



THE PET GAZETTE

Brought to You by **FLOREAT VETERINARY CENTRE**

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Mon-Fri.....8.00am -7.00pm
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CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT

**438 CAMBRIDGE STREET
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Hot Tips for Winter Chills

1. A warm, draught-free sleeping place is most important in winter.
2. Dogs & Cats should have a bed of their own.
3. Beds should be raised off the ground to prevent cold and damp penetrating through.
4. Bed should be totally guarded against chilly winds, with opening faced away from wind.
5. Old blankets, towels or rugs are ideal for pet use.
6. Take your older pet to the vet for a check up for any signs of arthritis. Excellent medication is now available to relieve your pets discomfort.
7. Make sure your pet is warm when taking its winter walks, and dried off thoroughly afterwards - ask us about doggy warmers available.
8. Always remember that your pet feels the cold too!!



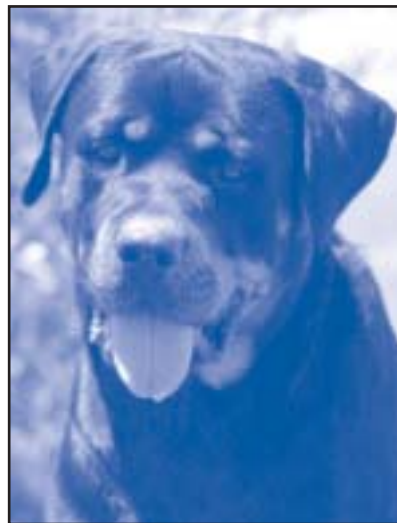
I'm not moving for anybody!

Tail Docking Illegal

You may have already seen in the media that as from 1st April 2004, tail docking is now illegal across Australia.

Tail docking involves cutting through muscle, tendons, cartilage and bone, and between 4 and 7 pairs of nerves causing intense pain. This pain level is not permitted to be inflicted on humans, so why on dogs?

Dogs tails are an important part of their communication, by letting us humans know how they are feeling by wagging excitedly, warily or not at all. They also play an important part in keeping the dog in balance, especially when running or climbing - and who can deny their dog a play-time chasing amusement for the dog itself!



**What's that you say?
We get to keep our tails!!**



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Pet Home Safety

1st Aid

IF YOUR PET HAS COLLAPSED YOU SHOULD DO THE FOLLOWING:

- **Airway** should be checked and cleared.
- **Breathing** should be checked.
- **Bleeding** should be controlled.
- **Circulation** - check heartbeat by placing a hand over the lower chest.

TIPS TO REMEMBER:

- A cat has **five** weapons, the mouth and four paws!
- If an animal is **hard to handle**, you will need help!
- **Signs of shock** are pale or white gums, rapid heart beat and rapid breathing.
- If any wound is **spurting blood**, it means an artery has been cut.
- **Do not feed your pet** in the event of illness or accident, as an anaesthetic may be needed to stitch or treat the wound or illness.

We often put many household items or dangerous toys out of reach of little children, but be aware that animals can also have mishaps with some toys, household items and products, and care should be taken.

Squeaky rubber toys come in various shapes and sizes and dogs love to play with squeakers. Be careful that the squeaker cannot be dislodged in play or by chewing as it can lodge in the throat.

When playing ball with the dog, choose a ball which is too large for the dog to swallow - never throw a squash or golf ball.

Dogs love to retrieve, but sticks can splinter or impale the roof of the mouth.

Old stockings and socks are great for playing tug of war, but if left lying around and the dog swallows them, they may require surgery for retrieval.

Cats like to leap and attack curtain cords and care should be taken to make sure that they cannot become caught and hang themselves.

Budgies enjoy toys in their cages and will climb ladders, ring bells and admire themselves in a mirror for hours. Make sure the toys do not have sharp edges. If your bird is allowed to fly freely around the home, make sure

there is nothing cooking on the stove as fumes given off by some products are toxic to birds.

Puppies and kittens and older pets may chew electrical leads or pull things down on themselves. Cats may also jump onto hotplates on the the stove, or even sleep in the front loading washing machine or dryer, ensure you close the doors and always check before doing the wash.

Insect sprays are hazardous to fish and incense may leave a film on the surface of the water which kills the fish.

Many puppies die each year in backyard swimming pools or fish ponds. Most dogs can swim, but not all are able to find their way out and become exhausted and drown.

So if you don't already, treat your pets like your children by providing a safe environment and entertainment.



Care should be taken when choosing a toy for your pet.

The Coughing Dog

Dogs cough for a variety of reasons, some of which can be serious in themselves and others that are signs of an underlying problem. Internal parasites, heartworm disease, distemper, fungus diseases, tuberculosis, allergies, and pollutants such as cigarette smoke can cause a dog to cough.

Coughs are triggered by irritants in the air passages and can be characterized as dry and hacking; moist and bubbly; gagging; wheezy; harsh; or weak.

It can be frequent, chronic, or intermittent, and is often self-perpetuating as it dries the throat and leads to further irritation

High, dry coughs are typical of kennel cough or acute tracheobronchitis. A dog with kennel cough seems to feel fine otherwise. Cases usually heal in about two weeks, but the frequent bouts of coughing can be distressing to the owner who lies awake listening to his pet hack away.

Treatment includes isolation to avoid infection of other family or kennel dogs, monitoring of temperature, rest, and if the coughing

is severe, use of medication from the Veterinary Clinic. A humidifier can help the dog breathe easier and thus reduce coughing and further throat inflammation.

Kennel cough in puppies and toy breeds can be another story; the throat irritation can be accompanied by thick secretions that can cause pneumonia.

Parainfluenza and Bordetella vaccines protects against the most common viral & bacterial causes of kennel cough, there are still other causes that we can't vaccinate for.

Older People Pets



Many older people have owned pets at some time in their life and many find themselves living without a pet, perhaps for the first time, because adding a bouncing pup or playful kitten to the home seems all too difficult.

Sadly, there are many older pets which are euthanased because no one wants to adopt them. They find themselves in shelters when owners die, or go into care, and get passed over in adoption pens for cute youngsters.

It seems a natural step to unite older people with older pets, but unfortunately many people do not consider the benefits of the older pet/person relationship.

Most older pets have lower activity levels and require less exercise. Most have been house-trained, taught basic

manners and trained to walk on a lead. So all the hard work is done.

Adopting an older pet allows the older owner to simply enjoy the companionship.

Most animal shelters will be happy to advise when they have a suitable older pet available. Also many purebred dog clubs have rescue schemes where they rehome dogs or sometimes breeders have a retired show dog just looking to have a life of luxury as the one and only dog in the household. These dogs have all been well socialised and lead trained, although not always house-trained, so it is best to ask about this.

Older people often restrict their choices to the smaller breeds of dog, but sometimes older, sedate large breeds will fit in very well as they are less likely to be tripped over.

Grooming can sometimes be a problem for older people with arthritis, so in these cases, long-coated dogs and cats are not a good choice unless the owner can afford to send them to a grooming salon.



Older pets a good choice for the elderly owner

Winter Pet Care

The days are getting shorter, the nights are cooler, and preparations for winter have begun. Kids stay after school for football practice and spend evenings doing homework.

Life has shifted gears, and your pet may need some help to adjust.

The decline of daylight after the summer solstice triggers growth of lush undercoats in northern breeds and other double-coated dogs. Many dogs develop a voracious appetite, handy for wild animals that need a layer of fat to get them through the winter but less than useless in a family pet.

Cool temperatures are a tonic to most dogs, and they'll romp and play long past time to go to school or work in the morning.

Close quarters enhance the possibilities for trouble between family members, including the dog. If Steve comes home late because he had football practice and spends the

evening doing homework, the dog will feel snubbed.

A neglected dog can be a mischievous dog — possessions may be stolen or chewed, housetraining may be forgotten, and training may slip down the drain.

Family members can ease the transition from summertime to school-year schedules by keeping in mind that your pet is still part of the family and that the humans must make time for their pet. They still need a daily walk, grooming once or twice a week, food twice a day, and periodic training sessions.

The family dog can be included in family activities. He/she can accompany Mum and Dad on a walk to the neighbourhood school yard or the park to watch football or soccer practice or ride in the car on short trips. Mary can groom him/her a bit while she watches television and Mum or dad can talk to him/her while they fix dinner.

Of course, in order to join the family in these projects, your pet must be well-behaved. Please ask us about available local animal behaviour training if you or your pet needs a little help.

We hope the above suggestions will help to keep both the pet and family sane during the colder weather period and those 'indoor activity' days.



Don't neglect your pet over the winter period - he needs a cuddle too!



Pet Profile

Cat Talk

Cats communicate through sound, and a meow can mean many things. A low and demanding meow, for example, could be a complaint that dinner is late or the litter box is closed. But a meow that's short and sweet is probably an affectionate thank you for just being a friend.

At the other end of the vocal range is that out-and-out yowl that grates on the nerves. It's a sound that gives a whole new meaning to the message, "I want it now!"

Then there's the fighting screech, a sound that pierces the very soul. This banshee wail is calculated to scare off any opponent.

Hissing means your cat is saying she means business, and you'd better back off. It's the cat's way of letting you know that trouble lies waiting.

Listen closely to the sounds your cat makes. Get to know what she wants. Imitate your pet's sounds and establish a rapport through language. It's really not such a far-fetched idea, you know.

Try kitty-speak when the two of you are alone you'll be surprised how responsive your cat is when she knows you are making the effort to learn her language!



Shetland Pony

Those ponies with an upright, or excessively straight, conformation of the legs may also be predisposed to conditions such as navicular disease (a disease of a small bone in the foot) and locking kneecaps (causing the hind leg to become intermittently 'fixed' in an extended position).

Small mares may also have birth problems as the birth canal may be too narrow for the foal to pass through easily.

Small ponies left to run with larger ponies or horses are also prone to injuries from kicking and trampling. Some larger breeds may not readily accept the smaller types.

Other health issues relate to those most common in horse breeds. Feet require regular trimming, teeth should be routinely rasped and a worming program maintained. A regular brush, particularly before harnessing or saddling up is also required.

A Shetland will range from \$500 - \$800 and a show quality pony can cost between \$2500 - \$3000.

No type of horse is a short term investment. Healthy, well maintained ponies can easily average a life up to early 20s, even reaching 30 years of age.

Staff News

WELL DONE REBECCA!!

CONGRATULATIONS from all the team at the Floreat Veterinary Centre to Dr. Rebecca Vaughan for achieving one of her life long dreams of becoming a Zoo Veterinarian.

Rebecca has been with us since February 2003 and although we are very sad to say goodbye to her, we wish her the very best of luck in all of her endeavours.

DON'T FORGET YOUR PETS FEEL THE COLD TOO

ASK US ABOUT WARM ACCESSORIES TO BUY FOR YOUR PET