



CORIO LARA

VETERINARY CLINICS

Winter Newsletter 2018

WINTER IS HERE

The first day of winter is here and it surely won't take long for the rain, wind and fog to set in. By now we are all rugging up in the mornings and evenings to keep warm, but how do we keep our furry friends warm throughout winter.

If you have a dog that is sensitive to the cold then it would be best to keep your dog indoors, especially at night. However this is not always possible, so outdoor kennels should be able to withstand rain and wind. Straw can be used as an insulator, sloped roof, no gaps, warm bedding inside and a protected entrance to help guard from rain.

Indoor dogs can still get cold at night, so its best to have a cushioned bed with blankets. A cold floor can easily make a dog bed colder, so a raised bed is

always a good idea.

Coats and raincoats are great for your dogs to wear during walks, or when outside, and can protect them from the cold and rain when exposed to the elements.

Cats should be kept indoors from 10pm until 6am in the morning - they do develop a thicker coat throughout winter, but a warm bed inside is always better than being out in the cold weather. Cats are masters at finding the warmest spot in the house, but we still recommend to provide a cushioned bed with blankets for those extra cold days.

Arthritis

As we are coming in to the colder months, you may notice your animal getting a bit stiff and sore, and showing signs of arthritis. Old age arthritis (or osteoarthritis) is common in ageing pets. It is usually a result on ongoing wear and tear and instability in the joints, although other factors such as injury, genetic makeup, infection, immune disease and cancer can also affect the progress of the disease.

Some signs you may notice include pain or stiffness when getting up or down, inability to climb steps and general slowness on walks. It is worth noting that about one in six adult dogs suffer from this disease.

Arthritis is not a disease that we can cure but we can do a lot to manage the disease and reduce the amount of discomfort for our animals. Overweight animals will place proportionally more weight on their joints and therefore cause more localised inflammation and irritation to the joint and this will hasten the progress of arthritis.

Exercise is a very important part of managing arthritis. We believe in “use it or lose it”. Regular controlled exercise (such as leash walking, swimming etc) is very beneficial for keeping the joints mobile and the muscles working well. Uncontrolled exercise (such as off the lead walks) can cause permanent damage to the joints.

Various treatments are available to manage osteoarthritis in dogs. The ‘best’ option for your dog will depend on a number of different factors involving your animal; such as age, severity of signs, progression of the disease process, whether they have any other diseases. Importantly all arthritis patients should be

accurately diagnosed before starting a treatment plan. There are a number of different treatments that may be offered to you.

Please contact our clinic if you have questions about arthritis or are wanting to bring your dog in for a check up.

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Responsible pet ownership - desexing specials

The month of June is dog desexing month, in which we are offering 20% off the full price of canine desexing. We can desex dogs from the age of 14 weeks, providing they are over 1kg in weight.

We recommend desexing your dog if are not intending on breeding responsibly - desexing your dog 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

Places are limited, so contact us if you would like more information, or to book your dog in for this great special of 20% off during June*.

During July, we are pleased to be again taking part in the City of Greater Geelong council desexing program for cats. This special is a heavily reduced rate, including desexing, council registration, microchipping, food and flea/worm treatment.

Clinic Face Lift

Have you noticed anything different about our Corio clinic?

We spruced up our logo and signage out the front and have given the consult rooms, and waiting area, a lick of paint to freshen things up. Feel free to pop in to the clinic to have a look for yourself.

We love it and hope you do too!

Clinic News

We would like to welcome to our nursing team Sarah Box. Sarah joined our team in late March this year, and is a qualified Certificate IV Veterinary Nurse. She gained her qualification through The Gordon Institute of Technology in 2017.

Sarah fits in really well in our nursing team, and owns a whippet named Reggie.

Feel free to come in and meet the happy Sarah B at the Corio Clinic.

We also have some familiar faces that have re-joined our nursing team, with Sarah S and Miranda returning from their maternity leave. As two return, one unfortunately leaves! We would like to wish Laura the best of luck with bub number two as she now begins her nesting role.

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