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The Better Pet Gazette

highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au

why do cats love catnip?



Most cats love catnip. And they show it in strange ways - rubbing against everything, rolling around on the floor, pawing random objects, and just generally acting weird.

So what's going on?

The essential ingredient of catnip, which is part of the same family of plants as mint, is nepetalactone. This chemical, which is believed to mimic a cat pheromone, triggers a chemical reaction in the brain - similar to what psychoactive drugs do for humans - and causes cats to act really weird, which can be pretty fun for the cat and the owner.

How long do the effects of catnip last?

Whether your cat becomes super frenzied or just lounges in a patch of catnip in lazy appreciation, the effects only last a short while. Most cats return to normal behaviour within a half hour, and many only experience strong effects for 5 to 10 minutes.

Do all cats react to catnip?

Not all cats react to catnip. About 30 percent of domestic house cats don't have a reaction at all. Kittens and senior cats don't tend to react as strongly as adult cats.

Giving your cat catnip for the first time

When exposing your cat to catnip for the first time, it is generally best to do a test first to see how they respond. Since the smell in most catnip toys is not very aromatic, you can let them play with a catnip toy at first. Another option is to sprinkle a small pinch of dried or fresh catnip on the floor.

Catnip as a mosquito repellent

Catnip doesn't just help your cats! In addition to the calming effects of catnip in teas and other products for humans - planting catnip in your garden and yard can help to keep the area around your home mosquito-free!



the nose knows!

When you're a dog with a nose for treats and a heart full of ambition, even the reception desk acts as no barrier. This nose KNOWS where we keep the treats!



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!

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need an appointment?
BOOK ONLINE



Bella is a beautiful, healthy 13-year-old Irish Setter.

She came to HIGHLands with a growth in her mouth. After a biopsy, it was confirmed to be a malignant soft tissue sarcoma. Like most of these types of tumours, it had already become 25% larger since it was discovered.

It became clear that the aggressive growth would have to be removed and that Bella would need some reconstruction work on her lip. Thankfully, there was a clean margin around the tumour, enabling us to trim close to the growth to remove it.

After Dr Diederik completed the operation, the reconstruction work looked fantastic! Ten days later, Bella's stitches were removed and she showed us how she still has a lot of life left to enjoy.

See more of this amazing operation [here](#). Please note that the video contains some graphic content.

upcoming f LIVE TALK

saying goodbye
when is the right time?

Join us on your lunch break:
05.07.23
@ 12:30pm

facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital

f LIVE Highlands Veterinary Hospital
05 • JULY • 2023 • 12:30PM

Veterinarian Dr Diederik Gelderman will cover this often difficult and highly emotional subject and present some helpful suggestions in making these tough decisions when it comes to our pets.

The hardest thing a pet owner has to do is to make the decision of when it is the right time to say goodbye. Requests for pet euthanasia reasons vary considerably, but is it the right for the pet?

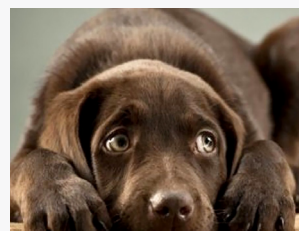
This month, we are re-publishing a very popular talk on this issue. If you are faced with making this decision, tune in to hear Dr Diederik explain all facets of this emotional issue. He demystifies the euthanasia process and has some pertinent tips about explaining it to children. Studies have shown that children have the capacity to understand why their pets will be euthanised and it is kinder to let them be part of the decision.

Please listen in on Wednesday, 5 July at 12.30pm on our Facebook page [here](#). All of our previous talks can be found in the Live section under the More menu.

JUNE FACEBOOK LIVE TALK RECAP

"Alone & Anxious: Does Your Dog Fret When You Are Away?"

In modern pet care, the dog is part of the family and therefore most often kept inside. This is contributing to a rise in the number of dogs with anxiety. Covid certainly didn't help, with people and pets being confined together at home.



Some breeds of dogs are more prone to anxiety and how the dog is raised can affect them as well. Medication is a great tool to use to control anxiety, whether it is used on an as-needed or more permanent basis. Dr. Diederik explains that using medication makes the dog more susceptible to retraining; it keeps them focused, calm, and open to learning. But all medications are not created equal. Listen to this talk [here](#) and then talk to us - we can help your pet overcome their anxiety and help them to adjust to being alone.



6 easy steps to clean your dog's ears

Making sure your dog's ears are clean is essential to making sure they are comfortable and healthy! Here are 6 easy steps to ensure your pup's ears stay clean:

1.

Start by gathering the necessary supplies: a dog-specific ear cleaner, cotton balls or pads, and treats for rewards.

2.

Find a calm and quiet area where you and your furry friend can comfortably work together. Make sure you have good lighting to see inside their ears.

3.

Gently hold your dog's head and lift one ear flap. Observe any signs of redness, swelling, discharge, or a foul odor. If you notice anything concerning, it's best to consult us before proceeding.

4.

Carefully pour a small amount of the ear cleaner into the ear canal. Make sure not to insert the applicator too far. Massage the base of the ear for a few seconds to help the solution reach the deeper parts.

5.

Use a cotton ball or pad to gently wipe the inside of the ear flap and the visible part of the ear canal. Avoid using cotton swabs as they can push debris further into the ear or cause injury.

6.

Reward your furry friend with treats and lots of praise! Repeat the process on the other ear, if needed.



get up to
\$10 OFF



Get **\$5 OFF** when you order a repeat on your pet's medication using our website - and a further **\$5 OFF** if you order at least 7 days in advance of pick-up.*

Save yourself a trip when you need a refill of a prescription for your pet. You can now go to **our website**, then to the **Resources** menu, then to a drop down which takes you to the **Prescription Refill** page.

The simple form takes only a minute to complete. Or, when you come to visit us we will give you a flyer with a QR code (see below) you can scan to reorder your pets' medication in a jiffy from the comfort of your home.

When you can save time here and there it gives you more time to have fun with your precious furry companions.

* Terms and conditions apply. Offer good until 31 July 2023.





*new treatment to
get your older pet*
**up and
going!**

With all the modern medications that are available, there's almost no pet that ever needs to be euthanised because of arthritis, arthritic pain or bone pain. That's a little bit different to the way it was even as short as five years ago, thanks to many new and better treatments that are available, like Beransa.



"Cooper, a Border Collie, was prescribed Beransa by Dr Diederik for persistent OA pain, including a painful limp. Although he is 11.5 years old, he used to walk 10 km or more. However, he slid from happy to grouchy and didn't want to walk. Since his second month on Beransa, he is again enjoying his walks, walking at least 6 km and is back into the battle for supremacy with our 5-year-old puppy in their daily tug-of-war game. Cooper is like a new dog ... all bounce and bluster. Janelle and the family are so pleased with the results and the care provided by the HIGHLands."



"Millie is an amazing 17-year-old dog who recently began a specific course of medications that included Beransa. Millie is still a little slow getting to her feet, but once up she races around like a young puppy - much to the delight of her family. Her special mix of medications is working and Beransa offers her more mobility. HIGHLands stated that no two animals will ever have the same needs. After careful analysis, Millie's solution was carefully compiled according to her requirements. It's making a distinct difference to her lifestyle."



"Over the last year, Snuggle's mobility had declined and our once routine daily walks were becoming further and further apart. This was heartbreaking to see in a dog who has always loved getting out and exploring. We were excited to try Beransa, and within a few days of receiving the treatment I noticed an improvement in his mobility and that he was wanting to go out walking more. A wonderful result for a Shar Pei who has not long turned 15 years old. I'm so incredibly grateful for the wonderful care Snuggles receives from Dr Diederik and the team at HIGHLands."