

**I'M FREE!!
PLEASE TAKE ME**



**YOUR
VET**



AUTUMN 2015

CARNEGIE VETERINARY CLINIC & CARNEGIE CAT COTTAGE

66 Rosstown Road
Carnegie, Victoria 3163

P: 9563 5422

W: www.carnegievets.com.au &
www.carnegiecatcottage.com.au



OUR VETS:

Dr. Ketan Jivanjee

*BSc (La Trobe), BVSc (Pretoria),
MRCVS (UK)*

Special Interests: Small Animal Surgery, Small Animal Internal Medicine, Ophthalmology, Theriogenology, Pharmacology, Unusual & Exotic Pet Medicine & Surgery, Veterinary Practice Management.

Dr. Kelly Wilkinson *BVSc (Hons) (Melbourne)*

Special interests: Small Animal Medicine, Feline Medicine, Animal Behaviour, Unusual & Exotic Pet Medicine & Surgery.

You may have already met our nurses. They have pets of their own and are well versed on all clinic, hospital and cat boarding services. Please do not hesitate to ask them any questions. They will assist you as much as possible to ensure a well informed and worthwhile visit to the clinic. Our staff will eagerly assist you with your appointments, food supplies and any other questions you may have about the care and welfare of your pet. Passion, Pride and Perseverance in Service and Care is what we do.

Kara Billing *Cert IV (Vet. Nursing) BSc (Zoology)*

Areas of interest: Surgical Nursing, Practice Management, Puppy Preschool, Nutrition & Behaviour, Counselling & Client Relations.

Charlie Samor *C 15 Cert (Sweden)*

Areas of interest: Surgical Nursing, Medical Nursing, Nutrition & Behaviour, Counselling & Client Relations.

CARNEGIE VETERINARY CLINIC HOURS:

Monday to Friday: 8am – 7pm

Saturday: 9am – 1:30pm

CARNEGIE CAT COTTAGE – HOURS OF ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE:

Monday to Friday: 10am – 1pm

Saturday: 9am – 1pm

In the unfortunate event that you would require veterinary assistance after hours please contact:

PET EMERGENCY CENTRE: 1103 Dandenong Road, Malvern East, Victoria 3145
Phone: 9569 3677 Melways Reference: 68 J3

SOUTHERN ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTRE:
248 Wickham Road, Highett, Victoria 3190
Phone: 9532 5261 Melways Reference: 77 H8

ARE MICROCHIPS NECESSARY AND SAFE?

These are the two major questions commonly asked about microchips. As with any medical procedure, you have to weigh the risks versus the benefits, and it's often a very individual decision.

If you know that your pet is safe and secure inside your home, is always kept on a leash outside and is correctly trained to come when called then it's possible you do not actually need a microchip. However, microchipping for both cats and dogs is currently mandatory in ACT, NSW, QLD, VIC and WA, as well as in TAS for dogs only.

If your pet has a high chance of becoming lost through running off and not coming when called, a microchip may be a good idea. Thousands of pets are lost every year and sadly many are never reunited with their owners. While having a microchip can increase the chance of finding your lost pet, it all depends on whether it can actually be scanned. There have previously been problems with microchips and scanners that weren't compatible and it can also sometimes be difficult to locate the chip as they can migrate from the original anatomical site. If your pet does have a microchip then you must make sure that the chip is registered and includes your current contact details, otherwise it is of no use if your pet is found and scanned.



The major safety concern with microchips is that any time you implant a foreign body into your pet, whether a microchip or a metal plate for a broken bone, there's the potential for your pet's body to reject the substance. This reaction can range from a mild to severe inflammatory response at the site of the injection and research on this is still ongoing.

(http://kb.rspca.org.au/ls-microchipping-mandatory-for-cats-and-dogs_287.html). If you would like more information about microchipping, check with RSPCA Australia or your local veterinarian.

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IF ONLY THEY COULD SPEAK!

Our beloved furry friends are well known for bringing us joy and making us smile. Even though they cannot speak, we are still able to connect and communicate love and affection with them. But what happens when they're not feeling at their best and they need to let you know?

As a pet owner it is vital to recognise when your fur-baby is not 100% so that you can manage them and any additional treatment they may require. The ability to recognise when your pet is not well comes through knowing your pet well. Being aware if something is not quite right is extremely important as it will affect how soon your pet receives the care they need. It all comes down to knowing what is normal and what is not. With regular monitoring of your pet's day-to-day life you will be able to pick up any concerns early and therefore be able to deal with them sooner, rather than later. The following list will help you know what to look out for:

- GENERAL WELLBEING** – Is your pet moving normally? If not, are they in pain? Do they have an obvious injury? It is important to assess this quickly and to seek further advice if concerned. Are they eating/drinking the normal amount? A change in the consumption of food or water can be a concern. Obviously minor variations are to be expected, particularly with changes in temperature. However all unexplained changes should be investigated, especially if your pet has stopped eating completely or you suspect they are dehydrated.
- TOILETING HABITS** – While sometimes difficult, it is important to note any changes in the quantity or consistency of your pet's faeces. Digestive upsets are common in most pets but diarrhoea can be a serious problem and something that should be evaluated. Remember any dietary changes need to be introduced gradually and a moderate change in the consistency of your pets faeces is not uncommon when changes to a feeding regime are being introduced, but major changes can be a cause for concern.
- GENERAL Demeanour** – Does your pet seem happy and looking forward to food with a sense of excitement? A pet that shows little or no interest in its meal should be watched carefully. Be aware if you have more than one pet that group feeding environments can create their own issues! Ensure that the feeding routine is as consistent as possible, even if that means separating your pets to make sure that each gets

its fair share. Feeding routines in which some animals may miss out altogether, and others get twice their ration, are unhealthy and increase the risks of dietary-related problems.

A change in any of these areas can be triggered by something as simple as a variation in temperature, but it could also be the first early signs of something amiss. Do your best to get to the bottom of it by checking your pet thoroughly and monitoring them closely.

If things don't return to normal then don't hesitate to see your vet for a check-up.

Finding problems early can not only reduce treatment costs, but also save lives.



Clever CROSSWORD

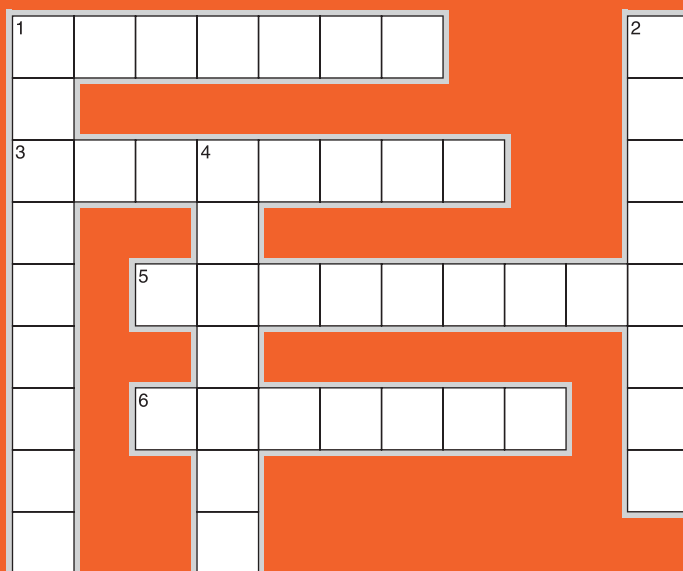
Down:

1. A _____ is a good idea should your pet have tendencies to wander.
2. Cats' claws often carry _____ underneath them.
4. Insufficient exercise can cause your pet to suffer from _____.

Across:

1. Another name for cats ?
3. What are frogs and tadpoles sensitive to ?
5. Changes in temperature can cause your pet to _____.
6. Most Australian States require a _____ to keep Frogs in captivity.

EACH OF THE WORDS CAN BE FOUND IN THIS ISSUE OF "YOUR VET". ANSWERS ARE SHOWN ON BOTTOM OF THE BACK PAGE.



CAT SCRATCHES AND YOUR SKIN

Our beloved moggies are generally wonderful to cuddle and play with, but every now and then someone ends up drawing blood....and it's usually them! Cats have sharp claws, and occasionally they scratch their human family – usually unintentionally. Cat scratches can burn, itch and be downright painful. If you or someone in the family has been scratched, here are some tips for dealing with it:

WASH THE AREA WITH SOAP AND WATER.

Cats' claws often have material or bacteria on or under them. When they puncture your skin, that dirt is right there and can enter the wound. Use mild hand soap and warm water to wash the cat scratch and the area around it. Flush the area thoroughly with warm water to rinse any material away.

PROTECT THE AREAS OF THE WOUND THAT WERE DEEP ENOUGH TO BLEED.

Depending on the size of the scratch, this could be a band-aid or a piece of gauze; as long as the covering allows the injury to breathe. It is important not to smother the wound with anti-bacterial cream but these can be used sparingly or try lavender oil as a natural anti-bacterial which can often help reduce any itching.

WATCH THE WOUND FOR SIGNS OF INFECTION.

These include swelling, redness, tenderness and oozing. If these signs appear, see your doctor.

WATCH FOR SIGNS OF CAT SCRATCH DISEASE - ESPECIALLY IN CHILDREN OR THOSE WITH LOWERED IMMUNITY.

Cat scratch disease, a bacterial infection that causes swelling of the lymph nodes, is usually due to a scratch or bite of a cat. *Bartonella henselae*, the bacterium that causes this disease, is found in all parts of the world. Fleas spread the bacteria between cats, although there's no evidence that fleas can transmit the disease to humans. The bacteria live in infected cats' saliva but don't make the animals sick. In humans, a blister or bump develops several days after the scratch or bite which is usually painless and may be mistaken for a bug bite. Within a couple of weeks, one or more lymph nodes close to the area will swell and become tender. In most kids, swollen lymph nodes are the main symptom of the disease and the illness is mild. If people have other general symptoms, they might include a mild fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, headache, rash, sore throat, and an overall ill feeling. Cat scratch disease usually resolves without any lasting illness.

CONSIDER A VISIT TO YOUR DOCTOR FOR AN EVALUATION AND MORE THOROUGH CLEANING.

If the wound is very deep and has a skin flap or ragged edges, it is more likely to get infected and leave a scar. Also consider having it checked out if the wound is on your face.

Most people realise that receiving the occasional scratch is part of owning a cat. Playtime is an enjoyable activity for both you and your cat...it's just unfortunate that sometimes it's your flesh that comes off second best! To avoid this don't forget to utilise cat toys, ribbons, balls and blankets to help create some distance between their super-sharp claws and your delicate skin.



THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR EXERCISE

Just like humans, regular exercise is a must for the well-being of most pets. If you accept the responsibility of keeping a pet you must ensure that regular exercise is available to them.

If an animal does not have the space and opportunity to exercise it may lead to behavioural issues as well as poor health. Reptiles are one of the few exceptions as they prefer confined spaces and do not take the opportunity to exercise if allowed to do so.

Concerning situations for pets are cats living in small flats, dogs whose owners are never home, guinea pigs kept in a hutch with no

access to a run, caged hamsters/rats/mice without an exercise wheel and birds with no flight space in their cage.

Exercise is important as it allows our pets to express their normal instinctive behavioural traits and encourages the development of a daily toilet routine.

The most common adverse effect of insufficient exercise is obesity and all pets can develop this.

Numerous dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, rats, ponies and birds are overweight simply because their owners do not moderate their food intake or because they have enforced a sedentary lifestyle through a lack of regular physical activity. Make sure you keep your pet happy and healthy by ensuring they have the ability to run, jump, play or fly every day!



DID SOMEONE SAY “RIBBIT”?

Before you consider purchasing a frog you need to be familiar with the law in your state or territory.

Frogs and tadpoles are protected in most Australian states and territories and a license is required to keep them in captivity. It is illegal to take a frog from the wild in Australia – if you wish to keep frogs you must purchase them from a licensed frog breeder or society.

While frogs are low maintenance pets, you must ensure that their cages are clean, they are fed regularly and that the water is free from toxins in order for your pet to live a long life. All water in their enclosure must be free from chlorine as they are very sensitive to its toxicity. You can buy products to de-chlorinate the water, or simply use bottled water.

Frogs are one of the most unique pets you could have. Having one as a pet is more of a hobby as these are not companion animals. It can be dangerous to both of you to handle them too often. Any chemicals or residue on human hands can be passed onto them and



even kill them so smokers should never touch frogs. Hands should be washed thoroughly before handling your frog to avoid irritation to their skin and again afterwards to protect you. Excessive handling can also cause distress to the frog so it is best to keep it at a minimum.

The preferred diet for frogs is live insects such as moths, flies, wax worms and crickets. Most of these can be purchased or you can collect them yourself but you must ensure their food is free of pesticides and chemicals. Frogs also need calcium and vitamin D powder regularly due to being indoors and you can get this in most pet shops.

Frogs make great pets but before you purchase, talk to your veterinary practitioner or a person experienced in the care of frogs for advice so you are fully prepared for your new friend when you bring them home.

Dr. Ketan Jivanjee

Ketan graduated Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort, South Africa. Prior to that, he completed Bachelor of Science with majors in Biochemistry and Microbiology from La Trobe University, Bundoora. Ketan is a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, United Kingdom. In 2003, a passion for surgery led him to complete a one year post graduate course in Small Animal Surgery conducted by the University of Sydney.

Ketan has focused on small animal practice since graduation. He spent three years in a busy small animal hospital in Albury/Wodonga honing his medical and surgical skills. His time there was both fruitful and rewarding allowing him to provide an in-depth medical and surgical service here at Carnegie Veterinary Clinic. He enjoys the rigours, challenges and diversity of a multi-faceted general practice. Out of the clinic, Ketan takes an avid interest in motor sports.

Dr. Kelly Wilkinson

Kelly graduated Bachelor of Veterinary Science with honours from The University of Melbourne. Kelly is passionate about feline medicine. In 2002, Kelly completed a one year post graduate course in Feline Medicine conducted by the University of Sydney. Over the years, Kelly has maintained a strong focus on continuing veterinary education. She is also a member of the European Society of Feline Medicine.

Kelly's interests away from the Clinic are her two beautiful daughters – Natalie and Stephanie.

We are passionate about continuing veterinary education and ongoing learning. All members of the Carnegie Veterinary Clinic Team partake in continuing professional development to further enhance their skills and ultimately provide better service to clients and better outcomes to patients. Striving for excellence in service and care is our priority.

To provide adequate service and facilities for your needs it is necessary to charge realistic fees for treating your pet. Prompt payment of our account will help us keep the fees down. Please note that we require complete payment at the time of each consultation visit and prior to discharge from the clinic for companions that underwent in-hospital procedures. An estimate of fees can be provided for all diagnostics and treatment. We accept cash, eftpos, mastercard and visa.

The Clinic itself does not offer an account facility.

We strongly recommend Pet Insurance. Unfortunately, a Medicare type system is not in place for our pets, so the real cost of providing treatment and care must be borne by the owner. If you would like to know more about pet insurance or Petplan specifically please feel free to pick up brochures which are readily available from reception.

Nobody likes waiting. We do our best to run on time. However, occasionally there are complex cases and emergencies, so we can run behind. We appreciate and thank you for your patience.

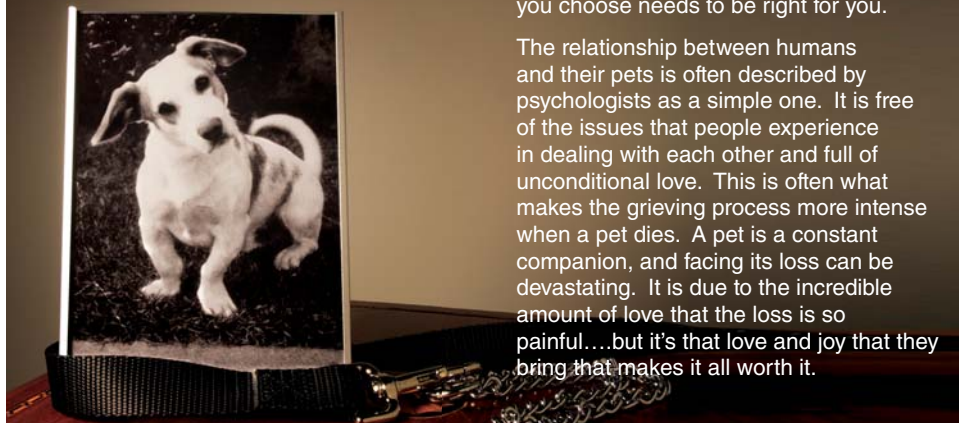
THE LOSS OF A FURRY FAMILY MEMBER

Animals provide us with companionship, acceptance, emotional support, and unconditional love.

If you've shared your heart and home with an animal, you will no doubt feel a great sense of loss and sorrow when you lose them.

No matter how many years you had together, or how expected their death, the grief can be overwhelming.

Unfortunately there's no avoiding it: if you loved the pet, you're going to be sad and the grief may last longer than you expect.



Don't allow people to tell you how to feel or what to do; only you know what is right for you.

Acknowledge your grief and give yourself permission to express it and don't hesitate to reach out to others who will lend you a shoulder to cry on. You may find it helpful to write about your feelings, either in a journal or a poem. You may also want to ask your veterinarian or local animal shelter about available pet-loss hotlines if you would like to talk to someone about your grief. Use the Internet and search for pet-loss support groups and coping information. When you are ready, prepare an appropriate memorial for your pet. This is a very personal choice and whatever you choose needs to be right for you.

The relationship between humans and their pets is often described by psychologists as a simple one. It is free of the issues that people experience in dealing with each other and full of unconditional love. This is often what makes the grieving process more intense when a pet dies. A pet is a constant companion, and facing its loss can be devastating. It is due to the incredible amount of love that the loss is so painful....but it's that love and joy that they bring that makes it all worth it.

Across: 1. Moggles; 3. Chlorine; 5. Dehydrate; 6. License.

Down: 1. Microchip; 4. Obesity; 2. Bacteria.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD