

Maribyrnong Veterinary Clinic

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“MARIBYRNONG VET TAILS” - SUMMER 2007-2008

Feline Aids

“Your cat has Feline AIDS” can be one of the hardest things for a cat owner to hear. The news can be devastating and numerous questions will cross their mind; How did he get it? How long will he live? What can I do? Why did it happen to him?

Feline AIDS is caused by infection with Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). It is similar to the human HIV virus, but is non transmittable to humans. The primary source of spread is saliva to blood (cat bite wound), therefore, outdoor cats are at a higher risk of contracting the virus, and in particular, undesexed males who are more likely to fight.

The progress of the disease can vary cat-to-cat, with some cats not showing signs of disease, while others may display symptoms immediately. There is no treatment or cure for an FIV infected cat.

There is good news though! Your cat can be tested for FIV, and vaccinated against the virus. Please ask us about vaccinating your cat, or call us if your cat shows any signs of illness.

Summer Survival Guide

With the summer heat on the way there are a few things you can do to ensure that your pets stay happy and healthy.

Ouchie sunburn! Laying out in the sun is a favorite past time for many pets, but the harsh sun can be as damaging to their skin as it is to ours. Pets with pink noses or white ears are particularly prone to sunburn and skin cancer is a real risk for these pets. The key is to reduce the risk of sun exposure by applying non-toxic sunscreen to nose and ears. The earliest signs of skin cancer are reddening of the skin – similar to sunburn.

Bee stings can be more than just uncomfortable for our furry inquisitive friends. Some dogs are allergic to bee stings and may require veterinary attention.

Grass seeds are a menace to our little friends. The seeds come out in huge numbers and easily attach themselves to the coat of your pet. They are barbed shaped and can work their way into pet's pads, become trapped in their ears, or even in their nose or eyes. If your dog shows signs of head shaking, limping, or excessive licking of the paws, please seek veterinary treatment.

Checking your pets feet nightly for grass seeds is a great way to find those pesky seeds before they cause trouble!



Pet Insurance



Unexpected things can happen at the most inopportune times and can sometimes be very costly. We insure ourselves, and our car and homes, so it makes sense that we can insure our pets as well. Veterinary medicine has

advanced in leaps and bounds and we are now able to diagnose and treat more and more conditions.

Most people think of insurance as just covering pets for things like car accidents and broken bones, but thousands of pets are diagnosed with conditions that require ongoing treatment (such as heart and skin conditions).

Pet insurance can help you get the best of care without the cost of treatment becoming a limiting factor.

Feel free to drop in and collect some insurance brochures!

People food for pets?

“My dog's not like other dogs. I wouldn't dream of feeding him dog food! Only the best of human food for my pooch...”

It's common for pet owners to think of their furry friend as a member of the family, and treat them like a fellow human. Unfortunately our pets do not have the same nutritional requirements as we do, so our human diet is not ideal for them, and in some cases can actually be harmful to them.

A common question asked is whether cats and dogs need milk. Pets older than three months of age do not need milk. In fact, many pets are lactose intolerant and the lactose in cows milk can cause vomiting and diarrhoea. If you wish to give you pet milk, it's best to use a lactose-free puppy/kitten milk.

All meat diets for dogs should be avoided as meat is very low in calcium and very high in phosphorous. Dogs need the correct ratio of calcium and phosphorous for proper bone formation and growth.

Fatty meals can not only cause obesity over time, but even one fatty meal is able to cause pancreatitis. Common culprits are BBQ leftovers, the fat off chops and steaks, bone marrow and McDonalds patties. Symptoms of pancreatitis can include

- lack of interest in food
- vomiting
- lethargy
- depression
- dehydration

Many human foods can also be harmful to cats and dogs. These include:

Chocolate: Contains caffeine and theobromine which can cause heart rate to increase and beat abnormally.

Onions/Garlic: Kills red blood cells and causes haemolytic anaemia.

Grapes & raisins: causes acute renal failure.

Also bad: Potato peelings, rhubarb leaves, alcohol, broccoli, tomato leaves, fruit pips/seeds/pits, cigarettes and mouldy/spoilt foods.

Introducing Maggie!



Many of you that visit the clinic may have already met our resident Magpie, creatively named “Maggie”.

Maggie was brought into the clinic as a baby, unable to fly, feed herself or fend for herself.

One of our Vet's, Adrian, took a special interest in Maggie and hand raised her into the stunner of a Magpie she is today.

Unfortunately Maggie can never be released back into the wild as she is too reliant on and trusting of humans. Instead, Maggie spends her days flapping around the backyard, digging for insects and worms, or generally causing disrupt in the clinic!

If you come across any injured birds or wildlife, please drop them into your local vet clinic, shelter or wildlife carer.



Colouring Competition

Recently we held a colouring competition in the clinic and of all the entries we received, the winner was little India!

India won a soft and cuddly dalmation stuffed toy for herself, and a six month supply of Sentinel Spectrum for her lovely dogs, Eirin and Ruby.