

MAY 2024



# The Better Pet Gazette

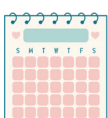
highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au



**We hope you all enjoy the day with your family and that vibrant furball that has stolen your heart.**

Whether your pet has fur, hair, feathers or whatever, they all offer so much comfort to us mere mortals. Staff and management at Highlands Veterinary Hospital wish all pets and their people a fun day.

As a parent, you are always on the lookout to keep your youngsters out of trouble (whether human or the fur and feather kind). This responsibility is a heavy load. Keeping them healthy is a priority. So excuse me while I drop in a sneaky reminder about those very active kittens, puppies, bunnies .... do not forget to book their appointment to be desexed unless you are prepared to find them all safe homes! I'm just saying...



**For all those who might find it hard to see us during the week, we are open Saturday mornings for consults from 8:15am - 12:00pm!**



*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!*

Disclaimer: The content contained in this publication is for information purposes only, and may not apply to your situation. Neither the Publisher nor Authors provide any warranty about the content or accuracy of content enclosed. Information provided is subjective.

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



*Woodland duckling rescue: we have a growing duck family in our sensory garden, so please be careful and drive slow when turning into our driveway, as sometimes in the mornings they can be found wandering the carpark!*



## Why does my pet go from hero to zero during a visit to the vet?

The reason is simple They are scared in an unfamiliar environment that reeks of all sorts of foreign smells, loud noises, and other anxious animals. They remember being restrained or having felt pain. What can you do to make the vet visit bring out the hero in your pet?

- Take your pet for 'happy visits' to say hello.
- Let them bring a favourite toy on the car ride and to the vet.
- Stay close and encourage them to be brave.
- Choose a quiet time to visit the vet.
- Be calm - it helps your pet.
- Don't growl or restrict them, as they will feel threatened.
- The vet may suggest calming pheromones or a mild medication to make future visit easier.

Kind considerate training, gentle persuasion, and building trust will bring out the true hero from within.



# COME. PLAY. SIT. STAY.

## highlands puppy preschool graduates



*Proud puppy Bob, a Border Collie*

*Happy pooch Murphy, a Golden Retriever*

*Very clever Pluto, a mixed breed pup*

*Gorgeous little Evie, a Golden Retriever*

During the first three months of their life, puppies have what is essentially a critical socialisation period which means that they are very impressionable, and it is the best window of time for them to learn and absorb socialisation skills. Learning through play, the young pup is imprinted about the social skills that they will need to navigate their way successfully through life. But puppies have limited focus, they are easily distracted, so they need a kind and patient person skilled in the art of dog training to keep them on track.

Bails Paw Puppy School in conjunction with Highlands Veterinary Hospital were delighted with the results from this vibrant class of puppies: Pluto, Murphy, Evie, and Bob.

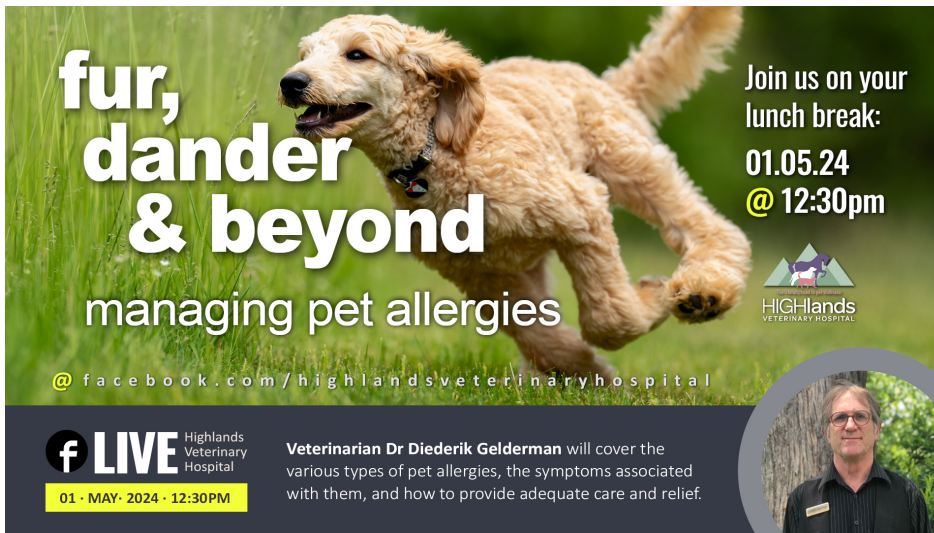
Contact Tanya at Bails Paw on 0404 623 200 or check out her website [here](#).



Your support with your donations left in our donation box on our front counter does help. The donation box money is part of our Helping Paws initiative to help any of our clients whose pets may have had unexpected medical expenses. Please help us to help those lovely pets who are in urgent need. Thank you so very much for your generosity and support!

# upcoming

## f LIVE TALK




**fur,  
dander  
& beyond**  
managing pet allergies

Join us on your lunch break:  
**01.05.24**  
**@ 12:30pm**

@ facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital

**f LIVE** Highlands Veterinary Hospital  
01 · MAY · 2024 · 12:30PM

Veterinarian **Dr Diederik Gelderman** will cover the various types of pet allergies, the symptoms associated with them, and how to provide adequate care and relief.



Every year, our pets often suffer as autumn winds blow allergens such as mould spores, weed pollen, and dander in the way of your pet. It doesn't take long till they start scratching, biting, or itching. Just watching them itch can make you feel like itching yourself. So, what can you do? Dr. Diederik has some fabulous suggestions that will get them through this tricky itchy time of year.

There are many preventative solutions to this problem, from household management to antihistamine products for your pet. There are internal to external products such as herbal soothing lotions. Keep up with your pet's vaccinations, as ticks, fleas and house mites are a constant battle!

Please listen in on Wednesday, 1 May at 12.30pm on our Facebook page [here](#). All of our previous talks can be found in the Live section under the More menu.

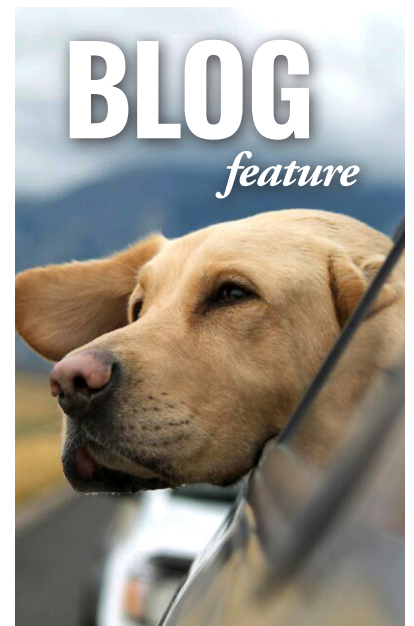
### APRIL FACEBOOK LIVE TALK RECAP

#### "Nutritional Nuggets: Unraveling Pet Diets"

The better the diet, the better the health of the animal. But selecting a diet isn't easy. Do you get wet or dry food, or give them a mixture of both?

Check the ingredients of the real whole food ingredients listed - if most ingredients are unfamiliar to you, find another source of the food. It depends on the age of your pet as to what dietary requirements they need. All animals require a healthy mix of vitamins and minerals, good quality protein, carbohydrates, fats and clean water. Diets change according to age, sex and lifestyle. These nutritional nuggets of information will help plan the ideal diet for your pet.

Listen [here](#) as Dr Diederik shares some vital nutritional information for pets and how to make the right choices.



Embarking on adventures with your furry companion can be a rewarding experience, but ensuring their safety and wellbeing during travel is paramount. This blog explores essential tips for travelling safely with your pet, emphasising the importance of preparation, regular check-ups, and necessary documentation. Read more [here](#).



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# autumn allergies

*and how to treat them*

As autumn is asserting its presence, it brings changes in life for your pets. Cool winds blow the weed pollen and mould from trees into the air.

Your pet may develop red irritated skin, chronic ear infections, bad-smelling skin or ears, weeping eyes, and they spend more time biting, licking or chewing their feet till you start itching just watching them.

### Types of Allergies

Environmental allergies can drive your pets nuts. Then there are fleas, who have multiplied during the warmer months and now seek a warm pet host to wait out the winter. House mites are another cause, these live in homes and can present some pets with irritations and allergies that are enough to drive everyone crazy. It is hard to ignore this issue as your pets will be miserable and spend most of the day pulling out bits of their once lovely fur coats.

Incessant itching can cause damage to their skin, ears and feet. This condition needs instant attention. If you bring them in as soon as the itching starts, we can overcome this problem quickly. Allergen tests of your pet can be done, and medications such as an antihistamine can control the

symptoms until a seasonal change.

### Allergy Treatments

Each pet reacts differently to allergens, so we need to see your pet so that we can give the appropriate treatment. From tasty tablets to injections and organic products, treatments are varied. Try products with soothing ingredients designed for pets. Allergy wipes for paws and belly wipes away allergens. Practice regular bed washing, dust often, use air purifiers, hypoallergenic cleaning products, regular grooming, medications, etc. Vacuum pet beds, seats, and upholstery and floors often, bath pets frequently, eliminate mould and mildew via good ventilation, and rake up leaves. Avoid pet dander (dead skin) and fur – regular grooming, cleaning of beds and medicated help can make autumn easier to bear.



*Don't miss our FB Live coming up on 1 May called "Fur, Dander, and Beyond: Managing Pet Allergies" - see page 3 for more information.*