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Newsletter- Winter 2010



- [Clinic News](#)
- [New Saturday Hours](#)
- [Hyperthyroidism](#)
- [School Talks](#)
- [Dental Month](#)
- [Who's Up For Adoption?](#)
- [Staff Profile](#)

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter! As part of our ongoing care for your pets, we like to keep you informed of staff news, new services we are now offering and problems which could affect your pets, particularly at this time of year. Our seasonal newsletters will be accessible on our website, from the clinic and via mail out. Let us know if you would like to receive our quarterly publication and we can add you to our mail or email list.

Clinic News

Some of you may have recently noticed Emma developing a rather large bump- yes, she's pregnant! Emma will be taking 7 months maternity leave from June through to December. We have a fantastic vet called Miri who will be covering her leave (see her profile below). Nat, who is currently studying to become a paramedic, is going to spend a month providing volunteer health care in Peru. She will be hiking from one village to the next, examining people and providing medical treatment in make-shift clinics.

New Saturday Hours

Saturdays are always a busy time at our clinic and in many households. To help us ensure we give you more flexibility with your Saturdays we have decided to open an hour earlier. **As of July 3rd, our new Saturday opening hours will be 8am-4pm.** Note we will also be closing an hour early, so will no longer be open until 5pm. We hope this suits your needs and gives you more free-time over the weekend!

Hyperthyroid Disease

Hyperthyroidism is the most common hormonal disease that affects cats and is almost always seen in felines over the age of eight. Symptoms you may see are:

- Weight loss despite an increased appetite
- Hyperactivity, increased vocalisation
- Restless and moodiness
- Increased thirst and urination
- Occasional vomiting and diarrhoea
- Matted, greasy or dull coat

On examination we may find an increased heart rate +/- a heart murmur and sometimes we can palpate an enlarged thyroid gland in the neck. If hyperthyroidism is suspected, the diagnosis can be confirmed by a blood test. There are several therapeutic options for this disease which include anti-thyroid drug therapy, surgical removal of the thyroid gland or radioactive iodine therapy.

If you suspect that your cat is suffering from hyperthyroidism, please call us to arrange an appointment with one of our vets.

School Talks

We feel very passionately about educating our clients and the community about pet care. Our vets enjoy visiting schools and kindergartens to talk to the kids about being a vet and about responsible pet ownership. If you have children going to school or kinder and would like us to do a talk for their class, just get their teacher to give us a call and we can organise a visit to their school.

Focus on Dental Disease

Our pets depend on their teeth for picking up and chewing food, playing, grooming and self defence. Since they rely so much on their teeth, we really need to look after them. Good dental health should start from a young age but it is never too late. There are many ways to help prevent dental disease including **brushing, RAW bones, dental chews, greenies, rope bones, greenies and special diets**. Our vet's assess your pet's teeth as part of their annual health check. If your animal develops tartar or dental disease, we can scale and polish their teeth and extract any diseased teeth.

August is dental month, so get started on a regular dental care regime and you'll save your pet the pain of dental disease and save yourself the cost of dentistry work needed to combat bad teeth. Please organise an appointment if you would like your pet's teeth checked or talk to our nurses or vets if you would like any advice regarding dental care.



Who's Up For Adoption?

Sadly, thousands of animals are surrendered, abandoned and abused in Victoria every year. There are many wonderful people and organisations that help to rescue animals from cruel and neglectful conditions, rehabilitate injured, stray and abandoned animals and find new homes for animals in need. As animal lovers, we are always moved by the images and stories of these animals in need and the lucky ones that find new homes. There are many ways in which you can help these beautiful, innocent dogs and cats receive the treatment and love they deserve.

- If you are planning to get a new pet, consider adopting a rescue animal from an animal welfare organization.
- Sponsor a patient at the Lort Smith Hospital or a kennel at the RSPCA for as little as 25 cents/day.

- Donate money, blankets or even your time (walking dogs, cleaning cages) to an animal welfare organization.



"Melissa" from Save A Dog

If you're interested in adopting a new pet or helping under privileged animals, please take a look at the websites of the organizations below:

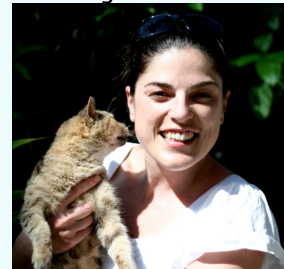
Save A Dog: www.saveadog.org.au

Lort Smith Animal Hospital: www.lortsmith.org.au

RSPCA: www.rspcavic.org

Staff Profile

Dr Miri Morgan will be working full time at Elgar Road from June- December 2010 while Emma is on maternity leave. Besides cat-napping some strays whilst on holiday in Fiji to get a photo for the Elgar Rd website, her past days have found her a 2002 graduate from Massey University, New Zealand. After a brief time in New Zealand she embarked on what now seems a tradition for many a graduate, the UK working holiday visa. This brief break eventually turned into 7 years in the UK as a small animal vet. Finally sensing the holiday should be over she's now taking the long road home via Melbourne. A year on, she's settled very nicely in Yarraville and has even added a wee ginger tom called Murray to the household. Given the great hospitality she's been shown since arriving and discovering what a fantastic place Melbourne can be, she gets the feeling the road home may take just a little longer...



Clinic Hours (By Appointment)

8am-7pm Weekdays

8am-4pm Saturday

10am-12 noon Sunday

HOME VISITING SERVICE AVAILABLE