

# Peanut's Paws

## The Vet Clinic



### PERFECT PET TALES



Lovely old grandma doggo **Chantelle** came in to see us recently for a bit of a spa day. She had some dental work performed (no extractions needed!), her nails trimmed, her coat brushed, and a couple of lumps removed. Her pre-anaesthetic blood test showed everything to be tickety-boo, and she sailed through her procedure like a champion!

With so many older pets suffering from painful dental disease or other debilitating conditions, and many owners concerned about 'putting them under', rest assured that we do everything possible to ensure their anaesthetic is safe as can be.

Dear old Chantelle is nearly 18 years old, which goes to show that age is just a number, and is no reason to decide against anaesthesia for our elderly pets.



#### Nurse's Top Pics



Adelaide Rosella

#### Animal Fun Facts

**A FLEA can jump 350 times its own body length!**



## NEWS



🐾 Our vets are very excited because we have just purchased a state of the art **ultrasound machine!** Dr Claire and Dr Veronica are still learning some of the more complicated scans, so we will be offering these at a discounted rate for the time being. We will continue to utilise the advanced skills of our friend Dr Jennifer Judd from SA Veterinary Sonography, who visits the clinic as needed when high quality and thorough diagnostic scans are required. We look forward to being able to offer our clients a more comprehensive service with the addition of this new machine.



#### 🐾 **Snake season is upon us!**

With our ERs already seeing pets with snake bites, it is essential to be vigilant when pets are outside. Sadly, very few dogs survive being bitten, as the venom acts extremely quickly in dogs, and most die in less than an hour. Cats may take over 24 hours to show signs. If you have ANY suspicion of snake bite, contact us or an ER immediately!

## DISEASE IN FOCUS



### DENTAL DISEASE IN DOGS AND CATS Part 1

- Dental disease is the most common condition we see in pets, affecting **more than 80% of pets** aged 3 years and over
- Plaque is actually **bacteria!** When plaque is left on the teeth, it causes painful gingivitis, and eventually hardens to tartar, which further irritates the gums and causes pain and infection of the tooth structures
- Over time, **dental disease progresses** to gum loss, bone loss, jaw infection, painful root abscesses and tooth loss
- It can even **affect your pet's organs and make them seriously sick!** Bacteria that enter the bloodstream through a broken or infected tooth can easily spread to the kidneys, heart, lungs, and other organs
- Cats in particular have some unique oral diseases. One of these is **Feline Oral Resorptive Lesions (FORL)**, where the teeth are gradually eaten away by the body leaving large holes in the enamel. This is common and extremely painful! When these teeth are probed under anaesthetic, these poor kitties still flinch, even when asleep!
- Cats can also have an autoimmune disease with a very fancy long name: **Plasmacytic Lymphocytic Ulcerative Gingivitis Stomatitis** – Phew!! Otherwise known as PLUGS. This usually affects younger cats, and results in the cat's immune system attacking the teeth. This is also extremely painful! Although it sounds super drastic, the best treatment for this disease is to actually extract ALL of the cat's teeth!
- *More on dental disease next issue!*

# The Back Side (aka Peanut's Pants)

## Did you Know??

Vets go to university for 6 years, have an average of 80K of student debt, earn an average salary of 80K and have the highest suicide rates of any other profession?

## Pet Food

### You (mostly) get what you pay for!

**It** is true for many things that you get what you pay for, but does this also hold true for pet foods? Well yes, pretty much! Pet food quality and price can vary enormously, and there are now more brands than ever in the marketplace, making it even more difficult for pet parents to choose the best food for their pet.

**So** what are you really paying for with those top shelf premium brands? The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) establishes the nutritional standards and nutrition profiles for complete and balanced pet foods. These profiles are followed worldwide in the manufacture of pet foods, including in Australia. Foods that feature AAFCO labelling are guaranteed to be 'complete and balanced', and therefore of excellent quality and appropriate to be fed as a sole diet.

**As** well as AAFCO standards, higher quality foods are based on scientific research, have consistent ingredients in appropriate ratios, have source traceback, have different foods for different life stages, and employ veterinarians and nutritionists on their R&D and customer support teams.

**But** vets get kickbacks from food companies, right? Ahhh, no. We might get a cheap pen and a lunch from the rep, but that's about it! You can be sure that when vet staff recommend a particular brand, it is because we believe in it, and feel it will be the best option for your individual pet.

**As** a general rule, brands available in supermarkets are of lesser quality than pet-shop or vet-only brands. Like anything, the pet world is subject to trends and fads, and marketing executives are paid to find a strategy that appeals to humans, not animals! Grain-free is just one example of human based fad advertising.

*More on pet foods and nutrition next time!*

