

# Maribyrnong Veterinary Clinic

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## “MARIBYRNONG VET TAILS” - SPRING 2007

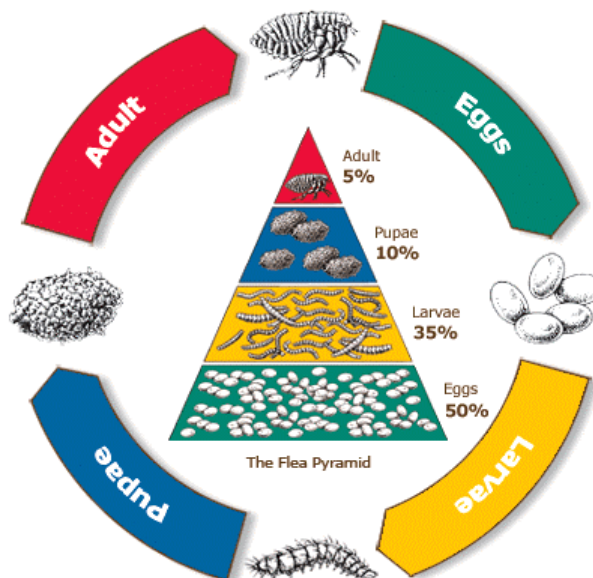
### Springy Spring Pests

As the weather starts to warm up, unfortunately so do fleas. The flea life cycle consists of adults, pupae, larvae and eggs. The majority of these (95%) do not live on your pet, but the environment where your pet lives and sleeps. One female flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day that fall off into the environment and can develop into adults anywhere between 14 days to 6 months later.

Unfortunately what this means is that it's difficult to prevent your pet from picking up young adult fleas looking for a meal. Even pets that never leave their yard can get fleas hatched from eggs dropped by roaming cats.

These pesky little parasites can cause a range of problems including itchy bites, skin irritation, hair loss, anaemia and Flea Allergy Dermatitis.

One of the easiest ways to treat and avoid flea problems, is to treat your pet with a once-a-month flea product.

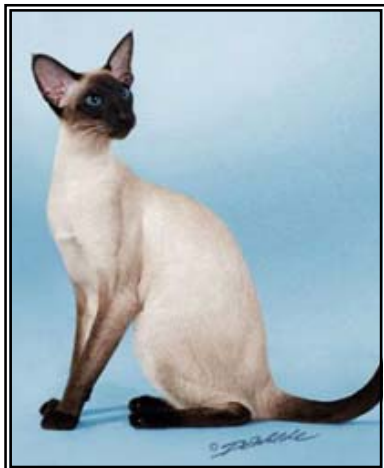


There are a number of such products available at our clinic to suit the individual needs of your pet/s. Please feel free to come in and have a chat with our staff.

### Renal Failure (aka Kidney Disease)

**Chronic renal failure** (kidney disease) is a progressive disease that can occur in cats and dogs, but is especially common in older cats.

Like people, cats and dogs have two kidneys and each kidney has



several hundred thousand tiny units called nephrons. Their job is to filter the blood, removing toxic waste products, salts and water which is eliminated via the urine. Chronic renal failure is the progressive degeneration of these nephrons which causes a decrease in the kidney filtration capacity, eventually resulting in the accumulation of toxic wastes in the blood.

Visible symptoms of kidney disease are not usually seen until the animal is in the very advanced stages. This is because the kidneys have excess filtering capacity and roughly 2/3rds of the nephrons in the kidneys can be lost before visible symptoms are seen.

The first signs of renal failure can include increased drinking and urination, loss of appetite, weight loss, decreased activity, diarrhoea or vomiting.

The good news is that the early stages of kidney disease can be identified via blood testing. If your cat is showing any symptoms, or is just reaching it's golden years (7 years +), it may be a good idea to book in for a vet check and blood test.

Whilst kidney disease is not able to be cured, a combination of specially formulated diets and medication can often significantly improve the quality of life of pets with this condition.

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## Choosing The Perfect Pet

**Thinking about buying/adopting a new pet?** The most important thing to remember is that this is a decision that is going to affect the next 10-20 years of your life. Prospective owners must remember to choose a pet based on BEHAVIOUR and not on looks. The number one reason for pets ending up in pounds is due to undesirable behaviour.

A good idea is to write down a description of the type of pet you would like. This way you will be able to identify the key characteristics that you want in your pet. Some examples are:

**Physical requirements:** How much exercise are you willing and able to devote to your pet?

**Grooming requirements:** Are you happy to spend half an hour every 2-3 days brushing your pet, or would you prefer a low maintenance coat on your pet?

**Responsiveness:** Do you want a pet that is happy to curl up on your lap, or one that is full of beans and super active?

**Size:** Do you have a large backyard suitable for a large dog, or do you live in a small apartment with no backyard more suitable to a cat or small dog?

**Trainability:** Are you happy for a pet that only responds to basic commands, or would you prefer a pet that you are able to do something more fancy



with, like agility training?

**Agressiveness:** Do you want your pet to be child-friendly, or are you after a pet with guarding ability?

Once you have a good idea of what you are looking for, seek some independent advice. The best people to ask are professions in the pet industry who have no vested interest in a particular breed. This rules out pet stores and breeders (although, breeders are a good person to talk to once you think you have decided on a breed). The best people to talk to are often shelters and adoption centres, trainers, or us here at the clinic.



### Excerpts From a Dog's Diary

8:00 am - Dog food! My favourite thing!  
9:30 am - A car ride! My favourite thing!  
9:40 am - A walk in the park! My favourite thing!  
10:30 am - Got rubbed and petted! My favourite thing!  
12:00 pm - Lunch! My favourite thing!  
1:00 pm - Played in the yard! My favourite thing!  
3:00 pm - Wagged my tail! My favourite thing!  
5:00 pm - Milk bones! My favourite thing!  
7:00 pm - Got to play ball! My favourite thing!  
8:00 pm - Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favourite thing!  
11:00 pm - Sleeping on the bed! My favourite thing!

*Watch out for "Excerpts from a cat's diary" in our next newsletter!!!*