

APRIL

2024



The Better Pet Gazette

h i g h l a n d s v e t e r i n a r y h o s p i t a l . c o m . a u

paws off

the chocolate!



It is Easter time again and we would be remiss if we didn't mention how our dog (and sometimes cats) like to indulge in chocolate. We want you and your dog to enjoy the Easter break without a vet visit in sight.

Chocolate contains theobromine and caffeine, both of which are slowly processed within the pet, causing poisoning. Smaller breeds are at a greater risk, but all breeds can experience restlessness, hyperactivity, trembling, vomiting, diarrhea, increased heart rate and seizures after consuming chocolate.

If you are having an easter egg hunt, make sure you count your easter eggs to ensure your dog doesn't find them first. Or even better, put Fido on a leash until all the chocolate chomping is complete. Don't forget to dispose of the chocolate wrappers, because the smell of the chocolate is very attractive to dogs and they will gladly eat those foil wrappers.

Just because your dog cannot eat chocolate, it doesn't mean they have to miss out on the Easter fun! Why not scatter dog-friendly treats through the yard and have your very own pet-friendly Easter hunt? If you suspect your dog may have come into contact with Easter chocolate, contact the Animal Poisons Helpline [here](#) for more information or call them on **1300 869 738**.



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!

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.

need an appointment?
BOOK ONLINE



Remember that we are open Saturday mornings for appointments from 8:15am - 12:00pm! Our hydrobath is available for use 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, with lights and security cameras after hours.



**thank
you!**

A big thank you for all the donations left in our donation box on our front counter. The donation box money is part of our Helping Paws initiative to help any of our clients whose pets may have had unexpected surgery or medical expenses. Please help us to help those lovely pets who are in need. Thank you so very much for your generosity and support!



why is diet important?

Proper nutrition plays a major role in your pet's general and mental health development.

The right diet can prevent sickness and disease from getting a foothold in their essential organs.

The 6 Important Nutrients

The 6 important nutrients that are essential in a balanced diet are carbohydrates, protein, fat, water, as well as vitamins and minerals. Nutrients are used to assist with cell growth and development. Protein is essential to your pet – it serves as a fuel source of the body, assisting with the development of muscles and growth, repairs the body when needed, and provides immunity to keep the body healthy.

Important for Function

Apart from the scientific requirements, proper nutrition can provide your pet with abundant energy and vigour to play, explore and just be themselves. An animal that is being fed the correct balanced diet is keen, observant, tolerant, active, and funny! An underfed or improper diet can cause injuries, slowness, and inability to do the simplest of tasks, and they can become aggressive especially when they must fight for food.

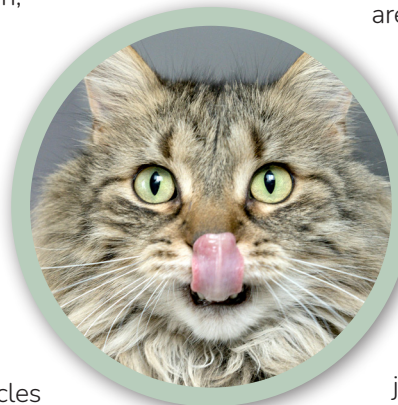
Diet Depends on Age

As an example, a mixed diet for a puppy is best, a combination of dry with some wet food, dental chews, etc. Look for labels stating a good quality puppy food. Puppies need small yet frequent meals as they are so busy playing and growing that they need that frequent nutritional boost.

An older dog requires a diet with concentrated high-quality diet protein, low in fat, and is easy to digest, with added minerals for aging joints. A lot comes into

nutritional requirements, such as the breed of animal, is it small and light or heavy and solid. Is it young or mature? Your pet's diet will change from the junior stage to maturity, to senior pet.

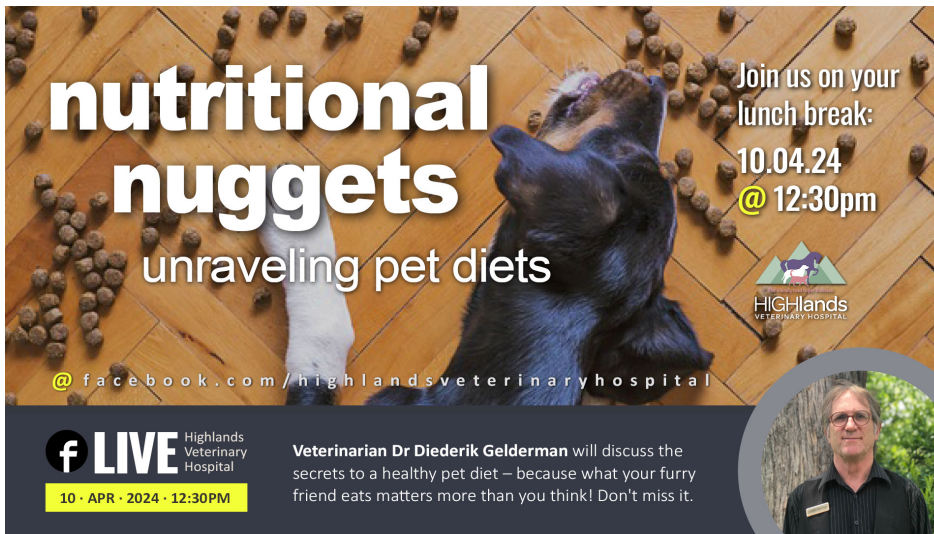
We can help point you and your pet in the right direction. Whether you have a cat, dog, horse, goat or whatever. Each animal is different. Each is unique. We are here to help!



Tune into our Facebook Live talk at 12:30pm on 3 April for "Nutritional Nuggets: Unraveling Pet Diets." See page 3 for all the details!

upcoming

f LIVE TALK



nutritional nuggets
unraveling pet diets

Join us on your lunch break:
10.04.24
@ 12:30pm

@ facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital

LIVE Highlands Veterinary Hospital
10 · APR · 2024 · 12:30PM

Veterinarian Dr Diederik Gelderman will discuss the secrets to a healthy pet diet – because what your furry friend eats matters more than you think! Don't miss it.

The right nutrition can make a world of difference to your pet. If an animal gets all the necessary food that it needs, it becomes a strong, flexible pet full of health and vigour. But give the animal a basic, inadequate diet and they will end up with poor health. The nutrients that are essential for healthy growth are proteins, carbohydrates, fats, minerals, vitamins, fibre, and water.

A young pet needs a good quality diet that promotes growth, while for an older pet the focus is on keeping bones and muscles strong and healthy. Water is essential to both young and old. It can be hard as a pet owner - there are so many choices of pet food! Learn how to make the right choice for your pets.

Please listen in on Wednesday, 3 April at 12.30pm on our Facebook page [here](#). All of our previous talks can be found in the Live section under the More menu.

MARCH FACEBOOK LIVE TALK RECAP

"My Pet Has Cancer! Now What?"

There are many options for treatments for a cancerous growth on your pet than ever before. The earlier a cancerous growth is detected the better, and a yearly checkup is a prudent practice. Dr Diederik goes over the options available for your beloved pet. Lumps on the outside are easy to detect by running your hands over your pet. Any lump is a potential tumour. There is a new tool called Oncotet - it is a urine test that detects any of the four main cancers. Treatments available are numerous, depending on how challenging your pet's cancer is. A couple of options are Radiation, or a drug called Palladia, which starves the tumour of blood and shrinks the growth.

Listen [here](#) as Dr Diederik explains caring for cancer and the wide range of treatments available now for pets.



Pikelet is a stunning white rescue cat who needed our help as both her ears developed skin cancer, known as Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC).

This is often the case with cats with white or fair-coloured faces. They are best kept as indoor cats so they are protected from the sun's harmful rays. Dr Diederik carefully amputated both ear flaps to remove the cancer. She is now recovering from her operation with the dedicated team at **Little Beans Cat & Rescue**, where they care for abandoned felines. Pikelet is still stunning, even without ears, and has a lovely smoochy nature, but she craves a forever family. If you want a cat, Pikelet would be a lovely candidate.

Please contact Little Beans, as they have a big selection of adorable cats, including our heroine Pikelet. All these gorgeous felines are crying out for their forever homes!

You can watch Dr Diederik perform Pikelet's surgery [here](#). Just a warning that it's slightly graphic.

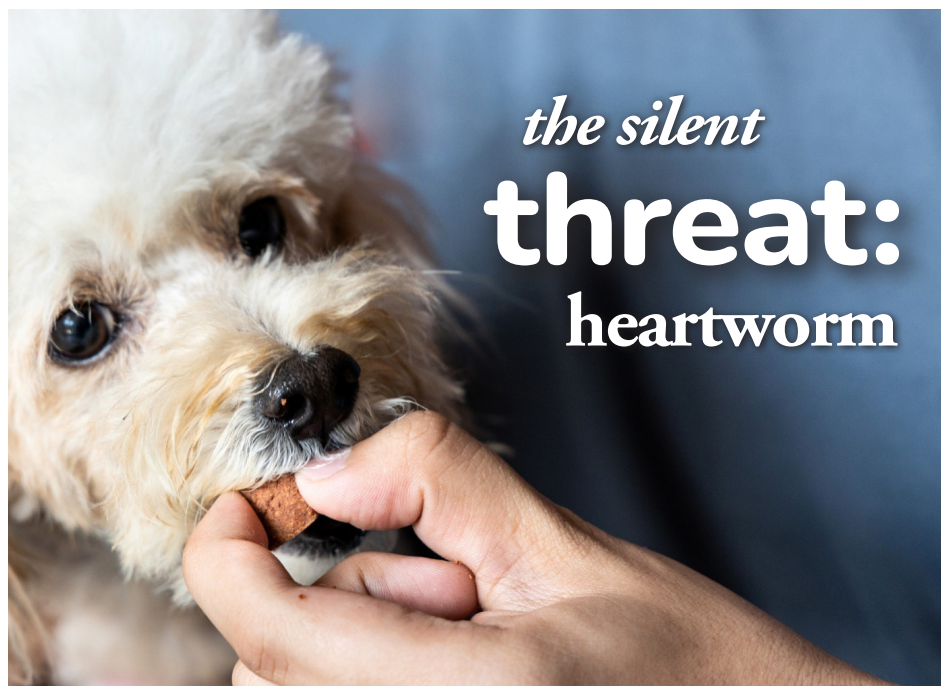


no more waiting for **test results!**

We understand that your pet's health is your top priority. That's why here at HIGHlands, we're proud to offer an in-house laboratory. Say goodbye to the days of waiting anxiously for test results to come back from an external lab.

Faster test results mean a quicker diagnosis and faster treatment plans for your beloved furry friends.

Not only does this mean less stress for you, but it also means better peace of mind knowing that your pet's health needs are being addressed promptly and efficiently!



the silent **threat:** **heartworm**

April is Heartworm Awareness Month! We would like to raise the awareness that this is a devastating (yet completely preventable) disease.

Both cats and dogs can be affected, although many pet parents are not aware of the need for regular heartworm prevention that is available. So here are heartworm facts that we would like to share with you to clear up the misconception around this condition, and remember, your kitty is just as prone to heartworm as your pet pooch.

How It Begins...

Heartworm disease is spread by infected mosquitoes. In dogs, the larvae mature into adult worms, mate and produce offspring. In cats, it is far less likely the worms will reach adulthood, but the larvae can still do a lot of damage.

The cycle starts with a mosquito bite that releases the infected larvae into your cat or dog's bloodstream. Once the larvae mature into adults, they can live within dogs for 5-7 years, or 2-3 years in your cat.

Symptoms of Heartworm

The longer you ignore the problem,

the longer the larvae will have to grow and cause damage within your pet. Signs of heartworm in dogs are a mild yet persistent cough, a reluctance for any activity, decreased appetite, weight loss and fatigue. Cats have similar symptoms that can include an asthma-like attack, persistent cough, aversion to exercising, loss of condition and energy for life.

Prevention is Best!

It is simple to keep your kitty or dog healthy.

Preventative medication comes as a monthly tasty pill or a topical medication. There is also a yearly injection for those who don't want the monthly hassle. The medication doesn't kill the adult heartworm, it kills the larvae. Being late to medicate your pet can increase the risk of heartworm escalation.

Talk to us about what suits your pet best at 4872 1144. Let's protect your pet from the scourge of the heartworm.

