

THE KNOX BOX

What's new at the Knox Vet Clinic

Happy Holidays

How wonderful has it been to be able to see our family and friends in person again! Hope everyone has had some much-needed catchups and managed to get back into the swing of things.

This year, we have been grateful for all our understanding clients; all our loved ones who are still well; all the new additions to our family; all our posties working overtime delivering our parcels; and all of us who still have a job!

Here's to brighter and better days next year and wishing everyone and our beloved four-legged friends a warm and joyful Christmas!



Ask Dr. Knox



Ever wondered why dogs chase their tails or if a product is worth it? Well now you can send in your most pressing questions! Feel free to engage your curious kids as well!

Q: What's the best way to care for our pet's teeth?

A: The best thing you can do is to brush their teeth, but if you've never done it before, be warned it requires a lot of commitment, including training them to get used to you touching their mouth, then the brush and toothpaste (Note: never use human toothpaste for animals!), and regular brushing at least every second day.

Other things you can do are to give dental dry food, dental chews/treats, oral gels or water additives to prevent plaque buildup.



www.knoxvet.com.au



FEATURE TOPIC:

Why do dogs eat poo?!

Want to win \$100 credit towards your next visit with us? Tag us @knoxvetclinic and #knoXmas, with a photo of your pet and their Christmas spirit to enter the draw!

Ahh, why do Man's best friends not understand that this is disgusting... Known as 'coprophagia', the consumption of faeces is commonly noted in dogs, but can occur in other animals as well. Some species eat poo naturally - for example, rabbits produce two types of poo: hard dry ones and other softer grape-like bunched pellets called 'caecotrophs'. Healthy rabbits ingest the caecotrophs so that they have a second passage through the gut and can absorb more nutrients, as sometimes they struggle to find nutritious food in the wild.



www.mrhoni-photography.com

There are several causes of coprophagia:

- Nutritional deficiencies: if something is lacking in their usual diet, dogs may want to eat poo to balance their vitamin and mineral requirements.
- Underfeeding: a starving dog will scavenge and look for any source of food
- Some gut conditions affect the dog's normal ability to absorb nutrients from their gut
- Some drugs like corticosteroids increase one's appetite, so dogs are 'starving' all the time
- Parasites like intestinal worms can suck all the nutrients away from the dog's food
- Other animals' poo might appeal to dogs e.g., odour, texture, taste
- Behavioural issues: anxiety, boredom, poor training methods like rubbing their noses in poo, and attention-seeking all may contribute to coprophagia.

Puppies more commonly engage in this behaviour as part of normal curiosity and play, but also when they were younger, they observed mum cleaning them up in the nest by eating it. The behaviour usually clears up as they grow older with good nutrition and training. Some tricks to help:

- Check with your vets to make sure there is no underlying disease
- Changing their diet to one that is more digestible, high in fibre, or different proteins may address any deficiencies in the diet
- Coprophagia deterrents (produced like chews) are available and contain ingredients that make poo less appealing to dogs
- Training your dog to toilet on command, then come to you and sit for a treat (needs to be tastier than the poo!). Soon this becomes a habit and distracts them from the other 'treat'
- And of course, prevention - remove poo ASAP or make cat litter inaccessible



<https://naturvet.com/product/coprophagia-stool-eating-deterrent-soft-chews-2/>



www.knoxvet.com.au



Pets of the Month



Meet Oscar, the coolest and most affectionate cat we have ever had the pleasure of knowing! Most cats are stressed in clinic so they either freeze or become grumpy, but we could do anything to this boy and he would still be kneading cookies and purring away. Strangely, before his owner adopted him years ago, the RSPCA were close to giving up on him because they found him unable to interact with people properly. But by some stroke of fate, his would-be owner showed up that day, and Oscar went straight to her, all affectionate. It was love at first sight for them both and years later, his owner is just as dedicated to his wellbeing.

Oscar had been healthy for most of his life just visiting for routine vaccinations, until last year when he was 7 years old, his owner noted some bad breath, so we examined him and recommended a dental. As he was getting middle-aged, his owner agreed to run pre-anaesthetic blood tests and put him on fluids as it was a long procedure. It was there we first noticed some evidence of kidney disease. We started him on a special diet formulated to be low protein and salt to reduce the load on the kidneys. Upon further testing of his urine, we noted some protein loss, so he was also started on a medication to counteract this.



Oscar also had high blood pressure, which contributes to kidney overload, so this meant another tablet to reduce it. We also had to make sure he didn't have some other rare disease affecting his kidneys. Oscar didn't help give us any clues as he was all happy and normal in himself at home. Treatment helped for a while but unfortunately by August 2021, there was further progression of his kidney disease.

His very dedicated owners were willing to do everything they could to help him, so we hospitalized Oscar on a fluid drip for 48 hours, but it did not improve him as much as we were hoping it would. Weekly injections and fluid under the skin also didn't help much, so as a last ditch effort we tried daily fluid injections, and finally, something helped! Oscar was a superstar throughout all the treatment, but coming into the clinic daily was not going to be practical long term. So, Oscar's incredible owners decided to learn how to do them so they could continue his fluid injections at home, and currently, Oscar is living the best life as his owners balance his treatment and his quality of life.



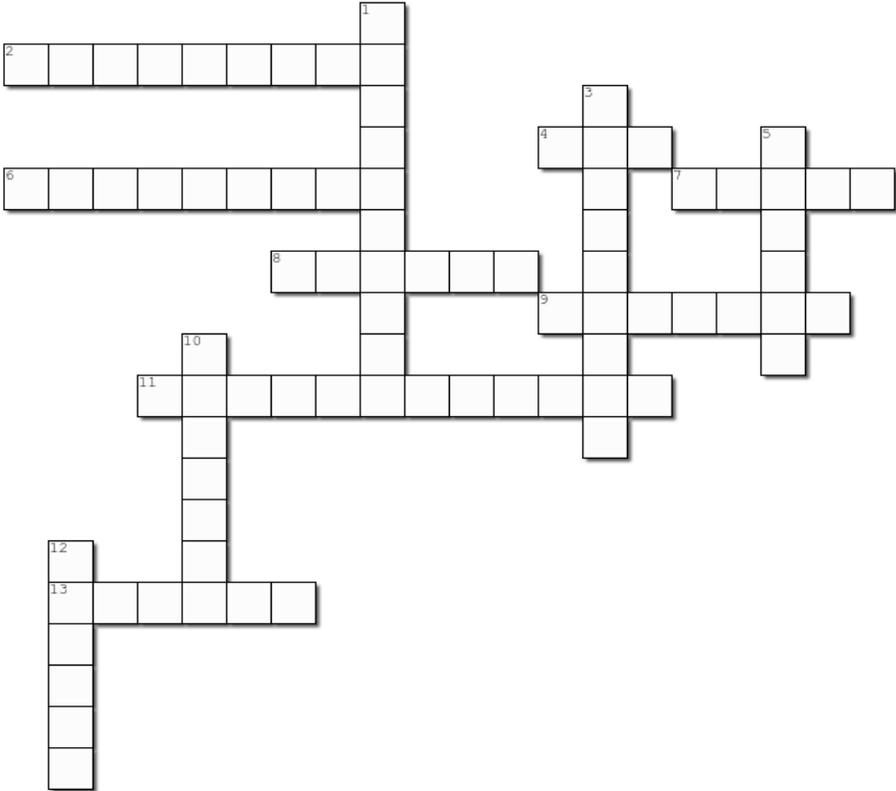
Enjoy our special holiday puzzles with the kids this Christmas!



Make as many words as you can including one 9-letter animal word. Minimum 3 letters.

E	N	D
O	H	Y
R	U	G

- 0-20: Language Greenhorn
- 21-30: Text Neophyte
- 31-40: High Official of Letters
- 41+: Literary Grand Master



Across

- 2. Delicious part of many sweets and desserts but poisonous to dogs and cats
- 4. Popular Christmas meat dogs love, but too much of this and it will vomit and diarrhoea
- 6. These go off during New Year celebrations and pets are terrified
- 7. Common ingredient in BBQs, toxic to animals.
- 8. Very common part of seasonings, toxic and cause anaemia in animals.
- 9. Shiny ornaments dogs may swallow leading to obstruction
- 11. Bonus points for this difficult one! Dogs will get this if they eat too much fatty food and gut upset
- 13. Shiny decorations cats looove but make sure they don't eat it!

Down

- 1. The famous Aussie summer increases the chances of this. Pets may collapse, appear agitated, pant excessively or vomit
- 3. A type of nut especially popular during Christmas, can cause obstruction and toxicity
- 5. Beautiful flower in bouquets. Toxic and causes kidney injury in cats
- 10. Another name for a common ingredient in fruit cake (plural). Toxic to dogs and cats
- 12. Changes in routine and holidays can lead to pets experiencing this

Crossword Answers:
 1. Heatstroke
 2. Chocolate
 3. Macadamia
 4. Ham
 5. Lilies
 6. Fireworks
 7. Onion
 8. Garlic
 9. Baubles
 10. Raisins
 11. Pancreatitis
 12. Stress
 13. Tinsel

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net