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The Better Pet Gazette



Owning a pet can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life, but with this reward comes great responsibility.

Ensuring that your pets are up-to-date with their healthcare requirements, that their needs are being met, and that they are in great shape are essential for a healthy and fulfilling life for you both.

Life is supposed to be fun, such as long walks through the bush or idle strolls along the beach with your dog. If you have a cat, it might be playing a game of catch 'n kill with their favourite toy or just cuddling in comfort. All of this is possible because your pet is healthy and strong. Let's keep it that way!

As summer morphs into spring, now is a good time to ensure your pet is primed and fit for the months ahead and that you nip in the bud any minor health problems. If you have any problem, no matter how small it may seem, please give us a call or drop in to see us. Small problems can soon escalate into big ones. We would rather catch a smaller issue and deal with it than waiting till later!



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

Here's what we're covering in this month's issue:

- **Win big:** guess the number of pups on the xray competition!
- **Breed profile:** St Patricks Day, so all about the Irish Wolfhound.
- **Parvovirus alert:** make sure your pet is vaccinated!
- **Facebook Live talks:** a review of our February talk and what's on for March.
- **Pyometra:** a serious condition for undesexed cats.
- **March's 'Hero of the Month':** Sam the survivor.
- **March's 'Adopt-A-Pet' Orphan:** Rebel, who's no rebel!
- **Deferit to the rescue:** take the pressure off your vet bills.



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Sam came to visit us after suffering two episodes of vomiting, not eating, and finally collapsing!

On arriving at HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Helen took the beautiful Golden Retriever, Sam, under her caring wing and promptly did an ultrasound test.

The result found a gall bladder mucocoele with localised peritonitis. This condition refers to an over-extended gall bladder filled with mucoid or clear watery content. Usually, the condition is the result of a blocked outlet of the gall bladder. Bacteria can enter but is confined or localised to the area.

Thankfully, localised peritonitis is less life-threatening than the generalised version, which often spreads throughout the body. It can cause sepsis and often the demise of the host.

Sam was immediately attended to and is now on medication. This has enabled Sam to overcome the condition and he is now living his best life, which gives us great pleasure. Way to go Sam!



March means St Patrick's Day! To celebrate the Irish, we are profiling one of the most famous breeds of dog to come out of that country: the Irish Wolfhound.

St Patrick's Day is the feast day of a patron saint of Ireland, St Patrick, who was originally celebrated with religious feasts and services. St Patrick is credited with bringing Christianity to parts of Ireland.

St Patrick's Day became a secular celebration of Irish culture when it reached the US, alongside Irish immigrants. March 17th marks the anniversary of St Patrick's death in 461.

The Irish Wolfhound is one of the most well-known of Irish dog breeds. This impressive dog is the tallest dog in the world, with a male Wolfhound standing at .8128 metres (81.28 cm). If he is standing on his hind legs, he will reach 2.134 metres tall! Despite their size, they are a gentle giant, being sweet tempered, dignified, patient, thoughtful and loyal. They come in a variety of colours from black, white, brindle, fawn, grey and red.

This gentle giant dates to 391AD. History has it that one of the high kings of Ireland, Cormac mag Airt, (who reigned sometime between 1209 - 1239) had an army of 300 hounds. No doubt that must

have put the fear of God into his enemies!

The Irish Wolfhound was highly coveted, as they were excellent hunters, guardians, and companions. They were used to hunt wild boar, deer, giant elk and wolves. They were often given as gifts

to kings. Herbert Hoover and JFK had Irish Wolfhounds.

These days, this beautiful dog is treasured as a faithful companion and beloved family dog. While they are impressive to look at, they fail as a guard dog, as they are not suspicious of strangers nor are they aggressive. But no one can doubt that they are an elegant, impressive dog, thanks to the Irish who loved and bred them.



heads up! April lumps and bumps special

HIGHlands is going to be offering a FREE lumps and bumps consult (\$85 value) for the month of April. Not only that, if surgery is required we'll give you \$100 off the cost of the procedure. Please note this will only be on offer for the first 25 people and there will be a limit of 2 lumps per pet. Read our April newsletter for more information on lumps and bumps on your pet!

the facts about

parvo

and how to prevent it

Parvovirus is a highly contagious virus that attacks your dog's gastrointestinal tract and can result in problems related to the heart. It can be contracted at any time of the year, although spring and summer are the most virulent time.



Vaccinations are highly effective against for protecting your dog or puppy against this virus. Parvovirus can resist heat, cold, and humidity. It is readily transmitted from place-to-place, dog-to-dog or spread from contaminated cages, food, water bowls or faeces. Vaccination and good hygiene are critical for prevention.

Puppies are particularly prone to infection. The natural immunity provided in their mother's milk may wear off before the puppy's own immunity system is mature enough to fight the virus off. If a puppy is exposed to canine parvo during this gap in the protection, it may become ill.

To protect puppies while they are young and vulnerable, a series of puppy vaccinations are administered. Prevention is best, especially with this highly contagious disease.

This is the scary part - death from parvo occurs within 48-72 hours, so it is vital to get veterinary help as soon as possible.

Symptoms of parvo include lethargy, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, fever or low body

temperature (hypothermia), intestinal damage, and immune system damage which can cause septic shock.

There is no specific drug available for treatment that will kill the virus outright. Treatment is intended to support a dog's body systems until the canine's immune system can fight off the virus. The treatment focuses on combating dehydration, controlling vomiting and diarrhea, and preventing secondary infections. The treatment can be very expensive and a dog may die regardless of aggressive treatment.

That is why the vaccine is so important, as it protects your dog or puppy from this nasty virus and gives them an edge against a deadly attack. The cost of prevention is minimal compared to the cost of treatment. This virus doesn't play fair, it is nasty for an unprotected dog or puppy to have to endure such an attack.

If you have any concerns regarding parvo, please ring or come in and talk to us. We can answer all your questions and get your pet protected.

special offer! To help you get your pet protected...

To help our community, we have a special offer for those owners whose pets are 3 months or more overdue on getting their dog vaccinated against canine parvovirus. We want to make it easy for you to get those vaccinations up-to-date. For the month of March, book in and mention this newsletter and **get your dog's vaccination for half price (\$47.50!)** Tell your friends, too - we are happy to help them out as well. *Please note this deal will be limited to the first 25 existing clients and the first 25 new clients. Save yourselves time, heartbreak, and a financial burden by getting your pet protected from parvo!*

upcoming

f LIVE TALK



getting the jab...
a must, especially in parvo season!

Join us on your lunch break:
02.03.22
@ 12:30pm

f LIVE Highlands Veterinary Hospital
02 · MAR · 2022 · 12:30PM

Canine parvovirus is an extremely contagious viral disease that causes acute gastrointestinal illness. It attacks puppies that are too young to be vaccinated as well as puppies within their vaccination course until they are fully vaccinated. It also attacks unvaccinated dogs.

The virus attacks the lining of the small intestine, causing severe dehydration, shock, and death. The virus also affects the heart, resulting in inflammation that can be fatal. Vaccinate your pet to protect them from parvo - it is the only way to protect them from this virulent disease. The vaccine is highly effective and very safe for your pet.

If you want to know more about parvo, tune into Dr Diederik's upcoming Facebook Live Talk. You will learn when to vaccinate, how often to get a booster shot, how to keep the environment free from contamination, and how cleaning is important. Let's get together and push back at the parvo virus!

Remember the date: Wed, 2 March at our new time of 12.30pm [here](#).

FEBRUARY FB TALK RECAP

“Desexing Your Pets - Why It's Important”

There are so many benefits from desexing your pet. Naturally, it will help to control the abundance of unwanted pets caused from uncontrolled breeding. Stray pets lead to animals with poor condition and disease.

But the main reason to desex your pet is to avoid health risks that come to those who have not had the snip - diseases like breast cancer, bone cancer, and ACL joint damage, not to mention urine incontinence.

Dr Diederik explained the case for desexing in this talk, adding that the time varies as to when to get this procedure done - as it depends on the size and sex of your pet. If you missed out, go [here](#) to listen to the replay. The talk brings a lot of clarity to this important subject.



summer soak

SPECIAL

It's 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.*

pyometra

a serious condition for cats

An interesting situation arose on Christmas Eve, when we had a cat called 'Apple Juice' admitted to our hospital with a medical condition called Pyometra.

While this disease is fairly common in dogs, cats who get infected are far less frequent.

Pyometra is a bacterial infection that affects the uterus.

If left untreated, the infection can spread and become fatal. It is caused when an unspayed female cat goes on heat. The uterine lining first swells and then is supposed to thin and return to normal after heat. Sadly, in Apple Juice's case, she experienced abnormal cystic growth due to elevated progesterone hormones. This provided an ideal environment for infection, which creates Pyometra.



Symptoms are loss of appetite, vaginal discharge, fatigue, vomiting, high fever, and frequent urination. Treatment requires surgically removing the sexual organs, including the uterus and ovaries.

Unless the uterus ruptures or infection spreads, recovery after surgery is usually good and includes a course of medication to help clear the infection.

During Pyometra, your cat might be quite aggressive, as she will be in pain when handled.

Poor Apple Juice was in considerable pain before surgery. However, she is now recovering and showing her playful side - thanks to the considerable efforts of the HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital team. This condition can be avoided by getting your female kittens desexed!

Adopt A Pet



Rebel is about 3 years old, super affectionate, and just loves cuddles. She arrived at *Little Beans Cat and Kitten Rescue* when she was near term in her pregnancy. Since then, her kittens were born, weaned and flown the nest - so now Rebel needs to find a forever home. She would love to be part of a gentle home where she could be a companion and confidant.

She does prefer that there are no other pets in her space. But her personality makes up for the lack of other animals, as she is a devoted, super smoochy, and loving cat. She will wind her way around your legs for attention and wind her way into your heart. Soft and cuddly, Rebel is a beautiful cat who deserves a devoted owner.

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

get help with your vet bills...

you can now use Deferit!



You can now use an app called *Deferit* to help you with your veterinary bills at HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital. Using this app, you can upload a bill, *Deferit* will then pay your bill, and you pay them back in four easy instalments.

Deferit has a proven record for reliability and the lowest rate per month to borrow funds (only approximately \$5.99 per month for the service to borrow from *Deferit* - but please check that rate out for yourself).

HIGHlands Veterinary Hospital doesn't make anything on this service, but we know how tough times are and would like to do what we can to help ease your financial load. Download the app from the **App Store** or **Google Play** if you would like to use it. *Deferit* allows you to act now, while they advance the money for your pet's healthcare. It can take the pressure off when major surgery is required for your pet.

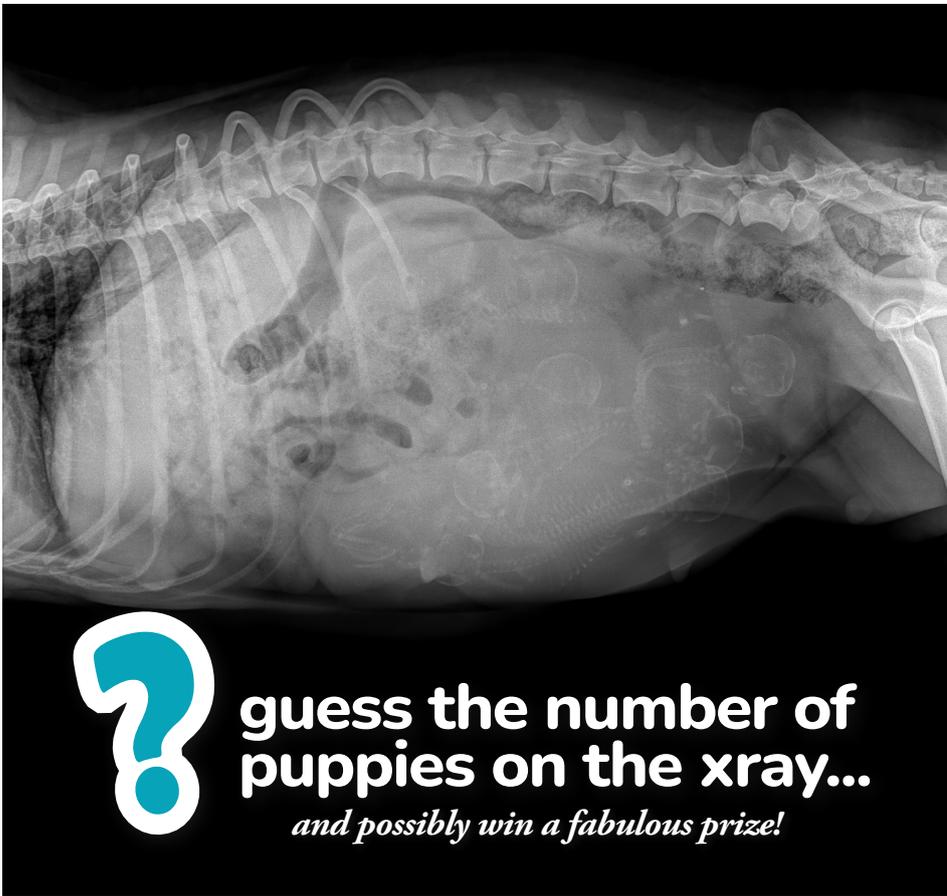


COME. PLAY. SIT. STAY.

february 2022 puppy preschool graduates

Chip, an Australian Kelpie cross Border Collie, did an amazing job and graduated with style - much to the delight of his guardian, Nathan. Sadly, the other two puppies in his class couldn't make it on graduation night, but they will get the opportunity to complete their lessons and graduate at the end of this month. They were Bear, an American Staffordshire Bull Terrier, with guardians Brittany and Joe along with Louie, a Dachshund, with guardians Erin and Billy. Chip had all of attention himself on this big night and passed with flying colours. What a little trooper he is. Congratulations to Chip and his guardian Nathan, well done!





guess the number of puppies on the xray...

and possibly win a fabulous prize!

Our 'Guess the Number of Puppies on the Xray' contest is on again and the lucky winner will receive a travel voucher worth \$1,250!

You may want to put your reading glasses on - how many pups can you see? Put your guess in and if you are the only person to guess the number correctly, you win a lovely holiday! If you are one of several people that guess correctly, you will then have to guess the breed of the dog in the xray - first correct guess is officially the winner!

The contest is running through 5pm on Wed, 23 March. Those who guessed the number of pups correctly will then have until 5pm on Fri, 25 March to enter their guess as to the breed of dog in the xray.

We will announce the lucky winner on Mon, 28 March. Look to our **Facebook page** for contest details, updates and entering your guess. *Only one person can win the prize of \$1,250, so sharpen your skills and get counting!*



how to brush your pet's teeth

Did you know that brushing your pet's teeth should be something you do as frequently as you brush your own teeth?

For 5 easy steps to get you started, check out the article in our blog section [here](#).



My special fur friend passed away on the weekend. I called HIGHlands Veterinary hospital to inform them as he has been one of their patients. That same afternoon I received a beautiful bunch of flowers and a special message of condolences. A vet that truly understands! I was always happy with their service, but it's the small things that can make a big difference!

Anita B.

Everyone at the practice is so lovely and genuinely happy to see your fur baby. It's very reassuring.

Cynthia G.

So glad we've found Dick and his team. He's the best vet I've had in Australia. He's very knowledgeable and caring. The Westies love going there to see him.

Marieta M.



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