



Peanut's Paws



Christmas at The Vet Clinic



THESE DOGS ROCK

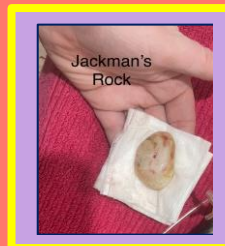
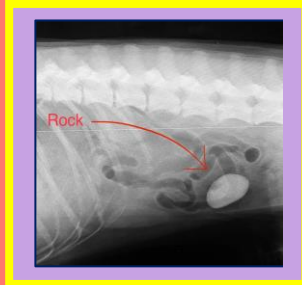


This issue we have TWO ROCKSTARS: Lae and Jackman.

These handsome fellows, from two different families, each managed to eat rocks (who would eat a rock? I mean, honestly!) Lae managed to eat not one but TWO rocks, and Jackman just the one. They did this a week apart! Luckily rocks are very easy to spot on x-rays, so each doggo underwent major but fairly straight forward surgery with Dr Claire to remove the rocks from their intestines. Both Lae and Jackman have made complete recoveries. Silly boys!



Lae



Jackman's Rock



Jackman



Lae's Rocks

Nurse's Pick of the Pics



1.5cm

Grass seed removed from a dog's eye. Ouch!!

Animal Fun Facts

Cats have over 100 vocal sounds, but dogs only have about 10!



NEWS

MORE New stuff!

In the last couple of months we have purchased a brand spanking new surgical light for the theatre, a suction unit, a cautery unit, and an additional anaesthetic machine!

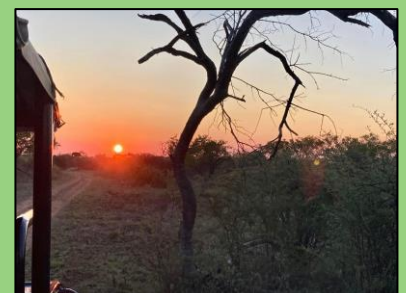
During abdominal surgeries, we routinely flush the abdomen with large volumes of sterile saline prior to stitching the patient closed. The **suction unit** is incredibly helpful in sucking up all of this fluid.

Our new **cautery unit** makes surgery faster and safer! It can be used to cut tissues and stop bleeding all at the same time! This reduces the need for manually tying off bleeding vessels, leading to less bleeding and fewer materials used.

The additional **anaesthetic machine** means we are always prepared for emergencies, and can provide oxygen or anaesthetic to patients at any time, even when another animal is in theatre!

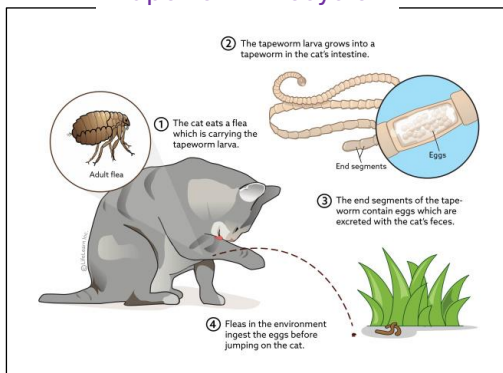
Welcome Back Dr V and Nurse Will!

Back from their travels, the intrepid explorers have told us about their amazing time in Africa! We can't wait for them to share their learning with us!



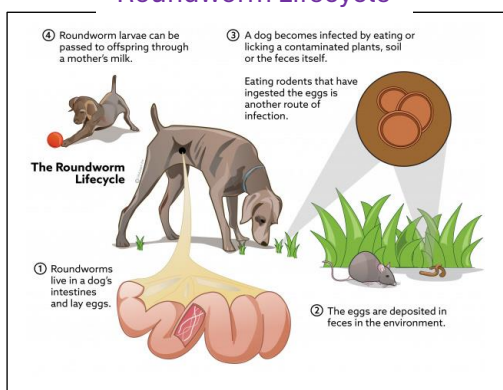
The Back Side (aka Peanut's Pants)

Tapeworm Lifecycle



Tapeworm

Roundworm Lifecycle



Roundworm



Whipworm



Hookworm



Intestinal worms of Dogs and Cats

Dogs and cats may be affected by many different parasites. Some so-called 'worms' are found in the gastrointestinal tract, and some in the heart. External parasites such as fleas and others are also common. Parasite species differ depending on geographical area, but in South Australia we tend to encounter the following intestinal worms:

- Roundworms
- Whipworms
- Hookworms
- Tapeworms

Intestinal worms are usually transmitted through poop. When dogs or cats sniff/lick/eat the faeces of an infected animal, they can swallow worm eggs or larvae, which grow into later stage larvae and then adults in the gastrointestinal system. The adults mate and lay eggs in the animal's gut, which are then passed in the faeces for the cycle to begin again.

The eggs of many species of intestinal worms can survive in the environment for extended periods of time, therefore pets can also end up with worms from swallowing eggs found in the soil, or on grass or leaves. They can also survive for a period on pet's fur, so animals can swallow eggs while grooming themselves or each other.

Worm larvae or eggs may also be eaten along with another animal such as a mouse, lizard, bird or frog. Therefore, cats and dogs who hunt or scavenge are particularly prone to developing worms.

Roundworms can even be transmitted from mother to pup through the placenta, meaning puppies can be born already having worms in their gastrointestinal system! Roundworm and hookworm larvae can also pass into the milk and infect nursing puppies.

Tapeworms are a bit different. Tapeworm eggs are eaten by fleas, and develop into larvae within the flea. When the pet nibbles at an itchy spot and ingests the flea, the larvae break out within the dog's intestine, and mature into adult tapeworms. Tapeworm eggs develop inside the segments of the adult worm's body, and these segments break off and become stuck around the animal's bottom. Eventually they will drop off into the environment, where they dry out, allowing the eggs to hatch from the segment to be eaten by fleas. Pets cannot be infected by eating the eggs or segments, only by swallowing the flea itself. Cats can also get a particular tapeworm species from eating mice, rabbits, or other small animals. This is why flea and worm control together is so important – no fleas, no tapeworm!

Hookworms can also infect humans! And they do so in a rather shocking way. Hookworm larvae in the environment can actually burrow through a human's skin resulting in intensely itchy, red lesions. Roundworms can infect humans too, through the accidental ingestion of eggs or larvae, which is why excellent hygiene is extremely important when around pets! Some tapeworm species can also affect humans and can be a serious disease in some developing countries. Dogs contract this type of tapeworm through eating raw offal, scavenging dead livestock, or hunting and eating other animals.

There are a lot of different products out there, and it can get very confusing! Feel free to pop in to chat to our nurses about the best method of parasite prevention for your pet.