

FREE!!
PLEASE TAKE ONE

YOUR
VET



AUTUMN 2016

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.

Christine Bury Dip VN, Cert IV (Adv Vet. Nursing)

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

Vicky Rae Ellmore B.I.S. (Publishing)

Studying Cert IV (Vet. Nursing)

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

Brittany Brousse Studying Cert IV (Vet. Nursing)

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
Phone: 9569 3677, Melways reference: 68 J3

SOUTHERN ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTRE

248 Wickham Road, Highett
Phone: 9532 5261, Melways reference: 77 H8

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Owning a pet can be extremely rewarding, but it is important to remember pet ownership is a big responsibility.

The RSPCA recommends careful planning, consideration and thorough research on the basics of pet care as well as on where you are purchasing the animal from before buying any new pet.

Requirements for breeders vary from state to state, but it's a good idea to find out whether breeders in your area have to be registered and if there is a code of practice that they should be following. You can then ask the breeder for their registration details and what guidelines they follow. It's also a good idea to ask for references.

If you can, visit the animal in the place where it was born and meet its mother (and father if possible). This is the only way to be sure all the animals are well cared for and

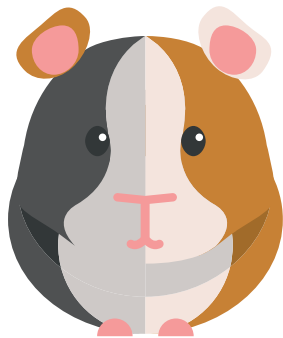
housed in good conditions. You can also get some idea of how big the animal will grow and what its temperament might be like. A good breeder breeds for healthy, happy and well-socialised animals and will welcome your visit to the breeding facility.

If you decide to go ahead with purchasing a pet, it is also important to know your rights as a consumer, under the law. As a consumer, you have rights against the supplier if a purchase does not meet these guarantees. What if you take the puppy home and it has a health problem, or doesn't get on with your children or other pets and you can't cope? A good breeder will offer to take back unwanted animals within a specified time period after sale. They should also offer to accept animals returned as a result of problems arising from an inherited disorder at any time after sale.

Get in touch with your local veterinarian for further advice on pet ownership.



GORGEOUS GUINEA PIGS



With their sweet little faces and furry bodies these small animals have a lot of appealing qualities. Despite their common name, these animals are not in the pig family, nor are they from Guinea.

Otherwise known as Cavies, guinea pigs are small rodents indigenous to South America. They have an average life span of five to seven years and are grazing animals, who in their natural habitat, live in extended family groups. Guinea pigs make wonderful pets, but like all animals they do require daily care and attention.

Guinea pigs need time out of their cage every day. However, as true herbivores that are very low on the food chain, they should be kept away from dogs, cats, ferrets and rats. If you allow your guinea pigs some freedom inside your house, they will need constant supervision as they have a tendency to chew things - including electrical cords and cables!

Daily interaction and attention are essential for a guinea pig's well-being and they enjoy gentle handling and petting. However, serious injury may be caused if a guinea pig wriggles free and falls or jumps from your arms and it is important not to over-handle them, as they are susceptible to stress. Guinea pigs make a quiet yet audible vibrating sound when they are happy. In addition to purring, they make a number of other sounds like "wheeking," often when excited about food, "rumbling" when looking to mate and "teeth chattering" when stressed or agitated.

Their diet must be high in vitamin C and consist almost entirely of vegetable matter. Variety is essential and the food offered must be fresh and free from contamination. Special pellets are available from pet shops and form a good base for the diet, which must include greens, raw fruit and vegetables and good quality hay. Fresh water should be supplied daily via a drip feed bottle and replenished daily. Like all rodents, guinea pigs need something hard to chew on and will gnaw their cage if there is nothing else.

A piece of hard wood is perfect to use as exercise for their teeth and will help to keep them in good condition.

A guinea pig's cage should be thoroughly cleaned on a weekly basis and spot-cleaned every few days. Guinea pigs need to be groomed regularly with shorthaired breeds needing a weekly brush, and longhaired breeds requiring daily grooming. In addition to brushing, their nails on all four feet need to be trimmed regularly, about every 4-6 weeks.

Guinea pigs are extremely social animals so preventing a solitary guinea pig from becoming lonely and bored is not easy. They are communal, herd animals who thrive in the company of other pigs. Guinea pigs in groups are much more vocal and more interesting to observe. The best entertainment for your guinea pig is a friend so always plan to have more than one.

If you have decided that guinea pigs are the right addition to your household, don't forget to check out your local animal shelters and rescues and give some of these lovely little animals a wonderful new life.



Clever
CROSSWORD

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

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Across

1. By what other name are guinea pigs known?

4. One of the most common health problems in pet animals.

8. When visiting a breeder, it's a good idea to ask for these.

9. They recommend careful planning and research before you buy a new pet.

Down

2. Who relies on foster parents to care for animals before they can be adopted?

3. According to researchers, cats may purr to do this with you.

5. A foster home is this type of home for animals.

6. Many of these lead a sedentary caged lifestyle.

7. When going away you can leave your pet at a boarding _____?

11. Where does a cat's purr begin?



OBESITY IN BIRDS

Obesity is one of the most common health problems in pet animals. The sedentary lifestyle of many caged birds, combined with easy access to a bottomless food bowl, creates a recipe for an overweight bird.

As with other pets, birds can also develop weight-related health problems such as breeding difficulties, decreased organ function and shorter life spans.

Diets fed to pet birds may be higher in calories than they would eat in the wild. Often pet birds are given seeds or treats high in fat, such as sunflower seeds and peanuts.

High carbohydrates such as pasta can be problematic too. Fruits are generally high in

sugar and can add to the calorie content.

Birds on seed diets are often fed by simply filling the cup with seed, usually providing far more than they should really eat in a day.

Consult your veterinarian to determine if your bird is overweight and what dietary modifications should be made. In most cases, switching from a seed-based diet to a formulated diet with vegetables will go a long way in slimming down your bird.

Increasing your bird's opportunities for exercise will also help. Move them to a larger cage, add climbing ladders and use foraging toys so your bird will have to work at getting their food!

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Going out of town? Leaving your fur babies behind can be as stressful for you as it is for them, but it doesn't have to be. Asking the right questions and knowing what's important to you, can help you decide on the right option for you and your pet.

The best person to ask about boarding recommendations is often your pet's veterinarian. Once you have some names, it's important to do a little background check. Find out whether your state requires boarding kennel inspections. If it does then make sure the facilities you are considering display a license or certificate showing that they meet official standards.

The most important thing to do next is to schedule a visit and make sure you get a tour of the facilities. A good kennel should be largely odour-free and as quiet as possible. It should also be well lit, at a comfortable temperature and attended by diligent and caring staff.

The living and playing areas should look and smell clean, and be free of waste and urine to prevent spreading disease.

Check that each dog has their own adequately sized run and a schedule for exercise. It's also important that cats have enough space and are housed well away from dogs.

You will need to ask how often pets are fed, if you can bring any special food and what veterinary services are available if needed.

Also look to see that the kennel isn't overcrowded. It's a good idea

to ask the staff how many animals they usually board and how many workers are normally present.

Animals should look content and stress-free and also have proper bedding and water. Some high-tech facilities even have web cams set up so you can check in on your furry friend online while you're away!



It's important your pet knows basic commands and is well socialised around other people and pets. If your pet has an aggression problem they may not be a good candidate for boarding.

Some pets also suffer from separation anxiety and therefore may be better candidates for a pet sitter. If you are going to be absent for a long period of time, a pet sitter may also be a better alternative than a long-term boarding situation. A sitter is also a good option if your dog or cat suffers from mobility issues or is not up-to-date on vaccines.

Lastly, it's a good idea to accustom your pet to longer kennel stays by first boarding them during a short trip, such as a weekend away. This allows you to work out any problems before boarding them for an extended period.

It's important to note, when visiting different facilities, how the environment makes you feel. If you feel comfortable there and get along well with staff members, it's likely that your furry family member will feel at ease there as well.

No kennel will feel exactly like home to your pet, but if it can come close, you'll be able to go on your trip knowing your pet is safe and sound.

WHY DO CATS PURR?

A cat's purr begins in its brain. A repetitive neural oscillator sends messages to the laryngeal muscles, causing them to twitch at a rate of 25 to 150 vibrations per second.

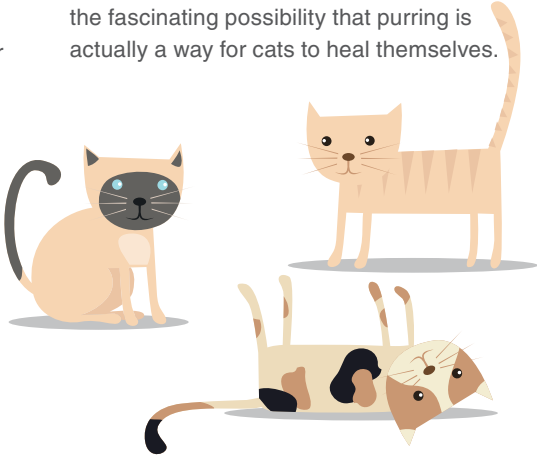
This causes the vocal cords to separate when the cat inhales and exhales, producing a purr. It's easy to assume that cats purr because they're happy. After all, when your kitty contentedly curls up in your lap for some well-deserved scratches and rubs, she's obviously one happy feline. However, cats also purr when they're frightened or feel threatened, such as during a trip to the vet.

Your cat however, may also purr to communicate with you. According to researchers, domestic cats can hide a plaintive cry within their purrs that irritates their humans while appealing to their nurturing instincts.

One study¹ found that some cats start purring at the same frequency to a human

baby's cry, in what's been called a "soliciting purr" and only stop when they get what they want.

Cats' purrs are more than simply a way to communicate though. It has been suggested that frequencies between 24-140 vibrations per minute are therapeutic for bone growth, pain relief and wound healing. This raises the fascinating possibility that purring is actually a way for cats to heal themselves.



In addition to repairing bones, there's also evidence that the series of vibrations caused by purring can repair muscles and

tendons, ease breathing and reduce pain and swelling.

With such sedentary life styles, it might actually make sense that cats would need to increase healing and bone density while effectively lounging around for most of the day. This would also explain why cats purr when sick or injured.

So super-healing feline or expert manipulator, the truth behind your cat's purr may not be as simple as it seems!

¹ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8147566.stm>

THE GIFT OF FOSTERING

Animals often need temporary homes to recover from illness or injury before they can be adopted and foster care programmes help to give these animals a new start to a better life.

Volunteer 'foster parents' provide temporary homes for animals who are not yet ready to go to a permanent home and help them recover from surgery, give them medicine for an illness or work with them to improve their behaviour.

For many foster parents, the single biggest concern is falling in love, especially if you already have pets at home. Why not just keep the foster animal yourself? While admirable, it's not always the best thing.

If you adopt a pet that you're fostering, you might have reached your limit of household pets and not be able to accept any others. This means one less foster home for the shelter to rely on.

So, when the day comes that you must bring your first foster pet back to the shelter, be prepared for some tears. But, while it can be very difficult to let go once you have become emotionally attached to an animal, remember, they are now much more likely to find a loving, permanent home because of your help.



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 for 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.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Cavies 4. Obesity 8. References 9. RSPCA 10. Herbivore 12. Sitter.

Down: 2. Shelter 3. Communicate 5. Temporary 6. Birds 7. Kennel 11. Brain.