

MARCH 2024



The Better Pet Gazette

highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au



March is National Pet Poison Prevention Month. Did you know that nearly 1 in every 10 calls to the Animal Poisons Helpline is about plant exposures?

Planning your garden will help you weed the nasty plants that affect your beloved pooch out of your preferred planting list. Many spring bulbs and flowers are dangerous to your pet if they chew them. It would be advisable to keep spring flowers in pots and store them in a fenced-off area or hang them up high where pets cannot reach them.

Some of the flowers guilty of poisoning dogs are Lilies, Chrysanthemums, Azalea, Hyacinth, Daffodil, and more. So how do you protect your pets from our garden? Keep your garden as simple as possible with non-toxic plants. And beware for dogs at home alone, leave them plenty of toys in a safe area. Watch what your dog is up to in the garden. It's not only the plants that cause trouble, but also the compost, weedkiller, snail bait, cleaning products, mulch and so on.

Symptoms of poisoning - increased heart rate, drooling, lethargy, nausea, diarrhea laboured breathing, and pale gums. Seizures or trembling, increased thirst, and the presence of blood in the stool are all signs that your dog needs veterinary help. Get to know what plants are best for a pet owner's garden in advance and use less harmful flowers like the cheerful sunflower or tall camellia trees.

Contact the Animal Poisons Helpline [here](#) for more information or call them on **1300 869 738**.



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



Tucker nearly leapt up on the bench for his new toy that came with the Nexgard Spectra special offer! Don't forget when you purchase a 6-month pack, you receive 2 months FREE, plus a toy for your pet. Available only while stocks last.

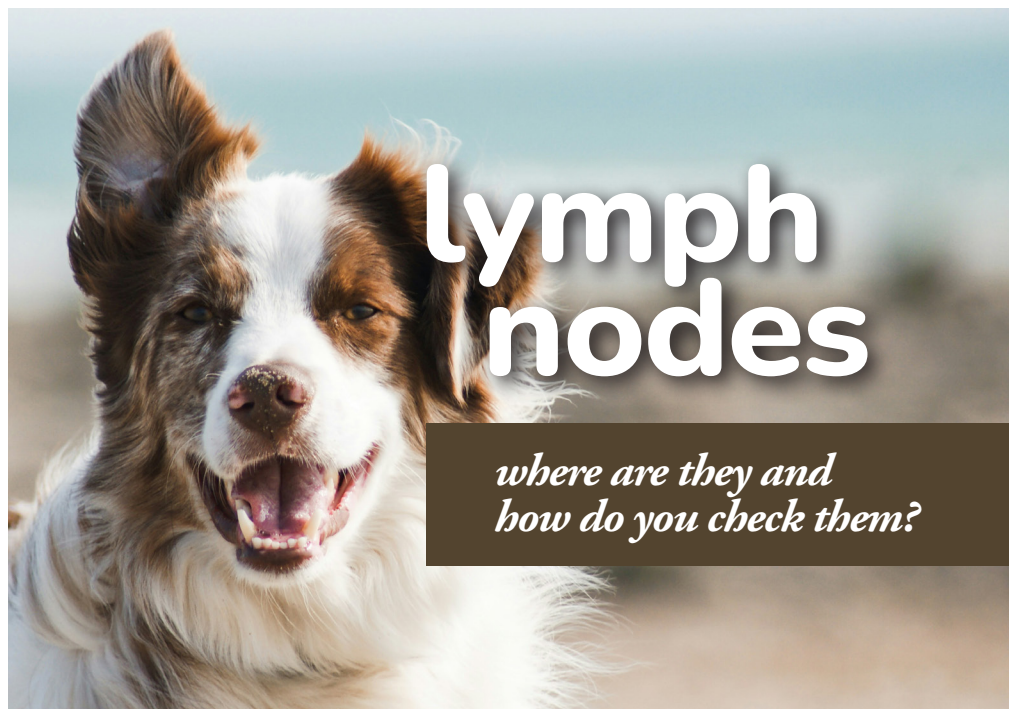


ground-breaking new cancer test for dogs!

We are excited that Highlands Veterinary Hospital is the first practice in Australia to have this important test available!

What is Oncotect? It is an advanced screening for the early detection of cancers such as lymphoma, hemangiosarcoma, mast cell tumour, and melanoma. Testing is fast, easy and accurate. All it requires is a urine sample from your dog. The sample will then be sent Fast-Tracked to the USA to be analysed.

Dogs over the age of 7 years – especially those in high-risk breeds such as the Rottweiler, German Shepherd, and Labradors, should be tested regularly. Early detection of cancer is vital for successful treatment. Now you never have to wonder 'What if we only knew sooner!' Give us a call for more information.



lymph nodes

*where are they and
how do you check them?*

Lymph nodes in dogs are small, bean-shaped organs that contain white blood cells. These feisty little organs fight against infections like lymphoma – a cancer of the lymph nodes, and other infections.

That is why it is important to check your dog's lymph nodes once a month. The sooner you catch an infection, the easier it is to treat it. But where are these elusive little organs located?

How to Do an Exam

You can make this monthly routine checkup a pleasant chore for your dog by gently massaging and feeling throughout their fur and in the following areas:

- Around the lower jaw and neck area.
- The armpits, the neck, and the shoulder area.
- Inside groin – massage gently here, as this can be a sensitive area.
- Around the back of the knee.

It should be relaxing for your dog, not too firm or aggressive.

No Need to Panic

Gentle palpation will identify these soft small structures. There are other lymph nodes peppered throughout your dog's body but those cannot be felt from the outside. Don't panic if you do find swollen lymph nodes,

as the swelling can be caused by several conditions other than cancer, such as bacterial infections, tick-borne diseases, fungal infections or demodectic mange. Keep in mind

that some sort of lymph node enlargement can be normal from time to time. If your dog has recently had a vaccination or has been exposed to infections, chances are that the lymph nodes are hard at work and may be slightly swollen.

Early Intervention is Important


Checking each month will alert you to any changes within your dog's system, which will enable monitoring of your dog's health and allowing early intervention. There are tests that we can do to confirm whether your dog does have lymphoma, and there are treatments available. But as with everything, the earlier you detect and treat the condition the better it will be for your dog's prognosis.

If you have any concerns, please contact us on 4872 1144.



upcoming

f LIVE TALK




my pet has
cancer
now what?

Join us on your lunch break:
06.03.24
@ 12:30pm

@ facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital

LIVE Highlands Veterinary Hospital
06 · MAR · 2024 · 12:30PM

Veterinarian Dr Diederik Gelderman will cover how to spot the signs of cancer in your pet, treatment options, prevention and general care for your sick pet.



The diagnosis of cancer in any one of your pets is a real blow and is quite frightening if you don't have all the facts. Dr Diederik will share valuable information regarding your options for treatment. Make sure that you gather all the information that you can and make a list of treatment options before making any decisions. Questions you may need to ask are: what type of cancer your pet has, how advanced is it, what are the options when dealing with this situation, and how will my pet be affected by various treatments? Dr Diederik has vast experience in this field and can advise on what is best for your pet's circumstances.

Please listen in on Wednesday, 6 March at 12.30pm on our Facebook page [here](#). All of our previous talks can be found in the Live section under the More menu.

FEBRUARY FACEBOOK LIVE TALK RECAP

"Addison's Disease: Don't be Fooled by the 'Great Pretender'"

Addison's Disease often mimics other disease clinical symptoms. Lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, trembling, dehydration, plus other symptoms can confuse the issue. There is no cure for Addison's disease, but there are treatments that can help deliver a good quality of life. Addison's disease attacks the stress-handling mechanisms within the body, meaning a dog with this disease cannot manage their stress levels, which then causes the body to collapse.



Listen [here](#) as Dr Diederik explains this complex disease and offers hope to dogs diagnosed with Addison's Disease and he explains the options available to those dogs.



Burt, a Catahoula cross, was brought for emergency surgery due to a blockage in the intestines – he was in a sorry state from eating a corn cob he had found.

Being careful not to let leakage from the intestine enter the intestinal cavity and cause further complications, we began surgery. The intestine normally moves in a wave-like motion called peristalsis, which moves food along through the body. But this motion in Burt had stalled. The affected area was a deep purple colour instead of a healthy pink. On removal of the obstruction, the intestine recovered its motion and began to return to its normal colour.

The next day, Burt had recovered well enough to eat breakfast, and his wag was on overdrive. He is a VERY lucky dog, his owners reacted quickly - which saved his life. Please don't leave corn cobs anywhere within reach of your dog.

You can watch Dr Diederik perform Burt's surgery [here](#). It's slightly graphic, but fascinating.



As pet owners, it's essential to understand the aging process of our animal companions. Knowing when they are considered seniors can help us provide appropriate care and support as they grow older. The aging process can vary depending on your pet's species, breed, and size. Our blog "When Is My Pet Considered a Senior?" shows you how accurately determining your pet's senior status can be vital to their care and wellbeing. You can read it [here](#).

Ooooh...

the eyes have it!

Did you know that some dogs are blessed with the most mesmerizing feature - one blue eye and one brown eye? Its called a Heterochromia Hue.

Whether it's a striking sapphire paired with a warm chestnut or a deep ocean blue alongside a rich chocolate, these dual-toned eyes add an extra layer of uniqueness to our beloved canine buddies.

Heterochromia is often caused by a genetic quirk, resulting in a stunning mismatch of eye colors. It can occur in various breeds, from Huskies to Australian Shepherds, creating a kaleidoscope of canine diversity.

Did you know that some believe dogs with heterochromia possess special traits? From being considered extra intelligent to having a touch of mystique, these pups often capture hearts with their one-of-a-kind charm.



help for unexpected costs

give support to families and their pets in need

What a summer we have had! Hot humid weather, storms, flooding, fires... it has been a summer rife with challenges for people and pets alike. Soaring costs have made just existing a challenge – especially when hit with an unexpected expense, such as emergency treatments or surgery for our beloved pets. For a family struggling to exist day to day, an unexpected cost can add pressure. Pets are part of our families, so we cannot ignore an issue nor leave them to suffer.

Our Helping Paws initiative has been borne out of necessity to raise money to cover urgent medical situations. By purchasing a raffle ticket(s) from our reception centre or from donations that are gratefully accepted, all the proceeds will aid those in need. There are great prizes for the raffle that have been donated by generous local businesses. Our first draw is at the end of March 2024 so be in to win. Tickets are \$2 each or you can get three tickets for \$5. And all donations are gratefully accepted too. Let's all lend a hand to help local pets in need.


Helping Paws
HIGHLANDS VETERINARY HOSPITAL