




moonee beach
veterinary surgery
Where animals come first.™

Welcome to the Winter edition of our newsletter. The nights are getting cool, but we are still blessed with a few nice days. As the mercury is dropping you may have noticed your older pets finding it harder to move around. Please keep in mind that they don't need to suffer, treatment is available, please contact us for an appointment. Also, it's the high risk period for Hendra virus from May to November, which is widely spread from Flying Fox activity. In ideal conditions this virus can spread quickly, so get in early to vaccinate your horses.


Breed profile

Addison's Disease

Addison's disease is a condition where the body does not produce enough adrenal hormones.

These hormones, known as glucocorticoids and mineralocorticoids, are used to regulate a variety of functions throughout the body. Without these hormones, dogs become very weak, lethargic, inappetent and dull.

If not addressed, dogs can go into an 'addisonian crisis' and become extremely ill and pass away. The disease is rare in dogs (extremely rare in cats) and is often missed as it mimics many other conditions that vets see more commonly in every day practice such as kidney disease, acute pancreatitis, gastroenteritis and toxicities.

To diagnose this condition a test called an ACTH stimulation test will be run. Most animals are quite unwell and will require hospitalisation for intravenous fluid therapy during this period.

Once a diagnosis is confirmed treatment in the form of replacement steroid hormones is commenced. Replacement of both glucocorticoids and mineralocorticoids is required for the rest of the animals life. Therapy is monitored through regular vet visits and blood tests.



Domestic Cats

All domestic cats belong to one species *Felis catus* and may have first been domesticated over 4000 years ago in Ancient Egypt. They have evolved to a range of colours and coat lengths (short, medium and long), and adults vary in size from 3kg to more than 7kg.

Similar to their wild relatives, domestic cats are natural hunters with their exceptional night vision and acute hearing. They are nimble and agile, and use their long tails to aid balance, stalking, and pouncing to catch prey with their sharp claws and teeth.

It is advisable to have our beautiful domestic moggies (as they are affectionately known), house bound to preserve the native population from being impacted from their efficient hunting skills.

Domestic cats are carnivores with a rough surfaced tongue to aid feeding and grooming. Obesity, dental disease and urinary tract problems occur commonly in pet cats, and can be a result of poor diet and misunderstanding of their nutritional requirements.


star patient

Logan Folpp & Knudsen

Logan, an adorable young Border Collie presented recently with lethargy, vomiting and diarrhoea.

After veterinary examination, blood tests were performed and Logan was immediately put on supportive care until all the tests were complete.

Blood results confirmed that Logan had Addison's disease and treatment was commenced. Logan responded well to the treatment.

He now undergoes regular blood tests and monitoring. His owners have been very committed to making sure he gets his medication which enables him to remain a healthy, energetic dog.





Puppy Skool

Congratulations to our recent Graduates:

Groover Hayes, Archie Griffith, Billy Geyson, Sunny Boaden, Boris Haley, Pippin Kingston, Nala Hugo & Egginton, Ben Paul, Charlie Skinner, Winston Bohringer, Lola Springer, Loki Bliss, Koda Carter, Ivy Browne, Peggy O'Neil & Nicholls, Dex Briercliffe, Albus Dumbledore Emmatt Lloyd, Buddy Nicholls, Alice Norris, Frankie Myers-Tweedie, Shane Hourigan, Hutchy Gall & Dixie Pearson.

Wonderful Wildlife

Found in Eastern Australia the platypus lives aside freshwater rivers or lakes, and creates burrows for shelter. They are active mainly at night time and can hold their breath for up to ten minutes. They feed on insect larvae, worms or other freshwater insects.

Mating occurs between June - October.

A baby is called a puggle and they have an average lifespan of twelve years. Their biggest threats are snakes, goannas, rats and foxes. Another big threat to the platypus is humans, via waterway pollution or land clearing.

Fun fact: The male platypi have a spur about 15 millimetres in length on the inside of both hind legs. This in turn is connected to a venom gland, and the platypus uses this spur to defend itself against predators.



Inside our Clinic

Dental awareness Month

Are you aware of the state of your pet's teeth?

You don't need to put up with your dog's bad breath. Did you know that four out of five dogs and cats over the age of three years have some form of dental disease?

Dental disease relates to plaque build-up, periodontal disease and infection which causes pain and discomfort. Bad breath is not normal for any animal to have and needs to be investigated promptly by a visit to your vet.

Regular examinations are important as dogs and cats will NOT show pain until extensive disease is in place. **Early detection is the key!**

Large Animals

Flying Foxes and Hendra Virus

Catching diseases directly from flying-foxes is extremely unlikely. However they are known as host to a life-threatening virus called Hendra virus, which can be transmitted to horses. This is usually fatal for the horse and potentially fatal for any human who comes into contact.

As a precautionary measure, horse owners should not feed or water horses beneath trees where flying-foxes roost or visit regularly. If horse owners know there are bats in the area, they should contact their veterinarian immediately if any of their horses become ill with fever, respiratory problems, colic or neurological signs (like loss of vision and/or balance).

Until the horse is examined and a Hendra exclusion test performed by a veterinarian, horse owners must limit contact with sick horses and avoid contact with any body fluid, including nasal discharge.

The key to controlling the virus is vaccinating your horses against Hendra virus.



With Middy Mills



Wound and Bandage Care

In some cases post surgery bandage care is required to aid the healing process. Following the post care recommendation from the vet is paramount and the care at home is essential to ensure a great outcome.

Bandages need to be kept dry at all times, free from any discharge and smells. Appointments for rebandaging need to be adhered to, but if you notice any of the above signs a vet needs to check the wound as soon as possible to alleviate any discomfort and reduce infection.

Some wounds are inoperable and need to be treated as open wounds, like the tremendously brave Pepper (pictured below) who encountered a tussle with a kangaroo. These types of wounds can take months to heal, requiring regular visits to clean and debride.



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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
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24 hour Emergency Care

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