

# THE KNOX BOX

What's new at the Knox Vet Clinic

## Happy 'haps

It's been a busy month for us at Knox through lockdown 6.0! Thank you to all the wonderful owners and pets who have worked with us to keep our clinic safe. Hope you're all surviving ok and enjoying some warmer walks out in the sun. We have been doing some renovating around the clinic lately, excuse the noise but we're really keen to see how things will look once they're finished! In other news, we have made the decision to close on Sundays and in place of this, offer additional support on Saturdays. Where previously the vets would have been limited in how they could help sick animals and have to refer cases on to emergency hospitals; additional staff on Saturdays now mean that we're more able to see your furry ones through their treatment. We're still here for you 6 days a week, Mon-Fri 8am-7pm, and Sat 8am-3pm.



## 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 is it like being a vet?

A: We could talk on this for hours! There's no simple answer because it's one of the most versatile skill sets a person could have. Kids, don't try to be a vet just because you don't like people, because you'll be working with people 90% of the time. Be prepared to stress and work hard, because the learning never ends. You'll fight with grumpy cats and dogs because they're in pain, and you'll fight to save a dying animal who's got nothing left to give. You'll be a doctor, pharmacist, radiologist, surgeon, trainer, nutritionist, counsellor all at once. At the end of the day, if making a difference to someone's life makes you think that was all worth it, we'll gladly welcome you into the fold.

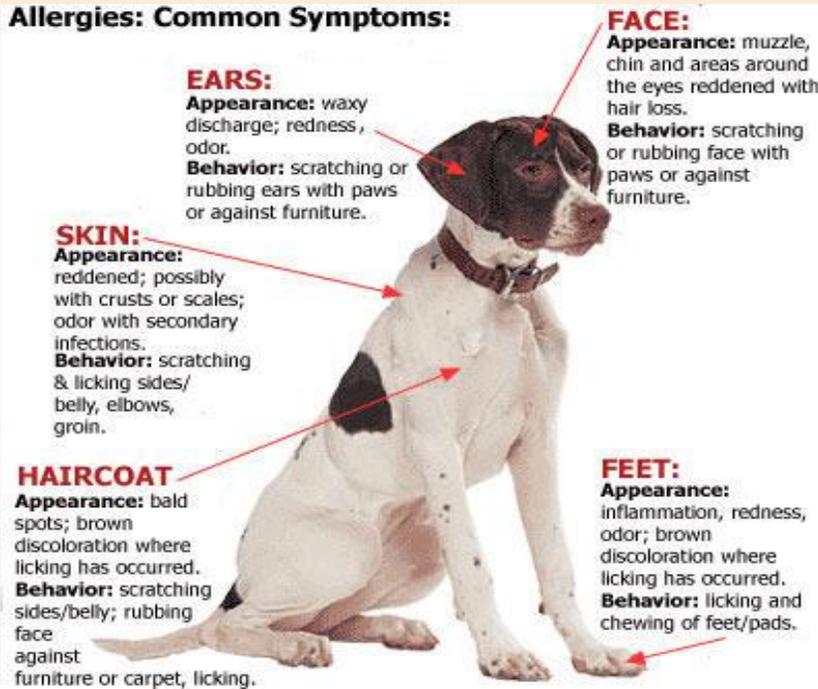


[www.knoxvet.com.au](http://www.knoxvet.com.au)



# FEATURE TOPIC: Allergy season

Want to win a free pet skincare hamper worth \$100? Tag us on social media @knoxvetclinic and #skinseptember with a photo of you and your pet showing off their skincare routine and you'll go in the draw! Winners will be notified next month.



For those of us with hayfever, we definitely know the struggles of teary itchy eyes and the congested sneezes – not something we're looking forward to. But did you know dogs can get allergies too? The signs present differently and include scratching or licking their skin or feet, an unpleasant smell, red and watery eyes, or scabs and brown discoloration of the skin. Cats are less commonly affected and also have subtle signs, mainly excessive grooming, bald patches of fur, or scabs around their head and/or belly.

(Source: [alldogboots.com/Dog-Seasonal-Allergies-a/271.htm](http://alldogboots.com/Dog-Seasonal-Allergies-a/271.htm))

Sources of allergies can include food, external parasites, and the environment,

usually pollen, grass, spores or dust – things you can't do very much to avoid. These allergies then lead to a cycle of infections and worsening skin. Because of how complex these conditions are, we usually need some testing or trials before we can treat it appropriately and get the itch under control.

Building good healthy skin with fish oils and regular bathing with medicated or sensitive shampoos to remove allergens is helpful. However, owners should understand that allergies are never cured and will require ongoing management in order to maintain a non-itchy dog.



Intradermal skin testing to figure out what we're allergic to.

(Source: [todaysveterinarynurse.com/articles/scratching-the-surface-of-allergies-in-dogs/](http://todaysveterinarynurse.com/articles/scratching-the-surface-of-allergies-in-dogs/))



Some topical treatments in allergic dogs

# Pets of the Month



We have had the honour of caring for two very much loved dogs, Misty and Max, both Maltese crosses who, although getting along in age and through their significant heart problems, still have all the zest of puppies. No doubt this is due to the wonderful care of their owner who's also a human nurse. She battles violent drunkards and trauma patients through the night, but still has a warm smile for us in the morning while dropping Max off for his x-rays. We take all our hats off to this amazing lady!



Max was diagnosed with heart disease last year and is now on three different heart medications. Recently he was coughing and retching more than usual so he came in for chest x-rays to make sure his heart disease had not progressed, but also to investigate any respiratory or gut issues. He had a barium swallow (a liquid that shows up on x-rays, helpful in highlighting structures) which was normal and ruled out any concerns with his swallowing. Max's lungs showed some chronic airway disease so we started him on some tablets to reduce the inflammation. Max had his own ideas though - he was determined not to stay in hospital again because after going home, he miraculously stopped coughing!

Misty was noted to have a moderate heart murmur some years ago. All was fine until her recent vaccination where unfortunately we noted her murmur had progressed. This meant that she would then join her brother Max in his daily tablet-taking.

Between all these different medication regimes and on top of juggling family affairs, we have no idea how their owner keeps track, but we're so grateful for her dedication and wish everyone could be like her!

