



VETERINARY HAPPINESS

"Healthy Pets are Happy Pets"



NEWSLETTER

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OUR TEETH MATTER TOO!

Regardless of whether the mouth you're concerned about is canine or feline, here are some of the most interesting inquiries we regularly encounter in the consultation room.

1) HOW MANY TEETH DO CATS AND DOGS HAVE?

The average adult dog has about 30% more teeth than humans – 42 permanent teeth compared with the human's 32. Cats, on the other hand, only have 30 permanent teeth, but man, they know how to make them count!

2) WHEN DO ANIMALS LOSE THEIR BABY TEETH?

Puppies and kittens begin losing their baby teeth around 3-4 months old. This process continues until they are at least 6 months old. The roots of the baby teeth are 'chewed up' by cells on the up-and-coming adult tooth. The rootless baby teeth usually simply fall out – either to be dropped from the mouth or swallowed! Occasionally baby teeth may not fall out as required – this often necessitates us removing them surgically so the adult tooth is not adversely impacted.

3) DO CAT AND DOG TEETH REGROW AFTER THEY'RE LOST?

This is a common myth. Unlike sharks, once a tooth is damaged or lost, it cannot regrow, and is unlikely to heal. Additionally, damage, if not promptly dealt with, usually gets worse with time as infection and rot set in.



4) WHAT DENTAL PROBLEMS CAN MY PET GET?

Cats and dogs are prone to getting plaque and calculus build up, which leads to severe gum problems, which can result in loose and infected teeth. Dogs also commonly fracture teeth chewing on bones, rocks or hard toys. Cats are commonly afflicted with a painful condition called FORLs (feline oral resorptive lesions) – where the body literally starts chewing its way through the lining of the tooth. The nerve is exposed and irritated. These lesions are incredibly painful, and will only get worse with time. Extraction is the treatment of choice.

5) I JUST CAN'T BRUSH MY PETS TEETH! AM I A BAD PARENT?

Never fear, you are not alone here! Although regular and frequent teeth brushing is an effective way to reduce plaque, many owners find it is not a realistic challenge for them. Can I tell you a secret? I (Dr Lara), don't brush my cat's teeth either. Instead, I feed him a high quality dental diet (either Advance or Royal Canin) as 90% of his intake. Additionally, I scale and polish his teeth yearly under an anaesthetic. He's about 6 now, and his breath is continually pleasant, and no extractions have ever been required. From next year, he is considered a senior, so I'll take dental x-rays at his next procedure to check there are no nasty surprises lurking under the gums. Additionally, I like to 'flip the lip' and check his teeth and gums every couple of weeks. That way, any problems are picked up early.

6) WHAT IS A 'DENTAL' AND WHAT DOES IT ENTAIL?

Veterinary staff often toss around the small word 'dental' without fully describing the important and multifaceted procedure they are talking about. Firstly, for our dogs and cats, this means a full general anaesthetic. Unlike us humans, animals will not stay still for dental scaling – particularly if they have painful, red gums. The ultrasonic scaling process is the same as at the human dentist, and includes scaling under the gum line, where the worst disease is present. Teeth are also polished. Extraction of teeth is required if gum disease has progressed to the point where the tooth is loose and painful. X-rays may be recommended to assess the health of the tooth roots. We value our safe, high quality anaesthetics here at Vet Happiness, so we will always recommend intravenous fluids before, during and after the anaesthetic (this helps with elimination of the drugs and supports the heart and blood pressure) and often we will also check on the animal's internal health with a blood test.

DID YOU KNOW?

80% of dogs and 70% of cats develop gum disease by the age of three! To combat this, Veterinary Happiness offers free dental checks all year round. Mention this newsletter to receive a free dental treat after your check, as well as a discount on dental procedures!



PUPPY SCHOOL CLASSES HERE ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!

BRAND NEW UPDATED PUPPY SCHOOL AT VETERINARY HAPPINESS REDLAND BAY run by JORDON DOG TRAINING (jordondogtraining.com.au)

We are thrilled to announce that Jordon Dog Training is now operating a Puppy Preschool class on Wednesday evenings here at the clinic. Puppy pre-school is for puppies from 8 to 18 weeks of age. It's a four week course, one hour a week from 6.30-7.30pm. During the course, your new best friend is exposed to all the basic



puppy obedience exercises such as: Sit, Drop, Come when called, and Leash manners. There is also a major focus on

behaviour issues to make sure your puppy starts life on the right track, such as the all important: Toilet training, chewing, problem barking, jumping up, and basic good manners! Jordon Dog Training aims to teach dog owners the value of communicating gently and intelligently with their pets (sometimes known as dog whispering) and how they can think in a canine way for more successful interaction and problem solving.

"Cats are not like any other pet. They are aloof, mysterious and treated with respect by famous celebrities, scientists and regular people alike"

But sometimes the aloof and mysterious may become alone and mistreated. Many people don't hesitate to visit the vet with their in-your-face doggie, but it may become all too easy to miss those regular checks for the more retiring cat. Especially as cats may not take kindly to the entire process!



Cats may be difficult to examine on your own. They have special requirements compared with dogs, and suffer from many chronic diseases, especially as they age. It is very important to get your kitty in for their vaccinations and checks. As vets, we often pick up problems in cats that they simply will not reveal at home to their owners. If you have concerns with getting your cat into a cat cage at home, please chat to our staff. We have several techniques and tricks to make it smooth and easy for you and your feline friend!

INTRODUCING DR ERIN



We are pleased to welcome Dr Erin as a new addition to the Veterinary Happiness team. She brings with her 7 years of experience, having qualified from University of California Davis in 2009. Dr Erin is highly accomplished in Emergency Medicine and Surgery after

having worked at a state-of-the-art Emergency Centre in the States. Dr Erin has also spent time in general practice and enjoys building client relationships and looking after chronically ill pets as well as treating them in an emergency.



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Dr Deborah Webb BVetMed MANZCVS
Dr Natasha Wilks BVSc
Dr Rebecca Hunn BVSc (Hons)
Dr Lara Brits BVSc (Hons)

Opening hours

Monday to Friday 8am until 6pm
Saturday 8am until 12noon

After hours

Ph 3206 7911 for diversion to the Animal
Emergency Centre at Underwood

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