



Winter Newsletter

KEEP YOUR DOG FRESH
Bath & groom outs in
between grooms
20% off*

***ends July 31st**



GET TO KNOW US!
5 point Vet health check
FREE*

***ends June 30th**



Winter Watch



Ouch it hurts

The last thing we want is for our pets to experience pain. Winter time is the time to be on the lookout for signs of pain especially in older pets. Both Dogs and Cats can develop Osteoarthritis as they age. Just like us osteoarthritis can feel worse in the cooler months. Stiffness on getting up, reluctance to exercise or lameness are obvious signs that joints are painful.

However sometimes we have to look closely at behaviour and more importantly the activities pets have stopped doing to identify arthritic pain. For dogs this may be a reluctance to use the stairs or to jump up or down from beds, sofas and cars. For cats this may be a reluctance to groom themselves, to go to high places they used to love or sleeping and being in active most of the day. You are really looking for a change in the behaviour because I certainly know a lot of cats that love to sleep all day long. There are some great forms available on line to help you identify if your pet is in pain. Visit our website for a link to these documents on our services/behaviour and pain management page.

We stock 4Cyte and can organise a course of Cartrophen injections or the new Monoclonal Antibody injections for Osteoarthritis treatment.

The Little Beasties



It might be winter but the parasites are still about. Mosquitoes spread heart worm and due to our sub tropical climate here in Brisbane they are about all year. Ticks are also a year round parasite in sub tropical areas and are just as toxic to your pet in winter as they are in summer. Please continue to use preventatives for parasites through out the winter months and protect your pet from some of these dangerous but preventable diseases and toxicities.

Warm Coats and Snuggle Beds



Its lovely to snuggle up but be sure to choose cotton based products rather than wool as wool can irritate the skin and cause itchy rashes. Always remove warm pajamas and coats during the day to allow the skin to breathe. This will reduce the chance of bacterial and fungal overgrowth on the skin. Make sure you wash all bedding and coats regularly with hypoallergenic products and hang in the sun when possible. Regular grooming during the winter is essential. If allowed to mat the fur coat cannot act as an insulator. See over for Jess's grooming tips for winter.

We are happy to announce that we will be stocking prescription diets from both Hills and Royal Canin. If your pet is already using a prescription diet we can arrange to stock their diet. Please get in contact with the clinic on 30599159.



Newsletter

First of all, thank you so much for welcoming us to West End! We are having lots of fun getting to know you and your pets. Now that Winter is well and truly upon us, I wanted to discuss the importance of maintaining your dog's (and cat's) coat in the colder months to prevent matting and keep their skin healthy.



What is a mat?

A mat starts when hair twists together into knots. As more debris and hair get caught up in these knots, they form into mats. They usually feel like clumps when you pat your dog. Sometimes the mats may lie close to the skin and the outer hair feels brushed out, but underneath it is like a twisted carpet of hair.

How can I tell if my pet is matted?

Use a fine to medium toothed comb, starting at the roots. If the comb becomes stuck in any way in the coat, you have probably found a mat.

Why are mats bad?

Mats hurt your pet as they pull at the skin. Think of it as having a tight elastic band in your hair and everywhere you turn another strand of hair pinches your skin. This pulling can cause blood circulation problems and the skin under the matted hair can become damaged from the lack of air and blood circulation. Moisture (from bathing, rain, swimming, etc.) can become trapped, and with the dogs warm body temperature become a perfect breeding ground for bacterial growth. This can lead to painful hot spots and other skin infections.



How do I prevent mats?

Regular brushing and combing must be done at home. Your professional pet stylist can show you the correct equipment and techniques you will need based on your dog's skin and coat type to maintain a healthy coat. Most long-coated breeds need to be professionally groomed every three to eight weeks. If you are okay with keeping the coat short, every six to ten weeks will be okay. The longest any dog should go between grooming is three months.





Newsletter

What may happen when my dog is clipped?

Although clipping is necessary, there may be side effects. The skin has been denied air circulation and stimulation from regular brushing becomes quite sensitive and is easily marked, scraped or nicked by the clipper blades. The dog may feel uncomfortable and strange after a clip down. Due to circulation being cut off, dogs can develop haematomas as the blood flows bad to areas which had been cut off. It is particularly prevalent on the tips of the ears. Sometimes the clip down may reveal a hidden problem that was not seen through the matting, such as hot spots or dermatitis. The removal of the mats often allows a pet to now get at an itch that was previously hidden to them. It is very important that you not allow your pet to excessively rub or scratch themselves or do any sort of self-mutilation. If your pet is really uncomfortable, you should seek veterinary care.



Bleeding ear haematoma

What can be done about mats?

Dematting is rarely an option. The tugging, pulling and ripping of dematting can be very painful for the pet, and it will damage the coat leaving it more susceptible to matting again. In most cases the best and most humane course of action is the clip down the coat and start from scratch. Our clippers are not able to cut through the mats and have to get underneath the matting. How short we must clip depends on the severity of the matting, and the closeness of the matting to the skin.



Feel free to ask me any questions about maintaining your pet's coat at home, and find out about getting on a recurring schedule!