SPRING 2012

Your Vet

FREE! Please take one

CITY BEACH Veterinarians

Suites 17-19
Ocean Village Shopping Centre
Kilpa Court
City Beach WA 6015

Phone 08 9245 1977
Fax 08 9245 2136
Email office@citybeachvet.com.au
Web www.citybeachvet.com.au

Our Vets

DR NEVILLE ROBERTSON
BVSc(Syd), MVS(Murd)

DR ALAN WADE
BSc, BVMS(Murd)

DR MEG GREEN
BSc, BVMS(Hons)

Our Nurses

We have a group of talented, versatile and fully trained nurses. Our nurses love animals and are passionate about animal care. They run the puppy classes, weight clinics and help us keep your pet health and happy during their stay with us. Our nurses can help you with all of your pet's needs.

Our Hours

Monday to Friday	7.30am to 7pm
Saturday	8.30am to 4 pm
Sunday	Closed

Consultations are by appointment.
We are closed on Public Holidays.

After Hours

For urgent attention after hours including Public Holidays please call Perth Vet Emergency (PVE) on 9204 0400. This is a dedicated local emergency centre and they are located at 305 Selby Street North, Osborne Park. Alternatively call Murdoch Pet Emergency Centre (MPEC) on 1300 652 494.

Our Webpage

City Beach Veterinarians has a new web page! Visit the site for information about your pets health, us and many other interesting items. Let us know what you think. Our web address is www.citybeachvet.com.au

Spring – Abscess Season for Cats

Generally in Spring many vets will notice an increase in cases of cats brought into their surgeries with abscesses that need treating. Although they occur all year round abscesses are particularly prevalent during Spring as this is usually breeding season for cats and cats are also more active coming into the warmer weather. Over winter, cats lean to staying inside more and keeping warm, as the rest of us are inclined to do also.

An abscess is what occurs when an infection gets under the skin of the cat and fills with pus and fluid and will eventually burst. They are most commonly cause by scratches and bites from other cats when cats get into a fight. They are usually found around the face, neck, front legs, tail and rump. It is a good idea, if your cat goes outside regularly and particularly at night, that you check your cat over often by running your hands over the cat and checking for any lumps or wounds that could develop into further infection. You may not notice an injury as cats tend to appear normal and hide their pain until it reaches infection stage. Some things to look out for to tell you that something may not be right with your cat are:

- Your cat is extra sluggish and lethargic
- Loss of appetite
- Fever
- Swelling, redness and/or heat in a particular area
- Your cat not wanting to be picked up or held

Once you have found an abscess, the next step is treatment. While some people try their hand at treating it themselves at home, by far the best course of action is to take your cat to the vet. This insures that the risk of further infection is eliminated due to proper treatment in a sterile environment and the vet being able to provide you with antibiotics, pain relief for follow up care and also an Elizabethan collar (or cone) to put on your cat to stop them from aggravating the wound by scratching it. After treatment, your cat will be house bound, perhaps for a number of days until the area heals sufficiently.

One thing to make sure of year round is that your cat is up to date with all of its vaccinations, because as abscesses are commonly caused by bites from other cats you don't know what your cat could contract from another neighbourhood moggy or stray.

There are a few things you can do to prevent the risk of you and your cat having to go through the ordeal of pain and expense. First of all, if you are able to, keep your cat indoors. If your cat is an outdoor cat, try to limit it going outside at night as this is when the majority of fights occur. Neutering your cat is very important. Un-neutered cats are the most likely to fight and will take on any of the cats in the neighbourhood, so by neutering you are doing yourself and your area a favour by hopefully reducing the amount of fighting cats.

READERS! Enter our competition and **WIN!**

- Canine Careers - Search and Rescue
- Benefits of De-sexing Pets
- Dogs and Children

inside

Canine Careers – Search and Rescue

Dogs throughout history have been bred and kept for many different tasks and services to people. From hunting and retrieval to guarding, lap dogs and of course family companions and friends. Today we continue to use the dogs' intelligence, loyalty and willingness to please to put them to use in some very important jobs. They become part of the workforce they are involved in and are generally considered as another staff member and comrade. Search and Rescue is one in a long list of tasks that these loyal animals perform for us.

In many cases of disaster and loss specially trained dogs are called on to use their extraordinary scenting abilities to help find people who are missing, wounded or casualties. These situations can be widely varied, including aftermaths of hurricanes, earthquakes, flooding, tsunami, landslides, avalanches, bombing, helping the police with missing persons and searching for trampers and sightseers who may be missing in remote and dangerous terrain such as mountain passes and dense bush.

A dog's sense of smell is approximately 10,000 times stronger than ours and they are much better at discriminating different types of scent. Humans shed up to 40,000 skin sells every minute which the dogs are easily able to pick up and locate.

Search and rescue dogs date back to 1660 in a place called St Bernard Pass, a mountain route through the Alps between Switzerland and Italy. These were the ancestors of what we know today as the St Bernard. They were originally kept as guard dogs, but their talents were quickly recognised and monks trained them to help locate people trapped by the snow.

Later search and rescue dogs played an important role in WWI and WWII. British, American and Germans used the dogs to help find missing and wounded soldiers. After WWII they were used in the Swiss Alps by the Swiss Alpine Club to locate people trapped by avalanche.

There are two categories for Search and Rescue dogs: air scenting and trail scenting. Air scenting dogs roam off their leash and sniff the air to locate who they are looking for, while trail scenting dogs are kept on a leash and use their nose and ears together to find a scent on the ground. Air scenting is used to work in areas that may have been contaminated by other human searchers and trailing is used when the scent is weeks old. Search and Rescue dogs are quite often trained in both methods.

Dogs are selected very carefully to be introduced to this type of training. They will be challenged with training for many skills such as advanced obedience, agility, jumping, tracking, scenting and sounding. While selection is not breed specific some breeds stand out for these tasks. Bloodhounds have a superior sense of smell. German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, golden retrievers and Labradors also excel in training. The dogs are also needed to have great concentration, so that they are able to keep to the task at hand for up to eight hours a day on any given search.

In addition to the canine effort, it cannot go unmentioned the amazing training and commitment that goes into creating a successful Search and Rescue dog, by his human counterparts. There are years of training and maintenance which these skilled and dedicated trainers, supporters and organisations take on for the benefit of so many who may one day be in need of rescuing.

Benefits of De-sexing Pets

De-sexing is the surgical removal of an animal's reproductive organs (the testes in male, and the ovaries and uterus in female). It is mostly done on animals between 6-8 months of age although the operation can be carried out at any time.

While there are those that disagree with the practice, the majority of dog owners know that de-sexing their companions is one of the first things that should be done in a dog's life. This is, of course, unless you are planning on breeding your dog and have the accommodations and finances necessary to take care of litters of puppies. However, the average dog owner does not plan on breeding their dog. People are becoming new dog owners everyday and many either do not understand why their dog should be de-sexed or believe it is an unnecessary practice done for the owners benefit. The fact is there are many reasons why pet owners should desex their pets. As well as helping to stop pet overpopulation, the following are some of the other benefits associated with de-sexing cats and dogs.

Health

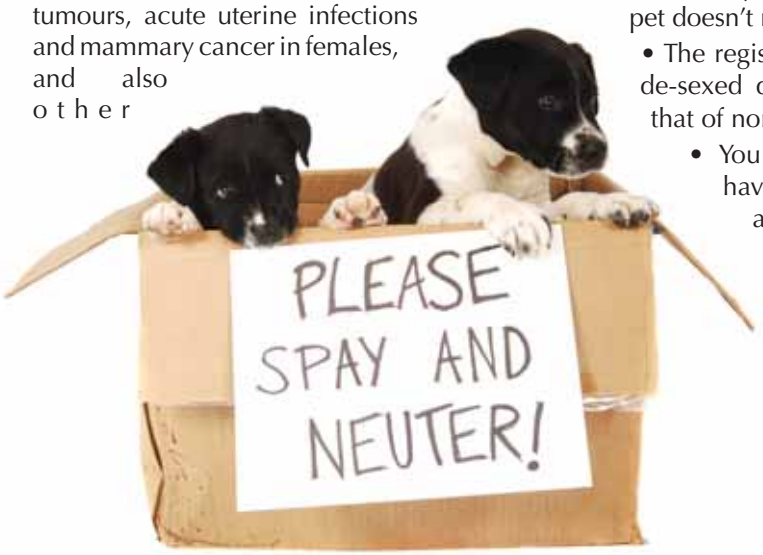
- Reduced risk of getting cancer or other diseases of the reproductive organs, such as testicular cancer, benign prostatic hyperplasia/disorders in males, and cystic ovaries, ovarian tumours, acute uterine infections and mammary cancer in females, and also other diseases such as perianal tumours and perineal hernia.
- Females can suffer from physical and nutritional exhaustion if continually breeding.
- Pets generally live longer and healthier lives.

Behavioural

- Pets are less prone to wander, fight, and are less likely to get lost or injured.
- Reduces territorial behaviour such as spraying indoors.
- Less likely to suffer from anti-social behaviours. They make better companions.
- Eliminates "heat" cycles in female cats and their efforts to get outside in search for a mate.
- Reduces dogs' urge to "mount" people's legs.

Cost

- Reduces the cost to the community of having to care for unwanted puppies and kittens in pounds and shelters.
- No additional food or vet bills for the offspring.
- No need to find homes for unwanted or unexpected litters of puppies or kittens.
- Save money from expensive surgeries from car accidents or fights, which are less likely to occur if your pet doesn't roam around.
- The registration fee for a de-sexed dog is less than that of non de-sexed dog.
- You and your dog have nothing to lose and everything to gain from de-sexing your pets. Do yourself and your companion a favour and desex your pets.



Dogs and Children

Having or being familiar with dogs can be a great experience for children. It is very important, however, to teach them a few tips and ground rules that will make interaction with dogs fun and safe for them. Here are some basic tips to teach your child about when it comes to meeting a dog.

To start with it is a very good idea for a child to learn to always ask before petting a new dog. From there a gentle approach is a good start to a dog/child friendship.

It is good to start by the child holding out their hand and letting the dog sniff it. If the dog comes closer, it is feeling relaxed and interested in some attention. If it doesn't come closer, it may just take a little bit of patience and for the child to wait until the dog is comfortable enough to approach and meet someone new.

It is good when around a dog, the child tries to stay reasonably calm and not rush at the dog or make lots of noise, this could confuse or scare the dog.

When they are petting, it is a good idea that they avoid tapping the dog on the top of the head. They much prefer a rub behind the ear or a stroke on the shoulder or under their chin.

If you have a puppy or dog in your household, it is also very beneficial for them to be introduced to children from early on. It is a good part of social training and positive for them even if they are not going to have children around them a lot of the time.

Answers to this edition's crossword:

Across: 1. Ask; 5. Bloodhound; 6. Reproductive; 8. Avalanche;
Down: 2. St Bernard Pass; 3. Cancer; 4. Spring; 7. Cockatoo.

Choosing a Bird to Suit You

Budgeriagars come in a great array of different colors. They are relatively enexpenisive to keep and can be bred easily. You can keep them in groups or individually and they are great sound mimics.

Parrots and Cockatoos can be quite costly to buy and many of them have a very loud call. Cockatoos do have a very affectionate nature.

Canaries and Finches can be kept alongside each other. Finches adapt very well and quite often will start nesting quickly, but do not often become tame. Canaries have a beautiful song and come in a great range of lovely colours. They are also not destructive to woodwork and furniture.

There are so many wonderful and varied breeds of birds available. It is a very good idea to do your research and pick a breed that suits your lifestyle and environment.

Competition for our readers!
WIN a $50 shopping voucher

1) Just answer the following question:
Which article did you like best in this issue of Your Vet?

2) Choose your preferred voucher from the list below:
K Mart Australia Ltd, Coles Myer Ltd, Target Australia Ltd or JB Hi Fi.

4) Email* your answer, name, address and phone number to competition@yourvet.com.au with the subject heading Spring Vet 2012.
** By providing us with your email address, you agree to receive future marketing material.*

THAT'S IT! GOOD LUCK!

Entries must be received by 30/09/2012 to be in the running

Clever Crossword

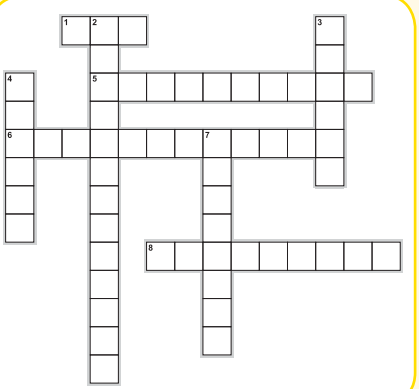
Each of the words can be found in this issue of "Your Vet".

Across:

1. A child should ___ before petting a new dog.
5. A dog with a superior sense of smell.
6. De-sexing is the surgical removal of an animal's _____ organs.
8. Swiss Alpine club used rescue dogs to locate people trapped by…

Down:

2. A mountain route through the Alps.
3. De sexing reduces the risk of...
4. Abscess season for cats.
7. A bird with a very affectionate nature.



Answers can be found on the bottom right of the inside right page.

Practice Update

Complete Health

City Beach Veterinarians is committed to making it easy for you to look after all of your pet's needs.

Our Complete Health packages provide all of your pet's routine preventive health care. You do not need to remember when your pet is due for any products as we mail them to you monthly!

Each Complete Health package includes

- Monthly Flea Control
- Heartworm Prevention
- Intestinal worming medication
- Annual vaccinations

By taking out a Complete Health package you will save 5% off the price you would normal pay for the products and services listed above.

There are **extra rewards** for being a Complete Health member. These include

- $20 discount off every primary consultation
- Unlimited free nail clipping
- Pet food discount vouchers
- Microchipping discount (transferable)
- For dogs there are 4 free hydrobaths which include blow drying.

Complete Health means peace of mind.

Puppy Preschool

Just like humans it is best to start training young! We run regular puppy classes that are great fun and informative. Your pup will learn to socialise with other pups, enjoy visiting us and you will start to learn the basics of training.

This is a great start to your pup's life and helps cement a long lasting relationship between you and your pet. Ask one of our nurses for more information.

Vet Profiles:

Dr Neville Robertson

Neville graduated from Sydney University in 1985. He moved to WA a year later to take up a position as an Intern in Veterinary Anaesthesia at Murdoch University. Nev has completed a Masters Degree in Veterinary Science at Murdoch University.

Dr Alan Wade

Alan graduated from Murdoch University in 1988. Alan worked extensively in the United Kingdom before returning to Australia 9 years ago. He has worked in many large practices and gained significant experience dealing with complicated cases over the years.