

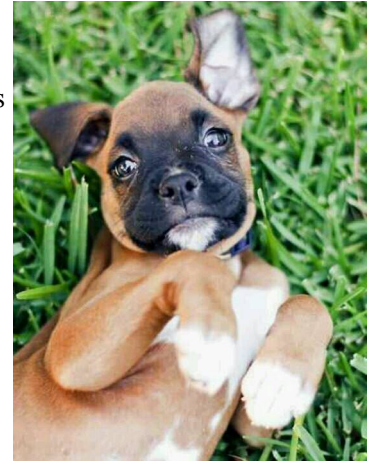


Welcome to the Autumn edition of our Newsletter. We would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter and hope you get to enjoy a few days break. We will be closed over the Easter Long Weekend from Friday 30th March to Tuesday 3rd April, please check you have enough medication and food for this period. For genuine emergencies over the Easter weekend please contact the Coffs Combined Veterinary After Hours Service on 6652 1571 and advise them that we are your regular clinic. We hope you enjoy reading this addition of our newsletter.

## Mast Cell Tumours

Mast cells are very common in dogs. These cells

are a special type of blood cell that live in the body and responds to allergens and inflammation, but sometimes they become cancerous and develop into 'Mast Cell Tumours' MCT. Generally they are found in the skin and can present in a variety of forms, often there will be ulceration over the area of the tumour, and the dog may scratch or bite at the affected area. Diagnosis of these can only be done by sampling the site and examining under a microscope. MCT are malignant tumours and have the ability to spread via the release of a substance into the blood stream, even after conservative surgery. Treatment of antihistamines, antacids and corticosteroids may be used in conjunction as part of the therapy.



The skin is the most common site for MCT to grow, they are locally invasive but can metastasise (spread) to any area of the body, most commonly the lymph nodes, bone marrow and spleen. On the initial consultation a Fine Needle Aspirate (sample removed by needle and syringe) is taken to examine under a microscope. It may also involve taking blood samples to check for further abnormalities or imaging of the abdomen. Each case is assessed individually.

Treatment is based on the individual findings of the examination. Surgery to remove the area of growth, if possible, would be the best option but is dependent on the location of the site. Your veterinarian will advise the best path to take after diagnosis.

Mast cells need your attention so it is imperative to have any lump that arises examined as soon as possible to give the best outcome. Early intervention is best.



## Buster Blue

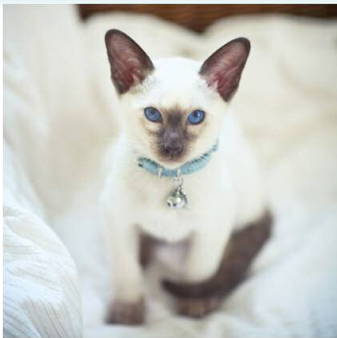
Our star patient for this newsletter is Buster Blue a four and a half year old Blue Heeler. Buster Blue is always on his best behaviour and what a treasure he is. Even though he has had to endure many uncomfortable visits he continues to greet us all with a smile.

Buster Blue presented with a right toe issue in early December which lead him to have a digital amputation. Buster sailed through his surgery smoothly in the hands of our professional team. Ongoing bandage changes were required and with the dedication of his lovely owners, he has been coming in twice a week since his surgery.

Bandage change after bandage change, with no sedation, he still smiles when he comes to visit. He makes our day with every visit and it is so good that he is progressing well.



## Breed profile



## Siamese Cats

Siamese cats originated in Thailand (formally Siam). They are generally very affectionate and quirky with a sophisticated look at me attitude. Siamese are loving and playful, enjoying plenty of attention and play from their owners. They are not an ideal cat for someone out at work all day as they do not like to be left on their own however owning a second Siamese can overcome that problem.

If constant "conversation" drives you crazy, Siamese may not be for you. They have a loud, raspy meow, and like to "talk" a lot, however some breeds sound off more often than others.

Due to poor breeding practices, some breeds are prone to certain genetic health problems. This doesn't mean that every cat of this breed will develop diseases; it just means that they are at an increased risk of contracting them.



## Puppy Skool

### Congratulations to our recent Graduates:

Jed Bryan-Derrin, Jack Baldwin, Jake & Finn O'Neill, Piper Bennett, Rubi Spicer, Cobber Burrell, Ollie Mills, Alfie Sharp & McCarthy, Blaze Ryan, Banjo Campbell, Jeda Taylor, Sabre Lloyd, Ellie Owers, Polly Morrison, Ruby Watt and Angus Tidey.

## Wonderful Wildlife

### Eastern Long Neck Turtles

are common in our region. They dwell on land and in water-ways such as dams and often wander in search of new homes. They love to spend time swimming but need time to be on land to soak up some much needed Vitamin D3.



When fully grown their shell is around 25cm in length, with the neck almost the same length. The upper shell or carapace is darker than the lower shell or plastron, their feet have strong claws and are webbed for swimming. The Eastern Long Neck Turtles diet consists of prey mostly on fish, tadpoles, frogs and crayfish. The female lays between 4-20 hard-shelled eggs during spring and early summer. The young turtles usually hatch after an incubation time ranging from three to eight months. Some females may produce two or three clutches in one season.

## Chocolate Toxicity

Please remember to keep chocolate out of reach of your pets. Chocolate contains two substances (theobromine & caffeine) that can be **toxic** or even fatal to your pet.

The initial signs of toxicity are vomiting and diarrhoea within a few hours of ingestion. Later nervous signs can develop (hyperactivity, tremors and seizure) and heart and respiratory rates become erratic and rapid. Excessive urination may result from the diuretic action of the chocolate. Heart failure, weakness, coma and death can occur in some cases.

There is no antidote however the severity of the symptoms can be reduced with early intervention. The expected course of poisoning depends on the cocoa content and quality of chocolate ingested.

Prognosis is good if treatment is commenced early (within 2-4 hours of ingestion).

## Important Information



ALTHOUGH ROVER MEANT HIS GIFT TO BE AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE, PRINCESS BELIEVED IT WAS AN ATTEMPT TO POISON HER.

## WELCOME

You may have noticed a couple of new faces around the clinic in the past few months as we have been very fortunate in gaining some wonderful new members to our team.

We are excited to have Erin join our team, Erin is a new graduate veterinarian from Queensland and has wonderful compassion and an 'above and beyond' attitude to every aspect of veterinary work.

We also have kept on one of our Certificate IV Workplace students from last year. Hannah is now a fully qualified Vet Nurse and is already familiar with our clinic. She is excited to be able to fulfill her dream of becoming a veterinary nurse.



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Moonee Beach Veterinary Surgery



## With Middy Mills



## Heatstroke

'Don't think it's over yet!'

Don't think that just because summer is over that heatstroke has gone. We need to be vigilant with our pets. It strikes any species but is commonly seen in dogs, especially those with shortened noses (i.e. bull dogs, pugs etc.) and over weight dogs are at a higher risk.

Signs of heatstroke generally include; distress, excessive panting, restlessness, drooling and bluish purple gums. Permanent damage can occur if the body temperature rises about 41degrees. Damage to the intestines, liver, kidneys, brain and lungs and in some instances death can occur.

You can help avoid heatstroke by cutting down exercise on hot days, have plenty of shade and cool water available and NEVER leave your pet in the car.

Heatstroke is a very harmful and damaging situation for animals to go through. So when you're hot and bothered, think of your pets too.

## Moonee Beach Veterinary Surgery

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Moonee Beach Veterinary Surgery  
is open 6 days per week:

Monday - Friday  
8.30am - 5.30pm

Saturday  
8.00am - 12.00 noon

Sundays / Public Holidays  
District Combined  
24 hour Emergency Care