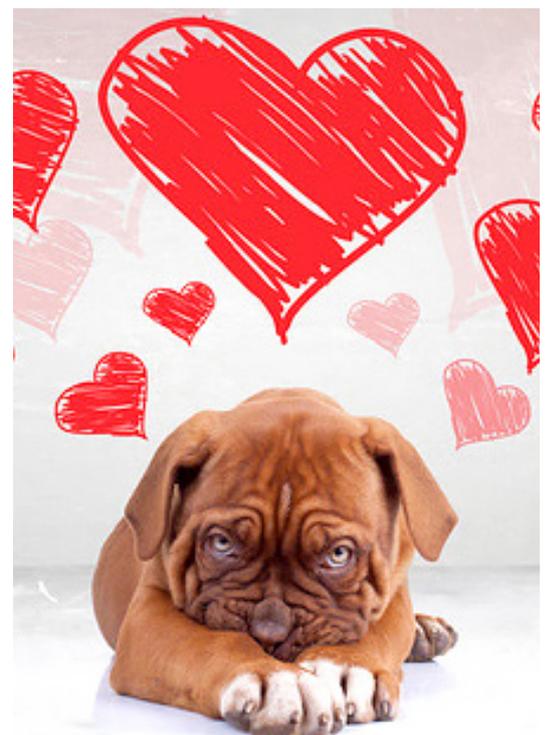
a day of love...

Valentines Day used to be a day devoted to the people who mean the most to us. It's now evolved to include the love and appreciation of our pets. Yes, that's right - pets! If you are looking for something special to do with your pet on V-day, here are some great ideas:

- Consider taking your pup out for a mug of Puppuccino at your local café. Watch them delight in slurping the frothy milk.
- Poach up a little salmon for your cat.
- How about more flying time for your bird, or perhaps some free range grazing for your rabbit? However, pets are not as interested in 'things' as they are in your company.
- How about a day of cuddles, playing games, making your lap available for a snooze, or going for a long walk on a warm summers evening? Show your pet some love this Valentine's Day.

Don't have a pet but love animals? You can donate tins of food, blankets, etc to shelters and pet rescue organisations. You don't have to own a pet to show your love for them.

* **WARNING** - Chocolate is toxic to pets so please make sure you keep all chocolates treats up out of their reach.





COME. PLAY. SIT. STAY.

february 2022 puppy preschool graduates

T'was the night before Xmas Eve and all was quiet at HIGHlands, nothing was stirring not even a pet... til these adorable puppies arrived for their graduation in the last For Paws Sake Baby Preschool Class of the Year 2021: Kovi the lively Border Collie stepped up to the mark, Coco the speedy Jack Russell /Cross Patterdale Terrier took off with a bark, and Fox the Moodle demonstrated exceptional smarts.

Each and every one of them gave up their best, while the guardians felt their pride swell in their chest! Who will be the next to graduate with style? Hang in there with us and we'll tell you in a while.



announcing the **WINNERS!**



I congratulate Dr. Dick and his wonderful team for a marvellous Veterinary practice.

I came with two very sick animals, and the care they provided was exceptional. My dog, Olivia, is now bounding with joy and senior energy and no longer in pain and discomfort.

Her “sister” Mouse, a Siamese cat of similar age, developed an unusual disease that Dr Dick diagnosed and did everything possible in the 3 days we had to stop her organs shutting down. I was grieving when she died, and the team embraced me and her. They arranged her cremation and sent beautiful flowers, a message on a lovely card about her, and a lovely brass plaque in their pet memorial garden.

All I can say is this is a professional 5-star vet practice that makes me feel they are part of the family. Thank you from Olivia, Felicity, Mouse, and Pamela.

Pamela D.

Our "Go Aussie with Your Pet" photo competition got people interacting and having fun with their pets on Australia Day, which was exactly our aim!

We loved seeing such great Aussie spirit, with pets clearly loving the experience and their owners enjoying spending time with them.

Well done to everyone and congratulations to the winners! See all the photos on our **Facebook page** (in the comments section on the post pinned to the top).



Our First Place Winner...

This awesome photo of a very patriotic Oliver was taken by Stephen Sizer. He is the winner of a **holiday travel voucher, worth \$1,250!**

Our Second Place Winner...

Milly was a bit camera shy, but nonetheless her Aussie spirit earned her and owner, Lisa Harris, a **3kg bag of Delicate Care Adult for Dogs.**



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