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PLEASE TAKE ONE

YOUR
VET



SUMMER 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.

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, 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



WHY CATS ARE MORE INDEPENDENT THAN DOGS

According to new research, domestic cats do not generally see their owners as a focus of safety and security in the same way that dogs do.

Animal behaviour specialists at the University of Lincoln, UK, conducted a study that demonstrated that while dogs perceive their owners as a safe base, the relationship between people and cats appears to be quite different.

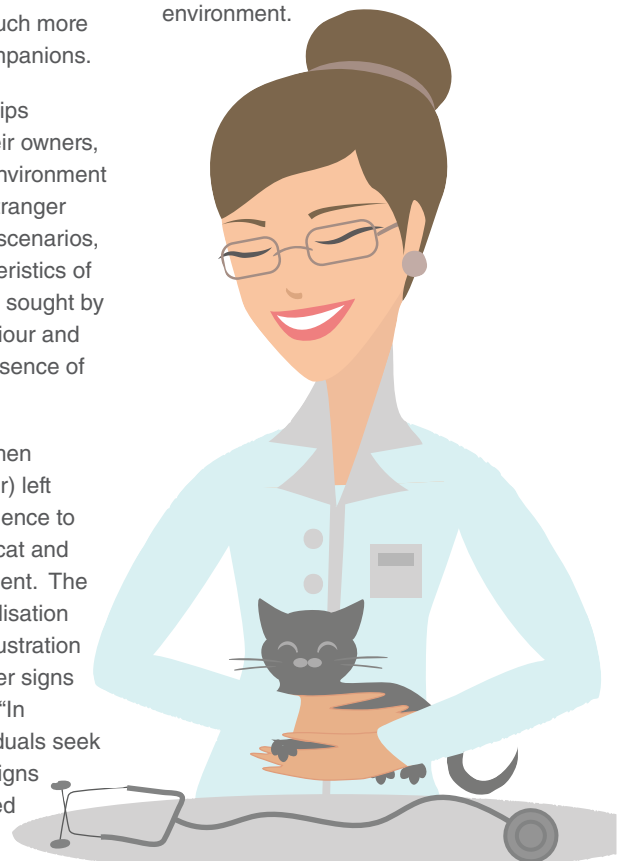
While previous research has suggested that some cats show signs of separation anxiety when left alone by their owners, in the same way that dogs do, the results of this new study show that they are in fact much more independent than their canine companions.

The study observed the relationships between a number of cats and their owners, placing the pets in an unfamiliar environment together with their owner, with a stranger and also on their own. In varying scenarios, it assessed three different characteristics of attachment, the amount of contact sought by the cat, the level of passive behaviour and signs of distress caused by the absence of the owner.

While the cats were more vocal when the owner (rather than the stranger) left them, there was no additional evidence to suggest that the bond between a cat and its owner is one of secure attachment. The researchers suggest that the vocalisation may have simply been a sign of frustration or learned response, since no other signs of attachment were reliably seen. "In strange situations, attached individuals seek to stay close to their carer, show signs of distress when they are separated and demonstrate pleasure when

their attachment figure returns, but these trends weren't apparent during our research." (Potter & Mills, 2015).

The researchers concluded that for pet dogs, their owners often represent a specific safe haven. However it is clear that domestic cats are much more autonomous when it comes to coping with unusual situations. Their findings don't disagree with the view that cats develop social preferences or close relationships, but they do show that these relationships do not appear to be typically based on a need for safety and security. While cats might prefer to interact with their owner, they do not rely on them for reassurance when in an unfamiliar environment.



RATS MAKE GREAT PETS!

Rats have gained popularity as pets in only the past hundred years or so. These wonderful little creatures are relatively easy to keep, which makes them a great first pet for a young family or for those with space constraints.

Rats are inquisitive and friendly pets that can become very attached to their owner, making them a great companion. With regular handling, rats will happily curl up on your lap for a snooze or enjoy exploring the world perched upon your shoulder.

There are many species of rats, however, the type most commonly kept as pets is called the brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). Domesticated rats grow to a body length of 12-15cm (5-6") with a furless tail roughly the same length. Male rats are larger than female, more aggressive but lazier and less active. Females are smaller, but busier and more playful. Rats generally live for an average of 2-3½ years and there are many different coat types and colour variations available.

Being social creatures, rats should not be kept alone. Keeping a same-sex pair is ideal however, it is important to keep in mind that two adult males who are unfamiliar with each other may fight if introduced suddenly. Rats need a large house, preferably with multiple levels to provide plenty of opportunity for exercise. Be aware though that rats like to chew, therefore any cage used to house a rat must be made of materials impervious to chewing as they are excellent escape artists!

Rats love to play and their personalities will thrive with lots of stimulation so it's important to have plenty of toys available to them. They also need one hour to freely roam out of their cage each day. As they are very intelligent, rats can be great fun to train. They like to please people, are naturally curious and hate being bored. As well as enhancing the quality of their life, training your rat will strengthen the bond between you.



Often a surprise is that rats don't smell and are in fact meticulously clean animals. However, it is important to thoroughly clean their cage regularly. This will protect their health, your health and minimise any odour from droppings. Also consider the location of the cage as rats are sensitive to the heat and may experience heat exhaustion when temperatures are in excess of 30°C.

Rats are fairly easy to feed and love their food! They are omnivores, eating both plant and animal foods. Specially prepared rat pellets are available from pet stores which fulfill their dietary needs and can be supplemented with fresh fruit and vegetables. They must also have free access to fresh water at all times. Treats like bread, pasta and seeds should only be offered in limited quantities but can be used as rewards during training.

If you've decided a rat is right for you, there are many different places where you can purchase your new pet. Regardless of where you choose to buy your rat from, it is important that you give them a thorough examination before purchasing. If you are unsure don't hesitate to contact your vet for advice and a full checkup of your new furry family member.



Clever CROSSWORD

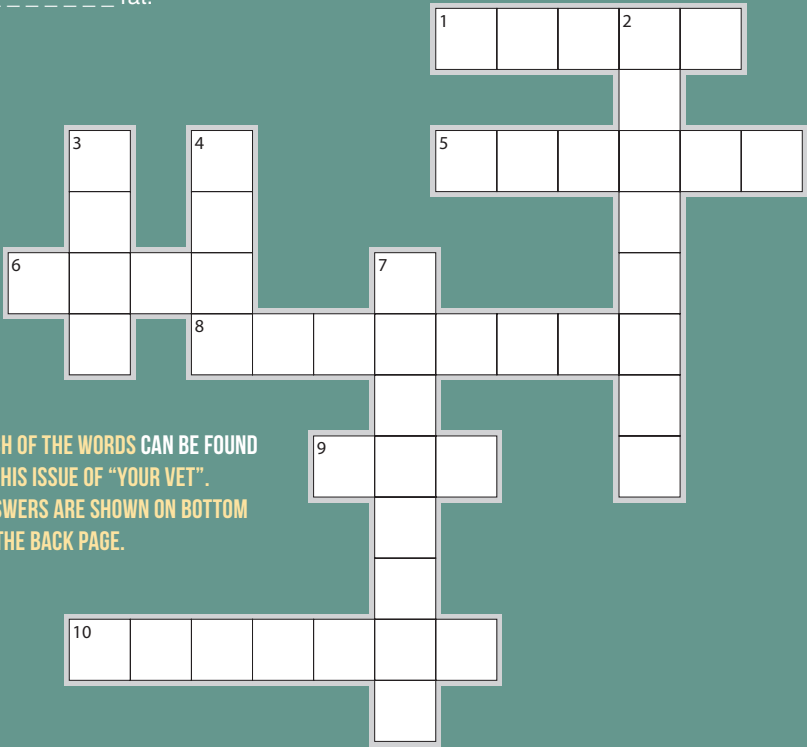
Down:

- 2. On a cat, what should you never cut or trim?
- 3. Do this everyday with your dog and you both benefit.
- 4. What is 10,000 times more sensitive on a dog than a person?
- 7. Do this to strengthen the bond between you and your pet rat.

Across:

- 1. The most common rat kept as a pet is the _____ rat.

- 5. About 75% of a cat's sleep-time is this kind of sleep.
- 6. These animals are very independent, according to recent research.
- 8. Even geriatric dogs need some of this.
- 9. Cat whiskers can easily be seen either side of its nose and upper ____.
- 10. Without whiskers what do cats have trouble doing in a straight line?



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

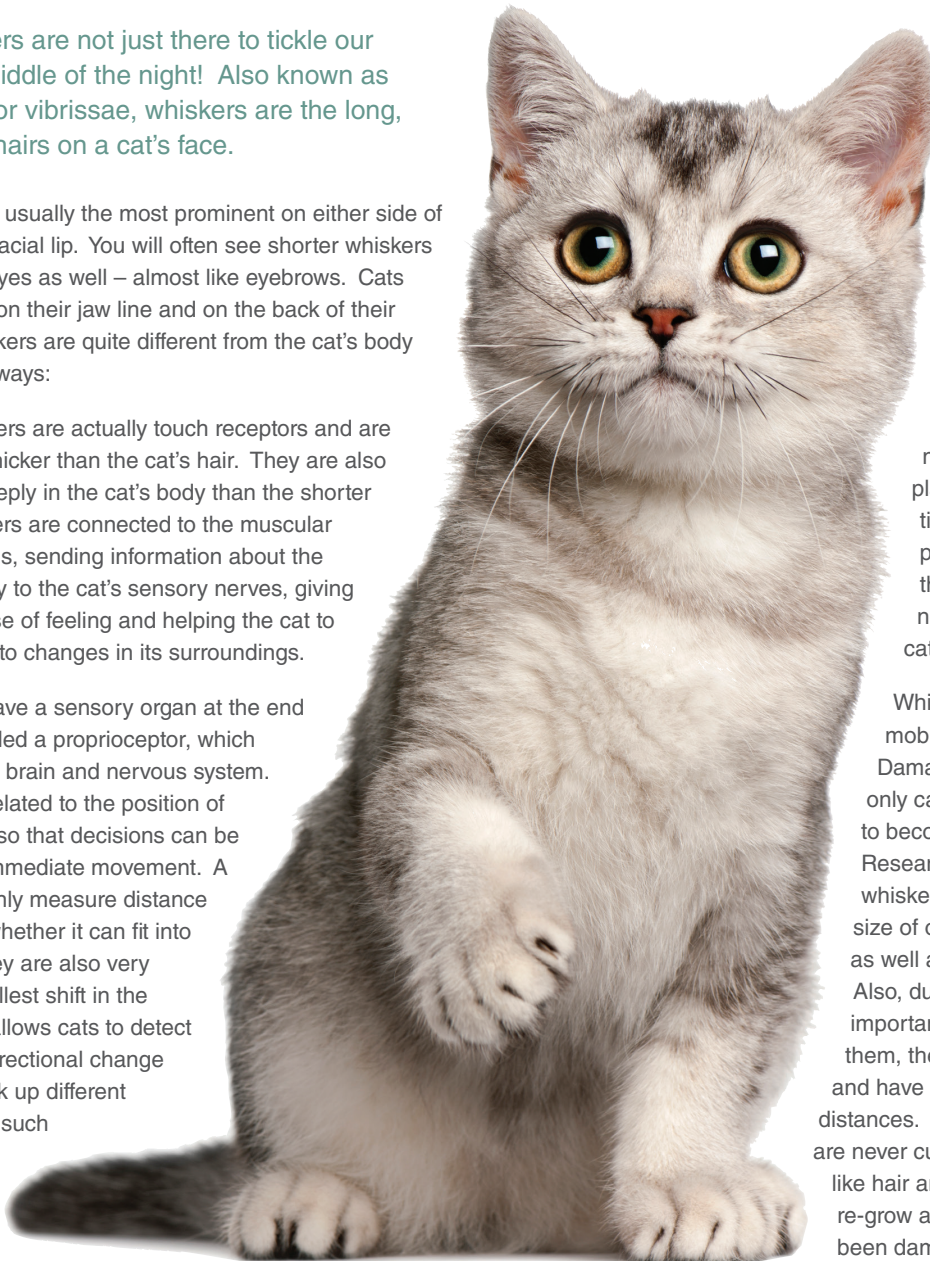
THE WONDER OF WHISKERS

A cat's whiskers are not just there to tickle our faces in the middle of the night! Also known as "tactile hairs" or vibrissae, whiskers are the long, thick, flexible hairs on a cat's face.

A cat's whiskers are usually the most prominent on either side of its nose and upper facial lip. You will often see shorter whiskers above each of the eyes as well – almost like eyebrows. Cats also have whiskers on their jaw line and on the back of their front legs. But whiskers are quite different from the cat's body hair in a number of ways:

Navigation - Whiskers are actually touch receptors and are two to three times thicker than the cat's hair. They are also embedded more deeply in the cat's body than the shorter top-fur coat. Whiskers are connected to the muscular and nervous systems, sending information about the surroundings directly to the cat's sensory nerves, giving it a heightened sense of feeling and helping the cat to detect and respond to changes in its surroundings.

Sensation - Cats have a sensory organ at the end of their whiskers called a proprioceptor, which sends signals to the brain and nervous system. These signals are related to the position of the body and limbs so that decisions can be made for the next immediate movement. A cat's whiskers not only measure distance to help it to gauge whether it can fit into a tight space but they are also very sensitive to the smallest shift in the environment. This allows cats to detect even the slightest directional change in a breeze or to pick up different vibrations in the air, such as when they are chasing prey.



Indication - Whiskers also serve as an indicator of the cat's moods. When a cat is in a content or happy mood, the whiskers will be held straight and slightly to the side. As a cat becomes interested in something, their whiskers will come forward and fan out. As this happens, the cheek pads also appear to puff up as the muscles pull the whiskers forward. This is often most noticeable when your cat is playing. When feeling scared or timid, like with their ears, a cat will pull their whiskers back against the sides of their face. This is a non-threatening sign to make the cat's face look smaller.

Whiskers are a vital part of a cat's mobility and sense of security. Damage to a cat's whiskers will not only cause them discomfort, but also to become confused and disoriented. Research has shown that cats without whiskers have trouble estimating the size of openings and can easily get stuck as well as misjudge jumping distances. Also, due to the fact that whiskers are important to a cat's equilibrium, without them, they have trouble walking straight and have difficulty running and judging distances. Therefore, it is vital that whiskers are never cut or trimmed. While whiskers, like hair and nails do fall out, they will re-grow as long as the follicle itself hasn't been damaged beyond the body's ability to repair it.



CATNAPPING

Cats are crepuscular which means that they are the most active during twilight times (dusk and dawn). During most other times of the day, they are either dozing or in a deep sleep.

Cats commonly sleep between 12 and 16 hours a day, which is twice as much sleep as most other mammals need. So, why do they sleep so much?

Cats are predators, so they are hardwired to give chase and hunt, and hunting prey takes an amazing amount of energy! Whether your feline friend is hunting for outdoor prey or tackling a catnip toy, all that sleep is reserve energy for running, pouncing, and stalking. Catnaps allow cats to re-charge, so they'll be ready to go for the next hunt.

When your cat is dozing they are usually laying upright so that they can spring up and into action within seconds. Cats are in a half-asleep state when they are dozing, and about 75% of a cat's sleep-time is this type of sleep. During deep sleep, cats are generally curled up, eyes completely closed, and they sometimes have their faces covered by their paws or tail.

While some change in a cat's sleeping pattern can be normal, a big change can signal problems. If your cat seems sluggish or is sleeping less than usual they could be ill. Contact your veterinarian if you become aware of any changes in your cat's normal sleep routine.

WET VS DRY NOSE

A warm or dry nose is often seen as a sign of illness in dogs, but is it? The “warm nose myth” has many pet owners feeling that their pet may be unwell if the nose is warm and dry.

However, a healthy dog’s (or cat’s) nose may be very wet and cool one moment but then be warmer and somewhat dry the next. In fact, variability is quite normal.

The average dog’s nose is 10,000 times more sensitive to odours than the human nose. Their noses secrete a thin layer of mucus that helps to absorb scent chemicals. A moist nose is also one of the ways that dogs regulate their body temperature and cool down. They don’t have sweat glands as such, so dogs secrete sweat from the pads of their feet and their noses.

While a moist nose is perfectly normal, if your dog has a runny nose accompanied by coughing, sneezing, wheezing or difficulty breathing then a visit to the vet is necessary. Your dog may have a respiratory infection or an obstruction in its nose.

On the other hand, various things can make your dog’s nose dry and the dryness isn’t necessarily an indication of something being wrong. An ill animal will generally have a warm, dry nose in addition to other symptoms, like lethargy, decreased or absent appetite, or vomiting/diarrhoea.

Sensitivity to plastic is a common issue that can cause your dog to have a dry nose. A quick and easy fix is to switch to stainless steel or ceramic bowls. Another regular culprit is sunburn. Dogs, cats and even horses are prone to sunburn and possible skin cancer on noses, ear tips and around eyes. Light coated, pink-nosed animals are at greatest risk, but check with your veterinarian about providing sun protection for your pet.

If your pet’s nose remains consistently dry then make sure they are assessed for possible allergens. More of a concern than just a dry nose however would be a lesion, changes in texture or colour, or discharge/bleeding from the nose and any of these should be thoroughly checked by your vet.



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. Kellie’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.

A TIRED DOG IS A HAPPY DOG

While this old saying is not necessarily always accurate, every dog needs a physical outlet to burn up extra energy and maintain health and fitness.

Regular exercise can improve your dog’s mental health and reduce the occurrence of destructive behaviours done out of anxiety or boredom.

However, how much exercise is enough depends on your dog’s age, breed, and health. Active breeds need a minimum of 30 minutes of hard aerobic exercise most days of the week, preferably daily. For smaller indoor breeds, it’s important to realise that they don’t necessarily get enough exercise inside the house so it’s vital to set time aside to actively play with them. Some pet owners also make the mistake of assuming that if a dog has access to outside, they’re getting exercise.

But your dog won’t run laps alone in your garden - it’s the interaction with you that counts! If the weather doesn’t allow outside exercise then stay indoors and throw toys, run up the stairs together or teach tricks to keep your dog’s mind engaged. And don’t forget that geriatric dogs still need to exercise....just a bit less than before.

Remember to tailor the exercise to meet their specific needs and keep them engaged. Exercising regularly with your pooch is vital to help control their weight and maintain a healthy body and mind. Plus, as a bonus, it gives you those benefits too!



Across: 1. Brown 5. Dozing 6. Cats 8. Exercise 9. Lip 10. Walking.
Down: 2. Whiskers 3. Play 4. Nose 7. Training.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD