

Maribyrnong Veterinary Clinic

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“MARIBYRNONG VET TAILS” - AUTUMN 2010

Preparing for a Vet trip

A trip to the Vet can seem a little daunting for some people, and can be quite an adventure for your pet. Here are a few tips to make your Vet trip easier.

1. Always bring your pet into the clinic in a secure manner. This means that all dogs need to be on a lead, and that all cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and so forth are in a secure carrier/box.

2. If your dog may require a muzzle during Vet checks, it's a great idea to do some muzzle training at home. This gets your dog used to wearing the muzzle so that they don't become distressed in the clinic.

3. Reward your pet. Although we always have treats on hand, it's a good idea to stock your pocket so that you can reward your dog for any good behaviour in the waiting room. It can also help distract your dog from other pets that may be in the waiting area.

4. If this is your first visit to our clinic, bring along any medical records your pet has. If it has been to another clinic previously, it's a great idea to ring the previous clinic and have them fax over a history.

5. Always remember that while your pet may be quite happy to play nicely with other, some pets may not be so friendly. Keeping your pets close to your side and not allowing them to roam close to other pets is the safest way to avoid unwanted bickering.

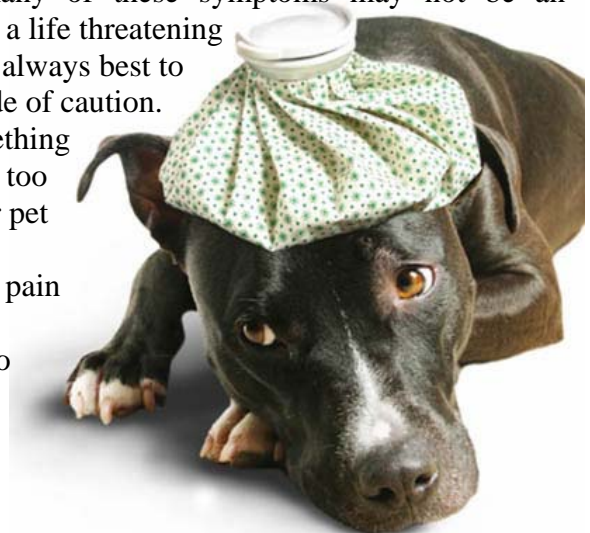
EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY!

Emergencies with your pets always seem to happen at the worst time don't they? Public holidays, middle of the night... But is the situation really an emergency? Anything that makes you worry about your pet's health is worth a phone call, so if you have concerns give us a call. Below is a list of signs that should have you seeking immediate veterinary attention:

- Eye injury
- Severe diarrhoea or vomiting (more than two or three times an hour)
- Any wound that is open and bleeding
- Any animal bite
- Trauma (such as being hit by a car) even if the pet seems fine
- Seizure, fainting or collapse
- An allergic reaction, especially if it is causing swelling around the face
- Thermal stress caused by being too hot or too cold
- Any sign of respiratory distress (chronic coughing or trouble breathing)
- Straining to urinate or defecate
- Any suspected poisoning

Although many of these symptoms may not be an indication of a life threatening problem, it's always best to err on the side of caution.

Even if something doesn't seem too serious, your pet may be in considerable pain and require medication to control.



Keep an Eye on Eyes

Eyes are an extremely complex organ and their health is important to maintain proper function and good eyesight. While there are a number of conditions that can affect the eye of pets, the following is a couple of afflictions that are fairly common in older dogs.

Dry Eye is often characterised by a thick, yellowish discharge. It may also become reddened and cause itching and pain to the pet. The condition is caused by a reduced or total lack of normal tear production. Tears are required to lubricate the eye, wash out foreign objects, provide nutrients and oxygen to the cornea, and tears even contain substances to help fight bacterial infections.

Eyelid Tumours can cause significant irritation to the cornea of your pets eye. The tumours are located on the margin of the eyelid and should be assessed by a vet as early as possible to avoid permanent damage to the cornea.

As vision is such an important sense, any potential eye problem should be seen to as soon as possible. If your pet is showing any sign of an eye problem, please come and see us for a health check. Possible symptoms may include:

- Squinting
- Discharge and cloudiness
- Redness or inflammation
- Visible third eyelid
- Tear overflow
- Bulging or sunken eye
- Crust or inflammation around eye
- Deterioration or loss of vision
- Increased irritability and pain



Normal Eye



Dry Eye



Eyelid Tumour

Funday Funnies!

What do you call a fish with no eyes?
A fsh!

Why is it hard to play cards in the jungle?
There are too many cheetahs!

Where do cows go on Saturday nights?
To the MOOO-vies!



What does a kitten become after it's three days old?
Four days old!

What do you get if you cross a crocodile with a flower?
I don't know, but I'm not going to smell it!

What is a crocodile's favorite game?
Snap

When is it bad luck to see a black cat?
When you're a mouse!

