

Familypet Vet

Newsletter

Coromandel Valley & McLaren Vale Veterinary Clinics

Hours

Coromandel Valley

Monday-Friday

8.30am -6.30pm

Saturday

8.30am—12.00pm

Ph: 8370 3500

McLaren Vale

Monday-Friday

8.30am—5.30pm

Saturday

9.00am-11.30 am

Ph: 8323 8522

Winter 2009 Edition

Bad Breath?

FREE DENTAL CHECK WITH NURSE IN JULY/
AUGUST

Bad breath is usually associated with dental problems. Plaque and tartar build up on the teeth, causing inflamed gums and pain. Food trapped between the tartar and the gums and bacterial infection creates pus, causing the bad smells.

As well as smelly breath, each time these animals eat, bacteria get into the blood stream and travel to **vital organs** such as the **heart** and **kidneys**, where they have a gradual harmful effect. As the gums are painful pets also become reluctant to chew properly. Check your pet's breath regularly, and if not so pleasant, book an appointment with one of our friendly veterinary nurses. They will advise you on appropriate dental care of your pet.

The nurse may recommend that your pet have a dental procedure, which will require a general anaesthetic. For our **August PROMOTION** pets requiring Ultrasonic scaling and polishing qualify. This delays significant dental disease from a simple safe treatment, thereby prolonging the healthy life of your friend.

For July and August Nurse dental check ups will be **FREE!**

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AUGUST DENTAL PROMOTION
**Price incl. General Anaesthetic, Teeth
Scale and Polish (Extractions will be extra)**

CAT DENTAL
\$ 199

DOG DENTAL

1-12 kg \$ 229 over 12kg \$ 259

People help pets and pets help people

At Familypet Vet, we believe that people are here to help pets, but pets can help people even if it is only through awareness.

Helen Flavel lived in Chandlers Hill for 12 years now living in Happy Valley and has been a valued client and friend at Familypet Vet for many years. Helen has 2 dogs and Scruff, her beautiful 10 year old malteseX, keeps her a regular visitor at the Coromandel clinic.

Helen has been heavily involved in charity work in Bali since 1994. During this time she has assisted an Australian charity "The Bali Street Fund" in starting the first animal shelter for the sick and injured Bali street dogs.

A year after the first Bali bombing, Helen became acutely aware of many children from the very poor families of North Bali, who were unable to attend school. She registered the Helen Flavel Foundation in 2004. Since that date the foundation has been able to find sponsors for 600 children enabling them the opportunity of an education and a means to hopefully break the poverty cycle.

Familypet vet, would encourage you to visit her webpage and help if you can.

www.helenflavelfoundation.org

We would like you to meet Rocky. He is one of Helens valued staff members

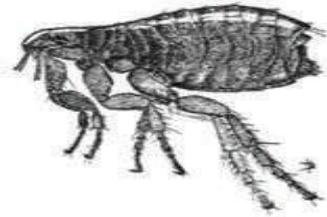


Rocky was a very thin sick dog, he could barely stand up when we found him and nursed him back to health. He has appointed himself "Head of Security" and takes his job very seriously. He always watches the students to make sure that they are safe.

Rocky also attends the Animal Care lessons which is a core subject at the foundation's English Learning Centre. This where the children learn how to care for animals

As soon as the gates of the Learning Centre close around 10pm and he knows that the 33 student boarders are tucked up in bed, he positions himself at the gate and stays there for the rest of the night, making sure that everyone stays safe

Do fleas take winter holidays?



The answer is definitely NO! With the warmer summer weather now a distant memory, it's all too easy to lower our guard against fleas! Although it is true that these little pests prefer summer to proliferate, with modern heating, fleas are now an all year round problem! If your pet attracted a few 'guests' last summer you will hopefully have had the situation under control. DO NOT be tempted to stop. Adult fleas lay in excess of 50 eggs a day. These fall off your pet and are deposited in carpets and bedding where they lay can dormant for many months depending on the weather, before developing into adult fleas. Thus for optimum flea control— and peace of mind. Flea control should be all year round!

Arthritis are we doing the best for your pet?

Bouncers story

Hi my name is Bouncer. I am a 9 years young Shihtzu Cross and live with my family in a big house. On weekends we go for long walks, I play with the ball for hours, they seem to like that. I usually run up and down in the park while they stroll around. Since the cool weather my joints don't work so well and I don't feel like running. If I do, I have trouble getting out of bed after.' He is getting old ' my family's friends would say. I was afraid they would not want me about much longer.

At my annual Health Check they raised the problem with my

Familypet Vet. They said I had some joint pain in my knee and a very stiff spine. They called it OSTEOARTHRITIS and said it would not

go away but there are treatments to manage the pain and slow the progression. I am on tablets and some special Hills Joint Diet food. I feel much better and can run like the wind again, my family are all smiles. Familypet Vet provided me with a nice warm coat too! I feel so much better I might live another 9 Years!

Weight Control :

Excess weight stresses the joints and aggravates pain. Familypet Vet run 'Weight Loss Programmes'. Please book an appointment with one of the Nurses.

Gentle regular Exercise:

Lead walking , swimming

Bedding

A nice warm place to sleep. Familypet Vet sells nice snuggly jackets to keep your dog warm.

Natural Therapies

As in human medicine glucosamine and chondroitin may help. 'Sasha's Blend' contains Green lip musel, abalone and Omega 3 . This product is available over the counter in both Familypet Vet Clinics.

Special diet

Several food companies have specialist foods for senior pets. With balanced protein levels and added natural products to help joint health. (glucosamine, chondriotin, etc). Please discuss the options with your vet at Familypet Vet.

4 Joint Health injections. These injections decrease inflammation in the joint, restoring healthier cartilage and joint oils creating a healthier joint. Appointments are required to discuss this option.

Painkillers(non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs NSAIDS)

Used both in the early stages and latter stages of arthritis. When given early in the disease they will slow the deterioration and allow the pet more mobility and lower pain levels as they age. They provide rapid pain relief, often noticed within hours of starting the medication.

BURN OUT

Does your cat have Thyroid disease?

Did you know that thyroid gland disease is a surprisingly common problem in older cats?

The thyroid gland consist of two tiny structures (lobes) located on either side of the windpipe

This gland produces thyroid hormone which regulates your cat's metabolism.(It's a bit like a car's accelerator.) Over production of thyroid hormones is called hyperthyroidism and is a relatively common condition in cats over 8 years of age.

Most cases are caused by a benign (non cancerous) enlargement of one or both thyroid lobes.

Hyperthyroid cats typically have an increased appetite but loose weight and look very skinny.

Thyroid hormone increases the heart rate, potentially causing heart problems and high blood pressure.

A blood test is needed to confirm the condition.

In the majority of cases hyperthyroidism can be treated successfully. If you are concerned and your cat is showing any signs please come and see us for an appointment .Treatments with tablets or transdermal gels work a wonder!



Staff news.....

PRACTICE MANAGER.....Anne Millburn

Anne has worked as a veterinary surgeon in the UK for 18 years and brings considerable management skills to assist Nick. This will allow him to spend more time doing what he loves best, maintaining and restoring health of your companions. We welcome Anne as part of the friendly team at Familypet Vet.

Familypet Vet , and many Clients I'm sure, would like to congratulate Coromandel Valley's Senior Nurse Michelle on her marriage to long time partner Steve on the 2nd May 2009 and also McLaren Vale's Dr Marcus Stafford who married Jodie on the 9th of May. Michelle's wedding took place at St Francis winery in Old Reynella , and Marcus' at their beautifully prepared property at Inman Valley. It was a very special month for all of us and we wish both couples an eternity of contentment in their lives together