

CARNEGIE VETERINARY CLINIC



CARNEGIE CAT COTTAGE

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OUR VETS

Dr Ketan Jivanjee

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

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

Dr Kelly Wilkinson

BVSc (Hons) (Melbourne)

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

OUR NURSES

You may have already met our nurses. They have pets of their own and are well versed in 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.

Alexis Demertzidis

B. Biological Science, Cert IV (Vet Nursing)

Christine Bury

Dip VN, Cert IV (Adv Vet Nursing)

Karina McFadzean

Vet. Nurse in training

VETERINARY CLINIC HOURS

Monday to Friday: 8.00 am – 7.00 pm
Saturday: 9.00 am – 1.30 pm

CARNEGIE CAT COTTAGE ADMISSION & DISCHARGE HOURS

Monday to Friday: 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
Saturday: 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

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 ref: 68 J3

SOUTHERN ANIMAL EMERGENCY CENTRE

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

YOUR VET

In this edition we talk about...



THE SIGNS OF
CHERRY EYE



HOW TO BE
FUR BALL FREE



THE IMPORTANCE
OF DENTAL CARE



FLEA BITE
ALLERGIES

Do you know your doggy's doo?

You pay attention to what goes in, but are you inspecting what comes out?

Just as you would pay attention to your own bowel movements to determine your state of health, it pays to do the same with your pets. Ok, you may not like the thought of that... but any changes in their faeces could signal a health problem that requires a trip to see your vet.

DETERMINING WHAT'S NORMAL

Even though every dog's 'output' is unique, they do share some common features. To notice any changes requires you to know what a healthy stool looks like.

Colour: the ideal colour is best described as chocolate brown (apologies to all chocolate lovers!). If you're feeding your dog something with added colours, you may notice extra colouring.

Shape: a healthy stool is log-shaped and maintains its form.

Consistency: a normal dog stool should be moist, compact, and easy to pick up.

Size: the size can depend on how much, and what food they consume. A diet with high fibre content can cause larger stools.

WHAT'S NOT NORMAL

Once you can set a baseline for what's normal, you can be on the lookout for any of the following stool types:

White and chalky: dogs with white, chalky faeces may be eating raw foods with too much bone or calcium. They can be at risk of

severe constipation. If you're unsure about how to rectify the problem, speak to one of our vets.

Signs of blood: if you notice that your dog has black and tarry faeces, it could mean there's old blood in the digestive system. Fresh blood – with any stool consistency – indicates recent bleeding. Both can be signs of a serious condition such as cancer, or a gastrointestinal tract injury. Seek immediate treatment from your vet.

Grey and greasy: has your dog been eating a lot of fatty treats? Their waste can look grey and greasy as a result. Too much fat in their diet can lead to inflammation of the pancreas, known as pancreatitis.

Mucous: your dog's waste may be soft with a thick coating of mucous. This could indicate parasites or an intestinal infection. It could also be sensitivity to an ingredient, or a reaction to something unusual they've eaten.

Runny: many things can cause dogs to experience diarrhoea, such as food intolerances, diet changes, infections, and parasites. However, it can also signal more serious issues such as gastrointestinal tumours, irritable bowel syndrome, and ulcerative colitis.

By feeding your dog a high-quality vet diet, you may be able to avoid many potential dietary digestion problems.

If you notice changes in your dog's bowel movements that don't correct themselves within 1-2 days, contact the clinic for advice.



Our newsletter is free! You can take a copy with you.

FREE!

A diet fit for a duck

There are few better ways to spend time with family than a trip to the park to feed the ducks. But could you be making them ill?

One of the first things you might grab as you head out to feed the ducks is a bag of bread. You may have been saving up the crusts for this very occasion. However, according to many bird and wildlife experts, bread isn't a healthy option for any wildlife.

WHY IS BREAD BAD?

According to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, white bread has no real nutritional value for ducks. Filling up on high-carbohydrate food from human visitors can result in deficiencies that affect their immune systems. As a result, they may be more susceptible to calluses, infections, and bowed feet.

It can also cause a wing deformity known as angel wing, which can prevent them from flying and prove fatal.

Additionally, uneaten breadcrumbs can attract predators, which is dangerous for ducks that have become too trusting of humans to use their natural instincts.

Rotting bread can grow mould which can make wildlife sick; and also contributes to harmful algal bloom and cyanobacteria growth in the water.



Wild ducks eat a variety of natural foods such as aquatic plants, grasses, fish and insects.

WHAT CAN YOU FEED DUCKS?

On your next family outing, you can still gather a bag of treats for the ducks. There are many alternative options available which you may already have in your home.

- Defrosted peas and corn (uncooked)
- Chopped salad leaves
- Duck pellets or birdseed
- Grapes (cut in half)
- Mealworms, earthworms
- Wheat, barley, oats or similar grains
- Vegetable peels (chopped)

Just because bread is off the menu for your local duck population, it doesn't mean your trips to see them have to stop. Arm yourself with some healthy options instead. If you're unsure what's safe for ducks to eat, contact your local animal health expert.

Could your pet be allergic to flea bites?

Flea bite hypersensitivity is a strong reaction to the bite of the flea. It can affect many animals, including cats and dogs. If you suspect that your pet is allergic to flea bites, it's essential to act fast to save them from this distressing condition.

Flea bites are an uncomfortable experience for any pet, but can be even more so if they're hypersensitive and develop flea allergy dermatitis (FAD). Studies have pointed to the allergenic proteins in flea saliva as the cause. FAD is a common skin condition, particularly in dogs.

HOW TO SPOT FLEA PROBLEMS

Fleas are not just seasonal; they can be a year-round problem, so you need to check your pet regularly. This usually involves sitting your pet down and using a flea comb to identify fleas or flea dirt.

If you don't notice any fleas, that doesn't mean your pet hasn't been affected by them. The saliva of just one or two fleas can make them miserable, itchy and uncomfortable for weeks. Your pet may constantly chew, lick and scratch themselves, which can lead to inflamed, infected areas of skin that are painful and sensitive.

Odd behaviour in your cat, such as a frenzied skin attack, could signal flea allergy. They may also suddenly become hyperactive – like they're trying to escape from something.

Even if you're proactive in grooming and removing fleas and flea dirt, the allergic reaction can remain long after the fleas have gone.

TREATMENT

Treatment can vary based on the severity of the reaction and how many fleas there are – treating the fleas will alleviate the allergic reaction, but it may take time. Your vet can also offer advice on how to keep your pet and their environment free of fleas.

If you notice any signs of itchiness, rashes and hair loss; or just general discomfort and restlessness in your pet, make an appointment at the clinic. We can help you get to the root of the problem – whether it's fleas or something else.



HANDY HINT

Combing your pet over a light-coloured mat or towel can help you spot fleas and flea dirt.

Freeing your feline from fur balls

It's alarming and disgusting and could make you leap out of bed in the middle of the night when you hear it – it's the sound and sight of your cat ejecting a fur ball! Read on to find out what causes them, and how they might be prevented.

Despite the name, fur balls (or hair balls) are usually cylindrical, slimy clumps of fur that typically resemble the colour of the cat that coughed them up. While most cats experience an occasional fur ball, frequent ones are not normal and the cause should be investigated.

CAUSES OF FUR BALLS

Cats that have long hair and shed a lot, and those who groom themselves excessively can ingest large volumes of hair. While cats are capable of excreting a little, it's not uncommon for some of it to remain in their stomach and eventually be vomited up.

Excessive hair ingestion is not the only cause – poor-quality food and a moisture-deficient diet may also be to blame.

There may be more serious issues that can make your cat prone to hair balls, such as gastroenteritis, intestinal valve problems and cancer. If your cat is lethargic with a low appetite, and is frequently vomiting or dry-retching, they should be examined by a veterinarian immediately.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT FUR BALLS

Firstly, see your vet to find out the cause of fur balls and advice on managing them. While you can't always prevent them, there are certainly things you can do to reduce how often they occur.

You may be able to combat the problem by brushing and combing your cat regularly. Changing their diet could also help.

Your vet may recommend a specific gastrointestinal food that supports a healthy skin and coat, while addressing the fur problem. They may also advise on appropriate sources of fibre to aid your cat's digestive system; or supplements to help improve their skin and fur condition.

If you're concerned about any issues your cat is experiencing with fur balls, speak to one of our staff. It's important to rule out any potentially serious conditions.

WORD SEARCH

ALLERGY
BACTERIA
BLINDNESS
BLOOD
CATS
COLITIS
CONSTIPATION
DISEASE
DUCK
FAD
FAECES
FIBRE
FLEAS
FURBALLS
GINGIVITIS
GLAND
GROOM
HAIR
INFLAMMATION
LETHARGIC
MEMBRANE
ORAL
PANCREAS
PERIODONTITIS
SLIMY
SYSTEMIC
TARRY
TARTAR
VETERINARIAN
VOMITING

M W J N X E M Z Y C L T A R R Y L O M S N Q A B
V Z G D N D L G S C O N S T I P A T I O N T F K
X J U N R I Z E W K D W K C U D F U O B H R N V
N E P A J Y H Z T I I P H M E M B R A N E B A Y
J T C L D I L A B H D O O L B O L E D D M N N U
A A X G A Q U P I G A I G H M E E R B J U P O D
E R W F H I B H G R D R Z V O M I T I N G T S S
T T S V V N A S W H L A G X Y X M U E K D G E F
Y A E P Y O C L V G I N G I V I T I S R R B E E
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A S Z S Z A R Y Z K N A I R A N I R E T E V F E
J V E L I M I B T O J A X D I S E A S E O T J B
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I U Q A Q A Z W M W C G E N L T O G F H R F Z K
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Taking care of your pet's teeth could save their life!

When was the last time you looked in your pet's mouth? Failure to consider their oral health may have consequences. Even though bad breath and tartar-covered teeth may not seem like a big deal, they can lead to serious health conditions.

Good oral health is just as important for your pet as it is for your family

A number of studies have determined that periodontitis (serious gum disease) and other oral infections may be contributing factors for systemic diseases – which means those that affect the whole body. These can include diseases of the kidney, liver, lung, and heart.

HOW DISEASE STARTS FROM TEETH

Plaque that isn't removed from your pet's teeth hardens around the gum line and teeth, causing discolouration and irritated gums. That irritation can turn into inflammation, and a condition called gingivitis. You may notice signs of gingivitis if your pet's gums are red rather than pink, and their breath smells.

The longer the tartar is left there, the worse the condition may get. Eventually, the

gums may start to pull away from the teeth and provide an opportunity for bacteria to get in. At this stage, your pet may be at risk of periodontal disease that results in infections, abscesses, bone loss, and loose teeth.

As the gums break down, bacteria can be absorbed into your pet's bloodstream, putting major organs at risk of infection – unfortunately their immune system may not be strong enough to fight it.



Researchers are beginning to form a connection between some oral bacteria strains and the onset of heart disease. Some of these strains can promote blood clot formation leading to heart damage, while others can cause thickening of the artery walls.

Bad breath isn't normal!

Fortunately, the journey from poor oral health to systemic disease is not a fast one – you can do many things to reduce the risk of more serious problems.

KEEPING YOUR PET'S TEETH HEALTHY

It's advisable to get your pet a thorough oral examination and clean. Vets can rectify any existing issues and alert you to any potential issues before they get worse.

Preventative measures are essential. Ask us about vet-quality food, dental chews, and recreational bones that promote healthy teeth and gums. We can also advise you on brushing your pet's teeth; and how to check for problems, such as loose teeth and inflammation.

Regular veterinary oral check-ups for your pet helps safeguard their overall health

Look out for signs of cherry eye

All dogs have three eyelids: the upper and lower lids and a third eyelid called a nictitating membrane. If you notice a red bump or protrusion in the corner of the eye involving this eyelid, a vet visit may be essential to prevent complications.

WHAT DOES THE THIRD EYELID DO?

The third eyelid consists of a thin, opaque tissue that sits in the corner of each eye, below the lower lid. It's vital for keeping the cornea clean and protected, and helping fight infection. Also, it contains a lacrimal gland that helps produce tears.

WHAT IS CHERRY EYE?

The lacrimal gland is usually invisible and held in place, but if a prolapse occurs, you may notice it showing as red, irritated tissue in the corner of one or both of your dog's eyes.

It's commonly described as cherry eye, but your vet may also refer to it as a prolapsed lacrimal gland. It's important to maintain this gland's function for your dog's eye to self-lubricate. The exposed gland can become

quite inflamed and irritated and can lead to your pet rubbing their eyes and causing secondary infections.

TREATMENT

As soon as you notice this in your dog, seek veterinary help promptly. If caught early enough, cherry eye may be treated with non-surgical measures such as topical compresses and eye drops to control the inflammation. These measures may help to keep the gland in place.

However, if this doesn't work, your vet may recommend surgery to place the lacrimal gland back into its normal position. The success of surgery may not be evident for several weeks until the inflammation settles and sometimes further surgery may be necessary.

Without treatment, cherry eye is a serious condition that could lead to further complications. If you notice any changes in your dog's eyes, including unusual redness, make an appointment with us as soon as possible.



APPOINTMENT REMINDER

Ask our receptionist to record details of your next visit. Take this newsletter home and keep it somewhere handy as a reminder. Help us to help you keep your pets happy and healthy.

PET NAME	DATE	TIME

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual check up | <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up examination | <input type="checkbox"/> Worming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flea/tick treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Disclaimer: The information provided in this newsletter is for educational purposes only, and is not intended as a substitute for sound health care advice. We are not liable for any adverse effects or consequences resulting from the use of any information, suggestions, or procedures presented. Always consult a qualified professional in all matters pertaining to your pet health.

Dr Ketan Jivanjee

Ketan graduated Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort, South Africa. Prior to that, he completed a 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 the best service and facilities for your needs it is necessary to charge realistic fees for treating your pet. Prompt payment of your 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 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.

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