



# A Peanut's Paws

## Christmas at The Vet Clinic



### PERFECT PET TALES



#### Three Legged Superstar!

Recently a dear kitty, Mr S (names have been changed to protect the innocent!) came in to see us for a large painful mass on his hind leg. Dr Claire determined that it was very likely to be a nasty tumour. Unfortunately, due to its location right over Mr S's hock, it would be very difficult to remove. The other option though it sounds drastic, was to amputate Mr S's leg so that he could be happy and pain-free. His owners were on board with this option, and Mr S sailed through the surgery and recovery like an absolute superstar!



Superstar Mr S



#### Nurse's Top Pics



Daisy and Winnie

#### Animal Fun Facts



Slugs have FOUR noses!



### NEWS

#### Extended Saturday Hours

Throughout Spring and Summer, we will now be open from 9am until 4pm on Saturdays!



#### New Stuff!

Over the last year or so we have been investing in new equipment, renovations, and additional staff! Last month, it was the ultrasound machine. This month, we have replaced our old surgery table and our x-ray stand. We are pretty chuffed with them!



Over the next few weeks we will be adding new cupboards, benchtops, and shelves in various areas of the hospital, including the consult room. Keep your eyes peeled for our new changes!

Merry Christmas!!



# DISEASE IN FOCUS

## DENTAL DISEASE IN DOGS AND CATS Part 2

- There are several ways for us to assess your pet's teeth
- First and foremost, the **vet will lift your pet's lips** to have a look at the front, side, and back teeth. We are looking for plaque, tartar, gum loss, exposed roots, infected teeth, fractured or loose teeth, abscesses, or other abnormalities
- Very dirty teeth are not always badly diseased, and likewise, **very clean teeth are not always healthy!**
- When it comes to **extractions**, be assured that we do not take this lightly! To be honest, extracting teeth is quite a long and difficult process that **we would really much rather avoid if we could!**
- Extraction of a small single rooted tooth such as an **incisor** is usually fairly simple in dogs but can be a nightmare in cats as they can break very easily. **Canine extraction** in both dogs and cats is very difficult and can take over an hour per tooth
- The extraction of **premolars and molars can also take hours!**
- Canines and multirooted teeth, that is, all molars and some of the premolars all require **surgical extraction**. This means that a large incision is made into the gum to make a flap, the jaw bone is carefully removed with a dental drill, and the tooth is cut into pieces and slowly eased out sideways. The empty socket is then cleaned out with another drill, flushed, and the flap is sutured back in place. **It is quite a big deal!**
- Unfortunately, all of this makes **giving cost estimates for dentals very difficult!** A basic scale and polish is less than \$300, but if multiple extractions are required, costs can quickly add up. It is also not possible to fully assess the teeth and predict what might be required until your pet is fully asleep under anaesthetic
- It is highly recommended to perform **dental x-rays** with every dental procedure to assess what is happening below the gumline. With the help of x-rays, apparently normal teeth can be identified as having severe disease

# The Back Side (aka Peanut's Pants)

## Pet Food Fads

### What's real and what is just good marketing?!

Pet parents are a lucrative market! With more and more young couples choosing to forgo children in favour of raising canine or feline babies instead, disposable income is earmarked for the precious puss and pooch.

Marketing gurus are very good at what they do! They are experts in playing into our insecurities and taking advantage of current trends.






























Have you ever noticed that pet food varieties tend to follow the current popular beliefs of the general public? Of course, pet food is not marketed to the animal, but to the owner! Those cat food ads with the 'farm fresh lean wagyu glazed balsamic fillet with seasonal greens and pacific ocean prawn fillets and honey' are not convincing the cat! But pet parents wanting to spoil their feline baby may well be enticed by this so-called gourmet product.

In reality, as long as the food product is balanced and meets AAFCO standards, your pet will be receiving all the quality nutrition they need.

The following 'fads' are unnecessary for the vast majority of pets, and may even be harmful:

- Grain free
- Raw diets
- Paleo/ancient/whole food/preservative free/all natural
- Vegan diets for cats
- Additives such as hemp oil

## Silly Season Sickies!

NEVER FEED				LIMIT/AVOID			
 Alcohol	 Avocado	 Caffeine	 Tobacco	 Grains	 Dairy	 Fat trimmings	
 Macadamias	 Mushrooms	 Grapes & raisins		 Tomatoes	 Liver	 Ham & bacon	
 Walnuts	 Chocolate	 Nutmeg		 Pips & seeds	 Onions & garlic	 Sugar	
 Hops	 Cannabis	 Xylitol		 Yeast dough	 Raw eggs		
 Potato peel	 Moldy food			 Citrus oil	 Cat food	 Salt	

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