

# ***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-12.00 noon**

**Ph: 8323 8522**

### **Winter 2010 Issue , The Senior Years**

Welcome to our Winter Edition of Familypet Vet Newsletter. We would like to dedicate this issue to our golden oldies. This is a hard time for them. From 7 years old we consider them Seniors (In human years this would mean they are pushing 50!) Larger breeds age faster. It does not mean they haven't got many good years ahead of them, it just means they may need some extra help from you and Familypet Vet to keep them in the best health possible. We need to look at diet, activity levels, lifestyle, teeth and general health. In winter, some feel the cold and start slowing down and we often don't walk the dogs as much as we do in summer. Obesity and stiffness are often the result. Even our cats are less active, not jumping and running about as much, and seek the warm areas of the house. Traditionally we expected that as they got older they got slower. This doesn't need to necessarily be so. In recent times a lot of products that work for people, also do wonders for pets. We would like to tell you about a few of them. Come and see us at the clinics for a Senior Pet Check..... Dr Nick West and all the staff of Familypet Vet.

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# ***PETS HELPING PEOPLE***



## **Meet Scooby-Doo Sim, Delta Society Pet Partners**

Scooby-Doo, my six year old curly coat retriever is a member of the Pet Partners Programme of the Delta Society. For the last 4 years, one of several volunteer teams that are weekly visitors to the Daw Park Hospice. Other teams visit nursing homes, rehabilitation centres, mental health units and the like.

To join the programme Scooby was extensively assessed for suitability taking into account behaviour and temperament. This included testing for reaction to exuberant & clumsy petting, angry yelling, staggering, gesturing, bumping, crowding and so on to simulate situations that might be encountered during visits. Scooby is very calm and unruffled in such situations and people are amazed by his behaviour and the way in which he interacts with them -- largely this is the way Scooby himself has adapted to this environment assisted by his calm, loving temperament. At home

he is much like any other dog, he can be boisterous, play, bark and generally run amok like the best or worst of them. In addition I had to attend a training seminar where I had to learn how to understand my dog and be alert to his reaction to stressful situations.

We visit to promote positive interaction between people and animals. Scooby has brought joy and comfort to many patients, family members, staff and other volunteers over the years.

Many patients and staff look forward to Scooby's weekly visit often providing special treats which of course he is all too happy to accept.

Scooby is tired at the end of a visit and needs his own quiet time to recover when he returns home. The Pet Partners team visiting Daw Park Hospice received the South Australian Community Project award for 2008 presented by the premier Mr Mike Rann.

As part of the Pet Partners Pets As Therapy Programme Scooby is required to undergo regular vet checks and Scooby and I are grateful for the care and support of the Coromandel Valley Veterinary Clinic.....Mrs K Sims

## ***SENIOR YEARS***

Have you noticed that your pet doesn't seem to play quite as much but is still eating, drinking and happy to see people. You assume because they are older they are slowing down. But that may not be all of it. Your pet may not be slowing down due to age alone – they may be in pain. A recent study showed 20% of dogs suffer from arthritis. Pets often disguise illness and painful conditions which can be quite advanced before we realize there is a problem. We have treatments, advice and support for dogs suffering from the pain of arthritis. Collect a brochure with an arthritis checklist and see how your pet scores. We have treatments, advice and support for dogs suffering from the pain of arthritis.

1. **A Soft Bed.** Soft bedding can help support the bones and joints, making your pet more comfortable. Make sure the beds are out of drafty areas and consider buying your dog a warm coat for the winter.
2. **Natural Supplements .** Medications that contain [glucosamine](#) can make a big difference to arthritis. They work by providing the body with the necessary nutrients for cartilage repair and function. Sasha's Blend and Pernaese powder are 2 popular products sold at Familypet Vet.
3. **Exercise .** Modest daily exercise helps some dogs. Familypet Vet Veterinarians, can

recommend an appropriate exercise program that strengthen the muscles and ligaments. Some exercise is always better for your pet, even if done with the help of Anti-inflammatory drugs

4. **Special food.** Prescription diets, specially formulated with the right amount of protein and carbohydrates for your dog`s needs in the Senior years, are enriched with nutraceuticals (greenlip mussel, Abalone, glucosamine and omega 3 oils). To help your dog get the best nutrition possible ask our nurses and vets about our Hills Prescription Diets.

5. **Cartrophen Vet** Is an excellent drug administered by injection that will help retard the progression of arthritis. Your dog will need a course of 4 injections with 8/10 dogs responding significantly. We use boosters at 6-8weeks or otherwise we repeat a 4 week course in 6 or 12 months depending on response.

Stronger prescription medications of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs will help situations of worsening pain providing mobility and “Quality of Life “.

Contact our staff at Familypet Vet to make an appointment to promote a healthy and active life for your older pets

## FREE DENTAL CHECK 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 can get into the blood stream and travel to vital organs such as the heart and kidneys, where they have a potential harmful effect, shortening life. As the gums become painful pets also become reluctant to chew properly.

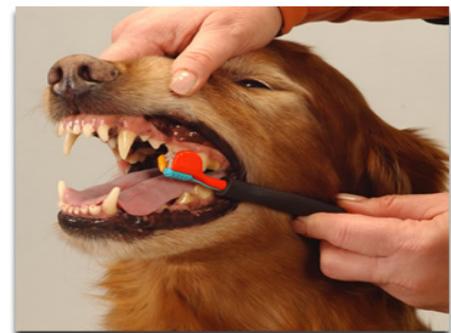
Check your pet`s breath regularly, and if not so pleasant, book an appointment with our veterinary nurses. They will advise you on appropriate dental care of your pet.

The nurse may recommend that your pet have a dental procedure (Scale and polish plus extractions sometimes), which requires a general anaesthetic.

For our DENTAL PROMOTION pets only requiring Ultrasonic scale and polish qualify.

This delays significant dental disease from a simple safe treatment,prolonging the healthy life of your friend.

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



### 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**

# Staff News

## **Familypet Vet McLaren Vale Clinic**

Dani has gone on maternity leave and is now at home looking after her teenage daughter and new born Son. We wish her all the best and look forward to having her back when she is ready.

Moni joined the team a few months ago as a full time certified veterinary nurse and is a joy to work with. Kelly is the newest member of our team but has got many years experience in veterinary nursing and has settled in well.

We are all working hard to make you and your pet feel welcome, with improved services and quality care our aim.

## **Familypet Vet Coromandel Valley Clinic**

After many years of service Dr Jane Evans ceased her employment as a veterinary surgeon at the Coromandel Valley Clinic. Jane has four young children which she would like to enjoy and demands for their activities has meant she is unable to give us as much of her time as in the past. We thank her for her loyal service and expertise and she will be missed by many. We wish her all the best in the next phase of her life with the children, and veterinary career.

We welcome Dr Jerome Kalvas who has joined the Veterinary team at Coromandel Valley. Jerome has worked in the Adelaide Hills for several years and has just returned from an 18 months working holiday in the UK. He is ready to settle back into life in Adelaide and we are looking forward to working with him.

Dr Amanda Henderson is on maternity leave and has given birth to a baby girl. Amanda and baby are doing well and are enjoying some well deserved bonding time. We are hoping to welcome Amanda back soon.

***Visit our new Website***  
***WWW.FAMILYPETVET.COM.AU***

We have been working on getting our new website up and running. We invite you to have a look and Let us know what you think. If you have any suggestions on how to improve our site we would love to hear from you.