

AUGUST 2024



The Better Pet

# Gazette

highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au



**clean  
ears**  
*happy pets*

**ear infections** are one of the top reasons for dog or cat visits to the vet. If your dog or cat continually tries to paw at their ears, there's a problem.

Dog ears require more regular cleaning than cats, as they are often outside and poking their heads into shady things. Regular cleaning once a month or more will help prevent these problems!

Symptoms of an ear infection include:

- Your pet constantly shakes their head or scratches at the ear.
- A strong smell could indicate a bacterial infection that needs veterinary medication.
- Swelling in or around the ear.
- Ears appear red and inflamed with a visible discharge.
- Whimpering, loss of appetite, or a change in temperament.

Ear infections in pets can escalate quickly if not addressed promptly. They can be caused by a variety of factors including bacteria, yeast, ear mites, allergies, or foreign objects lodged in the ear. It's crucial to monitor your pet's ear health regularly to catch any early signs of infection.

Prompt veterinary attention is necessary to diagnose the cause and provide appropriate treatment, which may include medicated ear drops, antibiotics, or antifungal medication. Regular ear cleanings and check-ups can help prevent infections and ensure your pet's ears stay healthy.

For tips on how to properly clean your pet's ears, check out page 2.



*The Better Pet Gazette is a monthly newsletter full of informative articles and tips on pet health as well as updates on what's happening at the practice. We hope you enjoy the read!*

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*need an appointment?*  
**BOOK ONLINE**



*These little guys were in to see us recently for their first vaccinations. Pugs originate from ancient China. They've been cherished by emperors and noblemen, symbolising good fortune and happiness.*



## How to keep your pet's ears clean

A calm approach is best, using treats to reward good behaviour:

1. Assemble everything you need to clean the ears before you begin.
2. Use a dog or cat-specific veterinary ear cleaner fluid and cotton wipes.
3. Lay your pet on its side or a cat can be wrapped gently in a towel on your lap.
4. Gently dribble the ear cleaner into the first ear canal.
5. They may want to shake their head as it sinks in which is fine.
6. Pinch the ear closed to contain the fluid, then massage the ear area gently for about 20 sec.
7. Use an ear wipe to remove the dirt. Repeat on the other ear.

**WARNING:** Never use peroxide or other chemicals within the ear, and never push anything like a cotton bud deep into the ear canal, as irreparable damage can be the result.

Cats can be more skittish. Before the actual cleaning day, practice touching their ears or wrapping them in a towel and holding them on your knee for a few seconds.

If you have any concerns, please bring them to HVH for a medical check.



# help us help them...

No pet owner should have to face the heartbreaking decision of whether they can afford life-saving treatment or medication for their beloved pets.

Please help us to help those lovely pets who are in urgent need of medical assistance. Pet health emergencies don't always happen at the best time, which puts stress on the owners. Helping Paws is a new initiative to overcome this and to allow pets to get the treatment they need immediately.

### Can You Help?

We are organising our next raffle to raise funds for Helping Paws and are **seeking donations of prizes.**

By contributing a raffle prize, you will not only be supporting a great cause and helping your community, but also gaining exposure for your business within our community.

Whether it's a gift card, a product, or a special service, your donation will make a significant impact.

### Why Partner with Us?

Here are 3 great reasons to team up with us:

**1. Community Impact:** *Your contribution will directly assist families in our area who are in desperate need of financial support for their pets' medical treatments.*

**2. Increased Visibility:** *Your business will be featured in our promotional materials, social media, and at the*

*raffle event itself, showcasing your commitment to our community.*

**3. Goodwill and Positive Branding:** *Partnering with a charitable cause can enhance your business's reputation and foster a sense of goodwill among current and potential customers.*

### How to Donate

If you would like to donate a prize for our raffle, please contact Michele at Highlands Veterinary Hospital or email her at: [info@highlands-veterinary-hospital.com.au](mailto:info@highlands-veterinary-hospital.com.au)

We are happy to arrange for the collection of your donation at your convenience if need be.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a difference.

### Congratulations to Our Winner!

The happy winner of our raffle was Deborah, who walked away with a basket load of goodies for her pets!

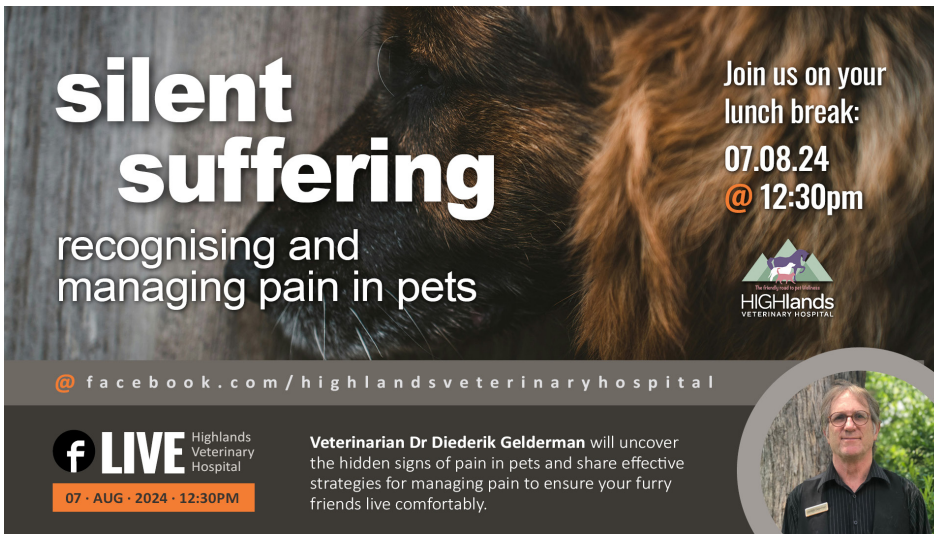
We have raised \$650 for Helping Paws so far, which is very exciting!

We invite you to purchase a raffle ticket for the Helping Paws initiative and be in the draw: just \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5! To purchase a raffle ticket or donate, please go to our front reception desk.



# upcoming

## f LIVE TALK




**silent suffering**  
recognising and managing pain in pets

Join us on your lunch break:  
07.08.24  
@ 12:30pm

facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital

**LIVE** Highlands Veterinary Hospital  
07 · AUG · 2024 · 12:30PM

Veterinarian Dr Diederik Gelderman will uncover the hidden signs of pain in pets and share effective strategies for managing pain to ensure your furry friends live comfortably.



Pets have a different attitude to pain than we do. They tend to keep their pain to themselves; this is especially true for cats. Therefore, it is up to the owner to notice those subtle changes in behaviour signalling that all is not well. Dr Diederik discusses these subtle changes and advises what to look for that might indicate that your pet is uncomfortable. Thankfully, our pets don't have to endure the pain - the many advances in pet health care now offer so many options for our pet's physical problems. This will be an informative session so please mark this one in your diary!

Please join in on Wednesday, 7 Aug at 12.30pm on our Facebook page [here](#). All of our previous talks can be found in the Live section under the More menu.

### JULY FACEBOOK LIVE TALK RECAP

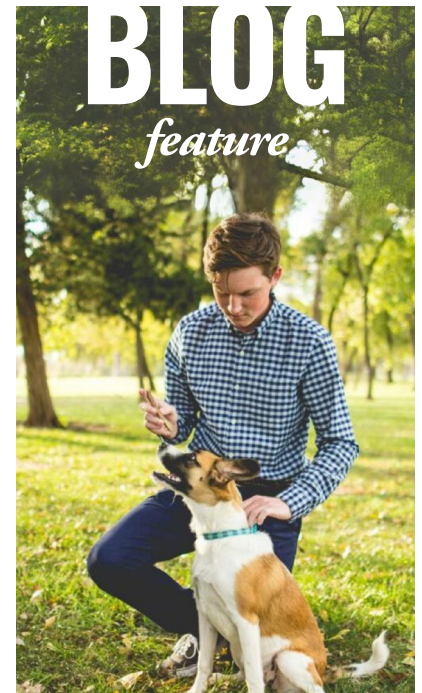
#### "Ask the Vet: Your Pet Health Questions Answered"

Owning a pet is a privilege. The human-animal bond benefits both parties, providing security, comfort and companionship to both. Dr Diederik had a lot of queries from our listeners that ranged from dental care, supplements for cats, grooming, and so much more.



Dietary advice was a popular topic, as was personal pet hygiene such as how often to bath a dog or cat. It was an informative session, but if you missed it, don't worry. We have saved it for you to listen to at your leisure. It offers a lot of information about caring for your pet that you don't want to miss and will be of benefit to all pet owners!

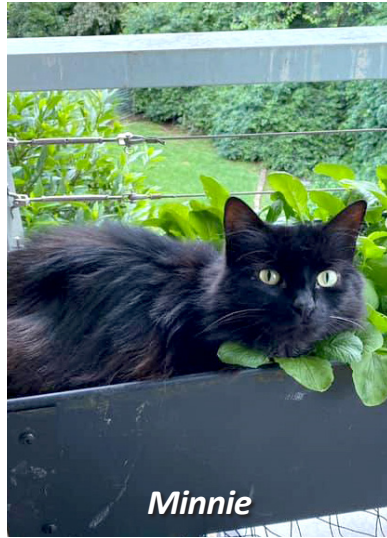
You can view this recorded episode of Facebook Live [here](#) as Dr Diederik shares some great ways to manage your pet's allergies.



*Our pets are cherished family members, but their instinctual curiosity can sometimes lead them into dangerous situations, especially when it comes to household toxins. Prevention is always better than cure, and training your pet to avoid toxins is critical to their safety. Read our recent blog [here](#) that teaches you how to teach your dog to stay away from something potentially dangerous and what to do if your pet ingests a toxin.*

# Pet Appreciation Day!

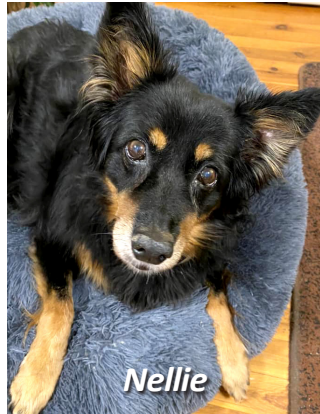
Celebrating the awesomeness of pets. 🐾



Minnie



Blizzard



Nellie



Eadie



Abby



Chicky B.



Dorothy



Charlie Brown

Did you know that you can order your pet's medication

## ONLINE?

For ease and convenience, you can now order a repeat on your pet's medication using our website! Just go to the **Prescription Refill page**.

Or you can scan it here:



Please order at least 7 days before you run out to order a repeat of your pet's medication.

\* Please note your pet needs to see us every 6 months to renew long-term prescriptions.

Our pets are more than just animals; they are family members who offer unconditional love and loyalty. Whether it's the wagging tail that greets us at the door, the purr that lulls us to sleep, or the playful antics that make us laugh, our pets bring so much happiness into our lives.

Recently, our followers on Facebook really got into the spirit of Pet Appreciation Day by posting some lovely pics of their beloved furry friends. Their adorable faces warmed our hearts - we can see why they are so special to their owners!