

# Peanut's Paws

## The Vet Clinic



~ For the Lost Ones ~



No longer my shadow, in this life, though perhaps in the next?  
No longer my bathroom buddy or my little spoon in my bed.

No more will I hear your nails click clicking on the floorboards.  
No more will your mousy nose and toothy grin chatter when you smile.

Never again the gentle tapping of your nose against my leg; the delighted  
bouncing circles, or the full speed zoomies in the yard.

No more your supervision of my cooking, lying in the kitchen next to my feet as I  
measured and mixed.

I still look for you so as not to trip.

Dear Gia, no longer nudging the ducklings back towards their Mama or keeping  
their nest safe from intruders.

Your watch has ended.

Your grace, your tolerance, your sweet, sweet face, will only ever be a memory  
now.

My heart in a black coat and four legs forever in my dearest thoughts.

Gia, you understood my words, I know.

You always knew just what I needed.

Your name was all I had to say, and you would come, or move, or stay.

All heeded.

You watched so many pets come and go, always with a gentle sniff and a quiet  
hello.

You made them all welcome in our home, when they were friends to me, you  
seemed to know.

Goldie, I will no longer wake at 3am to help you with the floor boards you were  
scared to cross.

You would go outside but the floor was lava, and on return you would be lost.

Your specially pitched yip to tell me you were stuck will no longer be heard in the  
dead of night.

And I will miss it, dear Goldie.

And Abby with your sweet long face and velvet ears, asking for loves with a nose  
on my knee.

Escaping to roam the streets your downfall, why could you not just stay at home?

My beautiful girls, all gone too soon.

No more their velvet ears to stroke, their long legs to fold away like origami, their  
whiskery snoots to boop.

They will join the other lost ones, and become another three silver stars in the  
sky to wish goodnight to every night, for evermore.

*Dr Claire MacRae*

A few words on loss from  
Dr Claire

I lost my three beloved  
greyhounds this year.

Gia on the first of January.

Abby was hit by a car on the  
14th March.

Goldie died on my operating  
table during an emergency  
surgery on 17th April.

So why did I share this?

Because we get it.

We are vets, but we are also pet  
parents who share our hearts  
and our homes with our animals,  
just as our clients do. We know  
what it is like to have to say  
goodbye. And we know how  
much it hurts to lose a pet.

And we are hardest on ourselves.  
With all our training, skills, and  
knowledge, what does it all  
mean when we can't save our  
own? We know we can't save  
them all but my God how we  
wish we could. And we try so  
hard for all of them. I tried so  
hard for my girls, and I know  
there was nothing anyone could  
have done for any of them. But I  
still feel like I failed them.

Simply, we are for them, and we  
remain here for the lost ones  
and we grieve for the ones we  
could not save.

All we can do is love them, in  
the best way that we can, every  
day, and remember that  
tomorrow is never guaranteed to  
anyone.

So, for Gia. My heart, my bones,  
my blood. You will always be my  
beautiful girl. For Abby, the  
escape artist. And for Goldie,  
best friend to Mummy Chicken,  
and unable to walk on the  
floorboards.

I miss you all and I am sorry you  
had to leave so soon.

# DISEASE IN FOCUS

## Chronic Kidney Disease in Cats (CKD)

- The kidneys are two essential organs that are responsible for more than just producing urine! They also **regulate several minerals, produce hormones, & stimulate red blood cell production.**
- Important blood components are resorbed in the kidney, & **waste products** from the blood are combined to form urine, which then travels to the bladder.
- CKD is very common in older cats, with **over 80% of cats older than 15 years** suffering from the condition.
- Reduced kidney function results in **toxin buildup** in the body leading to multiple negative effects.
- The most common signs seen by owners are **increased thirst, & increased urine output.**
- It is not possible to detect CKD on blood tests until at least 75% of the kidney's function has been depleted, so most cats are **diagnosed quite late** in the disease process.
- CKD is a **slowly progressive** condition, & while there are palliative treatments to improve your cat's quality of life, there is **no cure**, & sadly we cannot reverse the damage that has occurred.
- There are several commercial **dietary products** that may help the kidneys to hold out a little longer.
- **Symptomatic care** may include medications targeted at appetite stimulation, nausea reduction, high blood pressure reduction, & restoring vitamin deficiencies & mineral imbalances.
- **Dehydration** is one of the biggest concerns with CKD. Administering a sterile balanced fluid solution under the skin can greatly improve your cat's quality of life. We can teach you how to do this at home.

*For more information on CKD, & many other conditions, we have take-home handouts available in the clinic.*

# The Back Side (aka Peanut's Pants)

## What happens when your pet is admitted to hospital?

If your pet has a planned procedure, we will have organised a morning admission time with you, and explained that your pet will need to be fasted. This means no food after dinner the night before, but it is OK for them to have water through the night.

In the morning, our admissions nurse will go through the procedure with you, discuss estimated costs, chat about any optional recommendations, and have you complete and sign a surgical consent form.

Your pet will be admitted to our hospital, where they will be provided with a comfy bed, and privacy if they would like! Cats have their own special room so they do not need to be housed near barking dogs, and dogs are with us in the main treatment room where they are able to observe the daily goings on. We also have collapsible crates where pets may be housed if they prefer to be completely covered or hidden.

Calming pheromones are used in both rooms to reduce your pet's anxiety and allow them to settle into the hospital environment.

Approximately half an hour prior to their procedure, pets receive an injectable pre-medication comprised of at least two medicines, including a sedative and a strong opioid pain relief.

When they are nicely relaxed, they are moved to theatre, and another medication is given intravenously to induce anaesthesia. A breathing tube is gently inserted into the windpipe, and this is connected to a long tube that allows oxygen and anaesthetic gas to flow from the anaesthetic machine, directly to your pet's lungs to keep them safely asleep for the duration of the procedure.

When their procedure has been completed, your pet will be transferred back to their comfy bed, where they will enjoy warmed wheat bags and warmed towels while they recover. A nurse will closely monitor their recovery to ensure their safety and comfort.

Once they are awake, they will usually receive an anti-inflammatory pain relief injection, and their surgical nurse will contact you to arrange a discharge time.

On collection, your pet's nurse will discuss the procedure and after care with you, go through any medications, and will be able to answer any questions you may have about your pet.



*~ Forever loved: Gia, Goldie and Abby ~*