



moonee beach  
veterinary surgery  
Where animals come first.™

Welcome to the Summer edition of our Newsletter. We would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your pets over the past year and we look forward to your continued support throughout 2018. Please remember to avoid feeding your pets the 'Christmas Goodies' from your table as these can cause stomach upsets in your pets that could potentially cause serious illness. If purchasing treats for your pets, please avoid items that are fatty, high in salt or contain food colouring.

## Dental Hygiene For Dogs and Cats

More than 85% of dogs and cats have some form of periodontal disease with the most common symptoms being bad breath; oral pain; and red, bleeding or swollen gums. Dental disease is more common in older pets however it can occur in adult animals of any age.

A dental scale and polish is required if tartar or other signs of periodontal disease are present. If left untreated, the disease will become irreversible resulting in loss of teeth, and can lead to more serious diseases involving the heart or kidneys.

A typical pet dental scale and polish includes a full physical examination, treatment and removal of diseased teeth, removal of plaque and tartar above and below the gum line, and polishing.

### Ways to prevent poor dental hygiene

1. Regularly check your pets teeth. This is best started from a young age. Any tooth may be affected but most commonly it will be the big chewing teeth (the carnassials) located at the back of the jaw.
2. Practice a regular dental care regimen at home, which may include: brushing the pets' teeth with specially formulated toothpaste; feeding specially formulated dental food and treats; or adding plaque reducing solution to drinking water.
3. If you are concerned about your pets teeth, either from bad breath or difficulty eating it is recommended they be assessed by a vet. Depending on the progression of the periodontal disease a course of antibiotics may be prescribed prior to performing the procedure.



Breed profile



## Dachshund

Dachshunds are a scent hound that were bred to hunt badgers and other tunnelling animals. They originated in Germany and come in three varieties: smooth (shorthaired), wirehaired and longhaired.

Because of their small size and ease of care Dachshunds are popular pets for owners with small or no backyards, however they are active and enjoy going for walks. They often bond closely with a single person but may become jealous of their owner's attention and possessive of their toys. Proper training and plenty of socialising is recommended.

Dachshunds have large lungs and a barrel-like chest that produces a loud, deep bark that sounds as though it comes from a much larger dog. They are brave but somewhat stubborn.

Jumping off furniture or becoming overweight will increase the risk of back injury as they are susceptible to slipped or ruptured discs in their backs, which can result in partial or full paralysis.

star patient

## Middy Mills

### *A tribute to Middy*

Middy was a beautiful Kelpie puppy rescued by Rob and she quickly became his constant shadow. Middy was part of the establishment of the clinic, helping Rob in any way possible. For many years she was our clinic dog and became our number one blood donor saving many dogs lives and being our test dummy for new procedures. Middy loved being around the team at the clinic but enjoyed her car trips with Rob even more, especially being his 'right hand man' on outside calls. On the rare occasion of a day off, Middy and Rob enjoyed their fishing trips together.

Only a couple of years ago Middy came to the point of retirement and enjoyed staying at home to rest and relax. Sadly the time came for Middy to 'rest in peace' recently at the age of 16 years, it was a very difficult time for the family and Vet Team but we are glad she enjoyed a loved and fulfilled life.

Thank you Middy for being a lovely companion, that brought life and happiness to the family and everyone at the clinic.





## Puppy Skool

### Congratulations to our recent Graduates:

Coma Kimpton, Roxy Martin, Millie Brebner, Thomas Dent, Logan Folpp & Knudsen, Chief Finch, Paisley Sturch & Roberts, Scout White, Bulla Goodwin, Bella Duffy, Coha Sincock, Jet Lee Gurber, Wilfred Bell, Buddy Busby, Frankie Poverello, Laki Sheridan &

Watson, Ollie Sketchley, Huxley Sales, Sage Allaway and Thor Grant & Armstrong.

## Wonderful Wildlife

### Eastern Rosella

The Eastern Rosella is a medium sized colourful bird that belongs to the parrot family. They have white cheeks and red head, neck and breast. They can be found on the east coast of Australia from Queensland to Tasmania and in parts of South Australia.



The Eastern Rosella's diet consists of seeds, fruit, flower nectar and insects, they mainly feed on the ground, especially amongst grasses in lawns, pastures and other clearings. Eastern Rosellas mate for life and nest in the hollow of trees with the nesting site chosen and prepared by the female. Eggs are laid on a decayed wood bed and the female incubates the eggs while the male regularly feeds her. The young may be fed for a while after they fledge.



## Large Animals

### Bloat in Cattle

Bloat is usually a seasonal problem in cattle and is normally precipitated by the rapid consumption of lush legume pasture species especially clover and Lucerne. Bloat is caused by an increase in the gas pressure within the rumen (paunch) as these feeds are fermented. The gas cannot

be belched up normally and death results from the pressure causing heart and lung failure. The gas is often trapped in the form of a stable foam.

Symptoms of bloat include: ceasing to graze; a reluctance to move; distended left abdomen; distressed (vocalise or eyes bulging); strain to urinate and defaecate; rapid breathing (mouth may be open with tongue protruding and staggering).

Cattle that are mildly affected can be treated orally with an anti-bloat preparation. After dosing, the animal is kept moving to encourage the preparation to mix with the frothy rumen contents.

Moderately and severely affected stock require veterinary attention and rapid relief. In advanced cases the animal will become recumbent. Death is rapid at this stage, and is due to the swollen rumen compressing the lungs, interfering with breathing and obstructing blood flow.

## Inside our Clinic

### Christmas Competition

Purchase a Bravecto from our clinic to go in the draw to win this wonderful Christmas pack for your dog. The pack includes 2 x Bravecto's of your choice and tasty treats for your dog to enjoy. Competition closes Tuesday 19th December 2017.



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Moonee Beach Veterinary Surgery



### With Middy Mills



## Heart Murmurs

Heart murmurs are most frequently diagnosed at a routine examination by a vet and can be detected as early as at a puppy's first vaccination. In some cases it may not be detected until later in life.

Heart murmurs are essentially vibrations caused by a disturbed blood flow. Vets will generally rate a murmur on a scale of 1 to 6. One being barely audible with a stethoscope and six being very loud and audible without a stethoscope. Rating a murmur helps us to monitor its progression.

Murmurs can be caused by a number of different things: abnormal heart anatomy; anaemia; hyperthyroidism (especially common in cats); heartworm disease; vegetative lesions on a heart valve; or degenerative disease of the heart.

If we are concerned about a murmur, diagnostic workup is recommended which may include chest radiographs and possibly an ultrasound. It is difficult to predict if a heart murmur will lead to heart failure later in life. Some animals live to a ripe old age whereas in other cases the heart starts to fail and medication is required.

If you are worried about your pets breathing or have been informed that your pet has a heart murmur it is best to have regular consultations with a vet.

### 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