

THE KNOX BOX

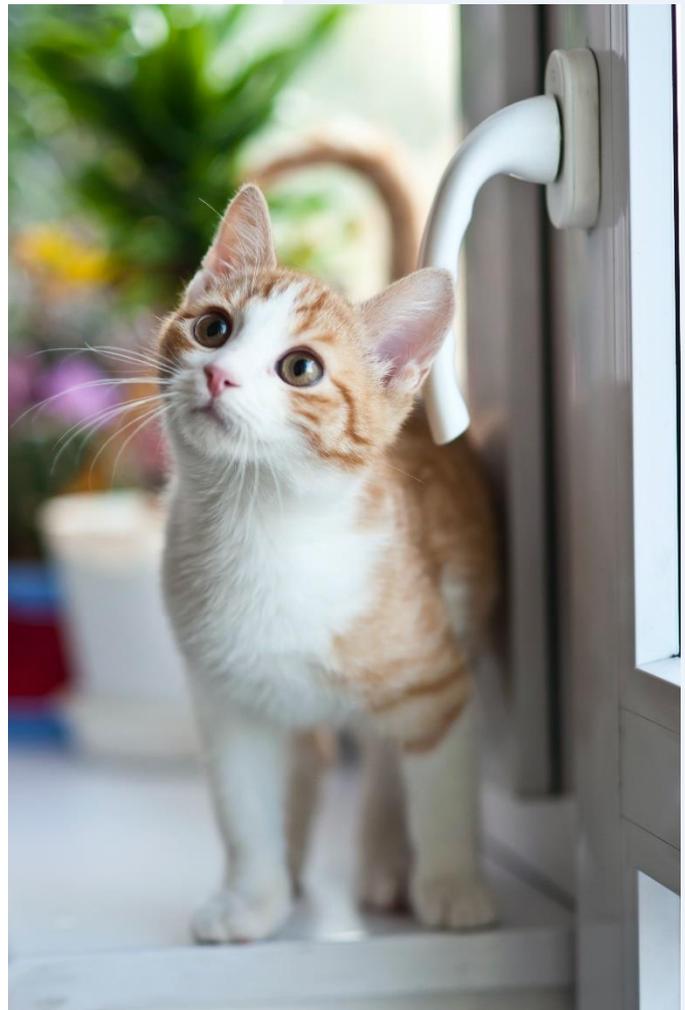
What's new at the Knox Vet Clinic

New beginnings

Hope everyone has been keeping well and safe. Knox Vet has been extremely lucky to stay open during this time; several hospitals have needed to close with severe vet shortages. Thank you to all our clients who have been patient and mindful of our community.

Renovations are under way again at our place, please excuse the noise and if we need to shuffle you around!

For some months now we have been having fun meeting all the new puppies and kittens starting their new life. Do remember to get them used to alone time and socialize them with other people and dogs to avoid anxiety in the future. See our feature topic for tips!



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: Are joint supplements worth it? What is the best option?

A: It really depends on how severe your pet's arthritis is. In the early stages of arthritis, joint supplements are used to slow down the progression of disease and will have the most benefits if used long term. Some might work better for some dogs; you may need to give them a try for at least a month before deciding if it works or not. Options include 4cyte for dogs and cats, Glyde and Zydax for dogs, fish oil/omega-3s, PAW Osteocare... please chat to our vets if you think your pet has arthritis.



www.knoxvet.com.au



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Tag us @knoxvetclinic and #knoxfam with a photo of
you and your new addition to enter the draw!

FEATURE TOPIC:

New puppies/kittens – how to prepare

If you have been one of the families lucky enough to bring home a new fur baby, congrats! I'm sure you have done lots of research and might be overloaded with information from all directions. If it's your first pet, even more so! Here are some tips our vets recommend:



Puppies

1. Socialization is the most important! The experiences of a dog during their critical age of 8-16 weeks sets the tone for how they react in the future. Dogs live a social lifestyle, so you want them to be well-trained and not reactive in any kind of situation. Dogs that only know their own family or have negative experiences become anxious, fearful, and may become aggressive if pushed.
2. Get your puppy used to handling and all kinds of environments. Touch and pat them everywhere including their ears, feet, mouth because they will need to be handled! If you are keen on brushing their teeth daily, this is the perfect time to get them used to your fingers around and in their mouth.
3. Puppies should have an all-wormer at ages 6, 8, and 10 weeks old. At 12 weeks, they will be getting their second vaccination and will also be started on a complete flea and worming treatment which will be monthly from that point on.
4. For toilet training, have puppy pads available for overnight or if you're committed, take them out every 2-4 hours to toilet. Bring them to the same location so that they get used to the smell, rewarding them afterwards when they do it appropriately.
5. Crate training may be useful depending on the type of dog and your lifestyle. It is NOT meant to be a 'naughty corner' or a punishment. Proper crate training is positive - it is their safe space where they can relax and feel secure, so there should be enough space for them to eat and sleep in there.



Kittens

1. Ensure positive experiences, allow kittens to explore on their own terms starting with a small area like the laundry or bathroom. Do not force an interaction if the kitten is crouched or hiding. Encourage interactions with food, treats or toys.
2. Kittens will be teething until about 6 months of age which means they will want to nibble on everything. It is human nature to pat and interact with our hands, but DO NOT let them bite or swipe. It teaches the cat that your hands are also toys. If they start biting, drop your hands, making them as uninteresting as possible, then distract with a toy they can play with.
3. They should not be let outside before they have had their kitten vaccines. Knox Council does not allow new cats to be let outside now so kittens should be trained to be indoor-only. If you are interested in harness walking your cat, this is also the perfect time to train your kitten to get used to the harness.
4. Introducing your kitten to an existing cat may take time and is best done step by step. Depending on the older cat's personality, you may need to have separate areas at the start, moving closer or increasing visual through a window/door, feeding them on each side, before allowing them to explore around each other in the same area.



Pets of the Month



We first met Toby the Maltese X in 2013 when he was 7 years old. Toby's owners were very good and brought him in frequently for vaccinations and routine check-ups.

Unfortunately for Toby, 13 turned out to be an unlucky age for him. The year started with a bump—literally, Toby had a cystic lump that ruptured and just refused to heal, so he needed to go under anaesthetic to have this removed. At the same time, we found Toby had also developed a heart murmur which added an extra risk to his anaesthetic, but Toby's owners knew it was the best thing for him, so they decided to go ahead. As dental disease can also increase the risk for heart disease, we also decided to do a dental while he was under. Toby was a trooper and recovered from this without issue.

Unlucky number 13 struck again not even one month later as Toby suddenly became lame in one of his hindlegs. His diligent owners brought him straight in for assessment. After some x-rays we discovered that Toby had ruptured his cranial cruciate ligament (ACL in humans) and needed yet another surgery! The surgical repair went smoothly but unfortunately Toby struggled to regain his strength during his rehabilitation, as being older his muscle mass wasted quickly from disuse. With caring and patient owners, he improved slowly with frequently assessments, monthly arthritis injections and at-home joint support.



That was not the end of Toby's troubles. A few months on, he started to showing signs of canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD) which is like dementia in people. CCD is common in older pets with approximately 50% of dogs over the age of 11 suffering from the condition. There are several clinical signs associated with CCD, but for Toby it started with toileting in the house and being a little forgetful. Again, Toby's owners were right on top of these changes, and we started him on supportive medication for incontinence and to improve his CCD.



This year at 16 years old, Toby developed a reaction to the implant that was used to replace his cranial cruciate ligament. Trying to avoid another anaesthetic with Toby's worsening heart disease and ongoing issues, we tried to manage this at home. Toby had other plans however, so together with Toby's owners we made the brave decision to put him under another anaesthetic again to remove the implant. Even braver was little Toby who recovered safely from his procedure again, proving that he is one tough little cookie. Since then, his knee has already healed, and Toby is living his best life under the watchful eye of his caring owners. Fingers crossed Toby continues to pass his days in comfort!