

FREE!!
PLEASE TAKE ONE



YOUR
VET



WINTER 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.

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

THERAPY DOGS

The tail that never stops wagging showing nothing but pure joy to be with you; those beautiful eyes gazing up at you with complete adoration; the cool, wet nose nudging your sleepy face as you wake.

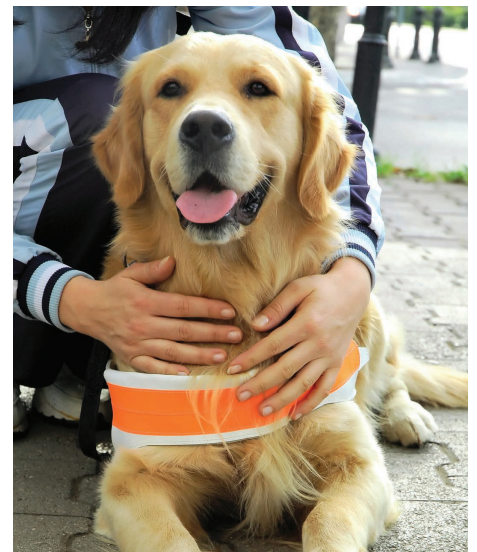
We know that dogs are dedicated companions that offer unconditional attachment and acceptance. But why does being with a dog make us feel so good?

When a dog shows us affection, it's a very uncomplicated, non-challenging interaction with no consequences. There is mounting evidence in human and veterinary medicine that the emotional bond between people and companion animals can have a positive impact on emotional and physical health. A therapy dog is a dog that is trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, hospices, disaster areas, and to people with learning difficulties. Research indicates that interaction with therapy dogs can temporarily affect the release of various neurotransmitters in the brain; levels of oxytocin (linked with bonding) and dopamine (involved in the reward-motivation system) are increased, while cortisol levels (an immunosuppressant associated with stress) are decreased.⁽¹⁾

And, according to results of a recent clinical study, therapy dogs may improve the emotional well-being of some cancer patients.⁽²⁾ The research found that patients receiving intensive simultaneous radiation therapy and chemotherapy for gastrointestinal, head or neck cancers experienced increases in emotional well-

being and quality of life when they received visits from a certified therapy dog during the course of their treatment. Increases in emotional well-being were significant over the course of the animal-assisted visits, even as patients underwent marked and significant declines in both physical and functional well-being.

Just as we realise that a well-balanced diet, quality sleep and regular exercise are vital to our health, it's becoming clearer that animals can also improve the quality of our lives.



References: (1) Animal Assisted Therapy in Mental Health. *The SCAS Journal*. 2010; (2) http://www.oncologypractice.com/fileadmin/content_pdf/aats/supplement_pdf/JCSO_Jan2015_digitaledition_lores.pdf

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TOOTH RESORPTION IN CATS

Many cat owners look at the activity and attitude of their pets and assume that they have a perfectly happy and healthy animal. Unfortunately, many of these same cats can have a very problematic mouth, due to a serious and very painful condition that causes teeth to resorb, dissolve and even break.

While most veterinarians will acknowledge that brushing a cat's teeth can be difficult for owners, they will stress the importance of routine oral assessment of your cat's mouth. These exams help find preventable problems as well as some more concerning issues which may often go unnoticed otherwise. One of those concerns that is becoming more common is Feline Tooth Resorption.

Feline Tooth Resorption is a common and painful condition found in domestic cats. The teeth become functionally destroyed as a result of tooth resorption. Tooth Resorption, or 'TR' is seen in a growing percentage of cats over the age of six years and studies have shown that well over 50% of adult cats develop tooth resorption. The same strange condition is also seen in dogs and in people, but it is not nearly as common.

In general, most cats will appear normal, but observant owners may note that their cat prefers to chew food on just one side, stops grooming, starts salivating excessively, tends to throw their dry food into the back of their mouth or develops a preference for soft foods. If left to develop, the process will lead to extreme pain due to the exposure of the root canal. As TR progresses, some cats will develop bad-tempered or aggressive attitudes and lack a normal appetite. Eventually, your veterinarian may discover that the erosion has exposed the tooth to the bacteria of the mouth and this is when it becomes extremely painful. Dental x-rays are the only way to diagnose TR as they show changes in the density of the roots and crowns of the teeth.



The exact cause of tooth resorption has not yet been clearly defined and unfortunately there is no effective treatment that can save the pet's teeth. A normal clean and polish will not work and any tooth that is showing any signs of resorption needs to be extracted. Early recognition through comprehensive

back your loving, friendly companion. As cats tend to be highly functional despite being in pain, owners are often unaware that their pets are experiencing such discomfort. But, regular visits to your veterinarian can help identify issues early so book a thorough oral examination for your pet today.



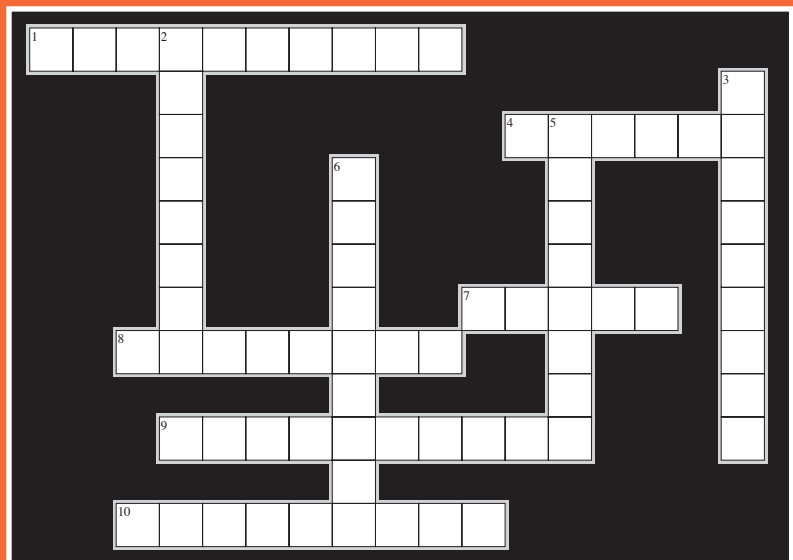
Clever CROSSWORD

Across:

1. A fish lives _____.
4. Panther, bengal or lion.
7. Like some men's backs.
8. Investigate thoroughly.
9. Pets make great _____.
10. A very large spider found in tropical and subtropical America.

Down:

2. It's good to get some every so often.
3. All babies are _____ in their parents eyes.
5. Love, hate, fear, etc.
6. Quick to notice or perceive things.



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

BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

Owning a pet comes with great responsibility, regardless of the type you choose. Pets are not casual accessories that can be simply thrown aside and forgotten.

Pets are long-term companions that need ongoing love, care and devotion. Owning a pet is a great privilege and very rewarding, but the benefits of pet ownership come with responsibilities:

- **THINK** – Avoid impulsive decisions and choose a pet that's suited to both your home and lifestyle. Just because something is cute, does not mean it will be the perfect fit for you. Adopt only the type and number of pets for which you can provide appropriate food, water, shelter, health care and companionship for.
- **INVEST** – It is important to recognise that pet ownership requires an investment of both your time and money. Regular visits to the vet and groomer are absolutely necessary for your pet's wellbeing. Insuring your pet may also be important to your pet's health as emergencies can happen at any time.



- **OBEY** – Be sure to clean up after your pet in public places and obey all local laws, including licensing, leash requirements and noise control. Always keep an ID tag on your pet and consider getting your pet microchipped as well. This may help identify them if they are lost or stolen.

- **CONTROL** – Limit your pet's reproduction through spay/neuter, containment or governed breeding. Studies have shown that pets that are spayed and neutered live healthier, longer lives. In addition, spayed and neutered pets are less likely to develop behavior problems.

- **PROVIDE** – Ask your vet for advice on what type and amount of food is right for you pet. Keeping your pet on a regular, portion controlled diet will help with weight management which can prevent weight related health problems. Most pets require regular exercise as this helps them to release their energy and without it your pet may develop behavioural issues. It is also incredibly important that you provide appropriate mental stimulation as well as correctly socialise and train your pet.

- **LOVE** – Most pets need companionship. They are often traditionally pack creatures and need the warmth and love that comes with living indoors with their family. You are the centre of your pet's universe. They crave your love, attention and care so make sure you show them the love and devotion they show you.

LATEST RESEARCH - DOGS RECOGNISE EXPRESSIONS!

When those beautiful big eyes gaze into ours it often feels like they can see right into our soul. We smile at our beloved furry companions and it's seems like they smile back. But do our four legged friends really understand what we're feeling?

We tend to show our emotions through our facial expressions but how does that help our pets understand our mood? Are they actually able to interpret our expressions and make sense of them? It would appear now that the answer may be yes! A recent study indicates dogs can learn to distinguish a smile, even on the faces of some strangers.⁽¹⁾ The researchers believe this provides the first reliable evidence that an animal other than humans can discriminate between emotional expressions in another species.

In this new study, the researchers trained dogs to discriminate between images of the same person making either a happy or an angry face. In every case, the dogs were shown only the upper or the lower half of the face. The dogs had to draw conclusions about the smile just by seeing the eyes. This was only possible, because the dogs were able to imagine how the other half must have looked like. The researchers explain that dogs that remember angry or happy human faces from their day-to-day-life use these memories to fill in the missing half automatically in the tests. It is suggested then that they must be capable of distinguishing between faces and facial expressions. The study found that the dogs were able to select the angry or happy

face more often than would be expected by random chance in every case. The findings show that not only could the dogs learn to identify facial expressions, but they were also able to transfer what they learned in training to new cues.

Not only were the dogs able to distinguish between angry and happy expressions in humans but they could tell that these two expressions have different meanings. They were able to do this not only for people they know well, but even for faces they have never seen before. What exactly those different meanings are for the dogs is difficult to state but it appears likely that the dogs associate a smiling face with a positive meaning and an angry facial expression with a negative meaning. The researchers reported that the dogs were slower to learn to associate an angry face with a reward, suggesting that they already had an idea based on prior experience that it's best to stay away from people when they look angry.

Their research will continue to explore the role of experience in the dogs' abilities to recognize human emotions. They also plan to study how dogs themselves express emotions and how their emotions are influenced by the emotions of their owners or other people they interact with.

Reference: Corsin A. Müller, Kira Schmitt, Anjali L. A. Barber & Ludwig Huber. Dogs Can Discriminate Emotional Expressions of Human Faces. *Current Biology*, 2015; DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2014.12.055



PET SPIDER ANYONE?

Tarantulas are not for everyone, but these large, hairy spiders are gaining popularity as interesting, low-maintenance pets. They are unique, quiet, and need little space, and keeping tarantulas as pets can make a fascinating hobby.

There are about 800 species of Tarantulas world-wide. Australia has native tarantulas that have specific names – such as whistling, barking and bird-eating spiders. While you are permitted to own native tarantulas, it is illegal to have overseas species of tarantulas as pets in Australia.⁽¹⁾

These mostly large and hairy spiders are surprisingly gentle, and are mostly harmless towards humans. Like all spiders, tarantulas are venomous, but their bite is more like a bee sting, and most will not bite unless provoked. However, the venom can cause an allergic or anaphylactic reaction in the same way that some people react to bee stings. So while tarantula bites are unlikely to be fatal, you still want to avoid being bitten! Tarantulas are not designed to be held as they can easily spook and squirm from your hand. Falls are nearly always fatal for tarantulas, as their abdomens rupture easily so it's best to keep handling to a minimum.



Caring for a tarantula may be a long commitment as some females live 20 years or more while male spiders generally only live for a year and a half as adults. If you decided to double up be aware that one pair of tarantulas can produce as many as 300 young at a time!

References: <http://museumvictoria.com.au/spidersparlour/tarant4.htm>

UNDERWATER FRIENDS

Fish can make awesome pets for people who don't have the time or space to devote to a higher-maintenance companion animal. Fish don't ask much of you and they are incredibly soothing to watch.

Fish are generally easier and less expensive to feed and care for than other pets, however, they do require a proper environment and knowledgeable owners. It pays to start simple, with a few hardy fish that are easy to maintain. After some time and experience, you may want to consider investing in a more challenging aquarium. Research your fish before you buy them and ask for advice about how to look after them properly.

It is important for fish to be kept in a filtered tank. Fish in bowls tend to be less active and die

young, but a filter will keep the water oxygenated and clean, and provide a current for them. Maintaining the heat of the aquarium is also absolutely vital and must be closely monitored to prevent fluctuations which can kill fish.

People are often surprised that fish can actually be a lot of fun. If you spend plenty of time with it, it will soon come to you when you get near its tank. Some types of fish will interact with their owners, are playful, and can even be trained to do tricks! Here fishy, fishy, fishy . . .



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.

Across: 1. Underwater; 4. Feline; 7. Hairy; 8. Research; 9. Companions; 10. Tarantula
Down: 2. Exercise; 3. Beautiful; 5. Emotions; 6. Observant

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD