



## Autumn Newsletter

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### March is our desexing month!

Did you know that an un-desexed pair of cats (and their offspring) can produce up to 420,000 cats in seven years, and an un-desexed pair of dogs (and their offspring) can produce up to 67,000 dogs in six years?

We recommend desexings all pets you are not intending on breeding responsibly - desexing your pet is the best way to ensure:

- \* reduced risks of cancers and other diseases of the reproductive organs
- \* stop pet overpopulation
- \* remove the risk of pyometron in females (infection in the uterus that can be fatal)
- \* reduced risks of mammary tumours and prostatic disease
- \* reduce the chances of developing urine marking behaviours
- \* the possibility of reduced aggressive or territorial behaviour

During the month of March 2018, we are offering 20% off the full price of desexings, and microchips at a heavily discounted rate.

We can desex dogs and cats from 14 weeks of age, and pocket pets of various ages.

Places are limited, so contact us if you would like more information, or to book your pet in for this special offer during March.

### Seasonal toxin reminders

As the cooler months approach, you may be considering cleaning up the garden, garage, house or yard. In doing so, often we stumble across hazards to pets that may otherwise have escaped our attention, such as rodenticides, snail and slug baits and snakes.

**1. Rodenticides** – As Autumn kicks in and the weather cools, rodents may start to seek shelter, and a place to nest, to avoid the cold. As people see the rodent burden increase, they may start placing rat bait around their premises, so you'll need to be vigilant and ensure that your dogs and cats don't consume any. Rodenticide is highly palatable (to ensure mice and rats will eat it), but is very toxic to your pets and can cause blood clotting issues, nervous system issues or kidney failure - if your dog or cat were to ingest it, rodenticides are potentially life-threatening. Clinical signs that your pet may have eaten rodenticides include:

- Lethargy, or being quieter than normal
- Trouble breathing
- Nose bleeds
- Blood in urine, faeces or vomit
- Pale gums
- Swelling of the stomach
- Increased drinking and urination
- Seizures

**2. Snail & slug bait** - as with rodenticides, snail and slug baits can be a major risk to your pets. These baits come in either a powder, liquid or pellet form, and are highly palatable (often containing molasses or sugar).

Snail bait represents a major risk for dogs and cats, and is a more common source of poisoning than you may expect. Typically the baits contain metaldehyde, and ingestion of even a small amount can be fatal. Clinical signs that your pet may have eaten snail and slug baits include:

- Anxiety
- Panting
- Drooling (hypersalivating)
- Twitching or muscle tremors
- Fever (hyperthermia)
- Vomiting
- Your pet may appear off-balance (ataxia)
- Seizures or convulsions

**3. Snakes** – As Summer departs and Autumn takes over, snakes start to enter in to hibernation. Pet owners who live near bush land, areas where there is a lot of natural debris, open fields or water ways must stay alert to avoid an accidental encounter with a snake. To prevent this situation, if you do come across a snake, keep your pet safely restrained, try not to disturb it, and walk in the opposite direction. If the snake is in a public area (such as a park or suburban street), where possible, contact your local snake catcher to see if they can relocate the snake. NEVER try to catch and relocate the snake yourself.

If you suspect your pet may have eaten bait, or come in to contact with a snake,

they require immediate veterinary attention - a wait and see approach could prove fatal.

## Easter is upon us!

Easter is almost upon us! It is already the time of year where the chocolates come out, and the celebrations start. But don't forget, chocolate is toxic to our pets.

Chocolate comes in various flavours (i.e. white, milk, dark & cooking chocolate), but each has a different concentration of the toxic ingredient theobromine. The more concentrated or darker the chocolate is, the more toxic it will be for your pet. This does not mean that you can give your pet chocolate if it is less concentrated - it can still be very toxic.

Clinical signs that your pet may have consumed chocolate include:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Rapid breathing
- Tremors
- Seizures
- Coma

Chocolate toxicity can be fatal, so if you feel that your pet is showing these signs, or if you know your pet has eaten chocolate, seek veterinary treatment immediately.

### **Easter Holidays**

Good Friday: 30th of March – CLOSED

Saturday: 31st of March – CLOSED

Easter Sunday: 1st of April – CLOSED

Easter Monday: 2nd of April – CLOSED

Tuesday 3rd of April – Re-open as normal (8am at the Corio clinic and 8:30am at the Lara clinic)

**For any emergencies during the Easter period, please contact:**

**Geelong Animal Emergency**

**102 Fyans Street, South Geelong**

**(03) 5222-2139**

## **Labour Day**

Just a reminder that we are also CLOSED at both clinics on Monday 12th March for the Labour Day public holiday.

## **Introducing our newest staff members**

We would like to welcome our newest staff members:

### **Veterinarians**

Belinda became part of our veterinary team in January this year, coming to us from general practice in Sydney. Originally hailing from Hong Kong, she graduated in 2013 and is looking forward to meeting you and your pets.

### **Nurses**

Caitlin is a Certificate IV qualified Veterinary Nurse who joined our nursing team as one of our part-timers this year. Caitlin gained her qualification from the Gordon Institute of TAFE in 2016 and you will see her friendly face at both the Corio and Lara clinics.

Kellie is our newest trainee nurse, and started with us in February 2018. She is currently studying her Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing with Box Hill Institute of TAFE, and works with us part-time whilst she completes her studies.

## **Find us on Facebook!**

Just in case you weren't already aware, we now have a Facebook page to help keep you up to date with all of the clinic happenings. The page will have articles such as special interest clinical cases, clinic promotions and pet feature articles.

Head on over and give us a like and share today!

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