

NOV 2024



The Better Pet Gazette

highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au



Starting a toothbrushing routine with your dog may seem challenging, but it can be enjoyable with the right approach!

This step-by-step guide offers practical tips to make it stress-free:

STEP 1: Introduce the Toothbrush - Let your dog sniff and lick the toothbrush to create a positive experience. Use a soft-bristled toothbrush and dog-friendly toothpaste (avoid human toothpaste).

STEP 2: Get Them Used to Touch - Touch your dog's muzzle and teeth with your fingers to help them get comfortable. Use treats and praise to reinforce positive feelings.

STEP 3: Apply Toothpaste - Place a small amount of dog-friendly toothpaste on the brush. Let your dog taste it, which helps freshen breath and fight plaque.

STEP 4: Brush Gently - Brush using gentle circular motions, focusing on the outer teeth and gum line. Gradually increase brushing time as your dog becomes used to it.

STEP 5: Progress Gradually - Aim for brushing several times a week. If your dog resists, go slow and reward positive behavior with treats.

STEP 6: Celebrate Wins - Reward your dog when they tolerate brushing. This positive reinforcement makes future sessions easier.

STEP 7: Regular Vet Check-ups - Tooth brushing is important, but regular vet check-ups and professional cleanings will address any deeper issues.

special
**DENTAL
OFFER!**

Did you know that **80%** of dogs and **70%** of cats show signs of dental disease by age 3?

For this reason, we're offering **\$100 OFF** dental cleanings for your furry family members until 31 Oct! Schedule now and book your pet's appointment up to 6 months in advance.

Prevent bad breath, tooth loss, and health issues - act today!



need an appointment?
BOOK ONLINE

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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!



Helping Paws
HIGHLANDS VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Help for those in financial need

You never know when life will throw you a curve ball that disrupts your life, upsets the family, and leaves you in financial stress. I am talking about a pet owner who is forced to make the heartbreaking decision of whether they can afford the life-saving treatment or medication that their beloved pet needs. And it often happens when we are the least prepared for it.

Helping Paws is our new initiative that raises money to help an owner get the vital care their pets need immediately, as time is essential in an emergency

The community has been wonderful, pitching in with prizes and services that our happy winners just love. You can donate a prize and benefit from the knowledge that you're helping out our community as well as getting welcome exposure for your business.

Let's all help each other - and thanks to those legends who have already participated. Please check with Michele at HIGHlands if you would like to donate.

forever friends



supporting your pet in their golden years

November is Adopt a Senior Pet Month – an older pet brings love, commitment and companionship into any home!

Sadly, many pets may need to be rehomed later in their life due to various reasons. Often it may be ill health or the demise of a pet owner that may require a pet to be rehomed.

Older Pets are Adaptable

Although it is sad and can upset older pets with the sudden disappearance of their owner that they dearly love, it can become an enriching experience for all.

Of course, a senior pet may be a bit traumatised at a sudden change in their home life, and find themselves having to adapt to new owners, a new home, and other factors.

But they respond wonderfully to the chance for a new home and will quickly adapt to a new owner's patience and love.

The Benefits of a Senior Pet

Older pets may have clocked up a few years, but many are still young at heart. They will reward you with loving companionship, are possibly already trained and will settle patiently to new owners. The main benefits of owning an older pet:

- The animals are often neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, treated for fleas and ticks, etc.

- They have often been trained and socialised.
- They still have a lot of love left in them to pass on to a new owner.

Adopting a senior pet may be the perfect solution for those that are feeling lonely.

Older Pet Requirements

An older pet does have certain requirements that a young dog or cat is not bothered by. They may have stiffness of their hips making them a bit slower getting to where you want them to be, but their mind is very much still willing. Their diet is also different to a growing youngster. Get your older pet checked by us and we will do an assessment. A **Senior Pet Wellness Plan** purchased from us offers comprehensive health coverage, especially the older pets.

This month's Facebook Live talk on the 6 Nov is all about caring for pets that are in their Golden years – it's titled "Your Golden Oldie: Health Strategies For Your Senior Pet". It will offer helpful older pet care tips that you don't want to miss. See pg 3 for more information!



upcoming

f LIVE TALK



your golden
oldie
health strategies
for your senior pet

Highlands
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Join us on your
lunch break:
06.11.24
@ 12:30pm

@ facebook.com / highlandsveterinaryhospital

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

Veterinarian Dr Diederik Gelderman provides key strategies for maintaining the health and wellbeing of senior pets, emphasising the importance of proactive care and attention as they age.



Old age, whether it be human, dog, cat or whatever pet, brings about many changes in lifestyle due to the level of health each one experiences. This talk aims to bring awareness of how our older pets are affected, with Dr Diederik discussing the signs and symptoms to watch out for. He will suggest ways to help your pet manage its aging body. If you know what to look out for, such as a change in their walking gait or if they get puffed just walking from A to B, you can nip most health issues in the bud before they become debilitating.

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

Warning to all pet owners!

Those vicious little vampires (i.e. nasty TICKS) are moving about, enjoying the rise in humidity and the recent rainfall.

And what are they looking for? They are after your pet's blood, to put it bluntly. Ticks cause severe illness and even death in our domestic pets such as dogs, cats and other small animals. If your cat or dog explores the great outside, they need protection that kills a tick should it latch onto them. As an example, NexGard Spectra is designed to protect your cat or dog. Our reminder is to check your pet before they go inside from the outdoors to ensure there isn't an unpleasant hitchhiker attached.

How to remove a tick? Swab the little vampire with rubbing alcohol – this may annoy it into loosening its grip on the bite. Use tweezers to grab the tick right at its head - not the body - and pull it steadily up and out. To kill the tick once it's out, douse it in rubbing alcohol. Make sure all of the tick is removed. If you have a problem, we can help!



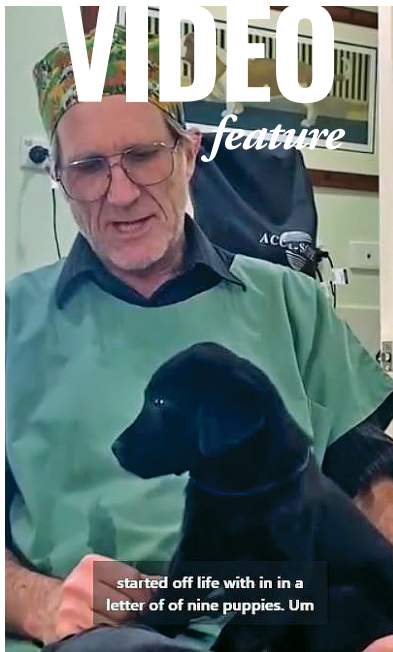
Meet Thunder, the Brave Border Collie

Thunder came to us after collapsing while playing with the kids at home. Dr Diederik discovered he had an abdomen full of blood. After doing an ultrasound, he discovered Thunder had a ruptured tumour on his spleen. He was quickly scheduled for surgery (splenectomy) to remove the spleen.

This is a common procedure and is usually required if the spleen has been damaged such as in a tumour or a case of bloat where the stomach twists in on itself which can be life-threatening. There are two types of splenectomies – a partial removal which is rare and is often caused by trauma. And the more common total removal that Thunder experienced. The spleen is located adjacent to and below the stomach on the left-hand side of the dog's abdomen.

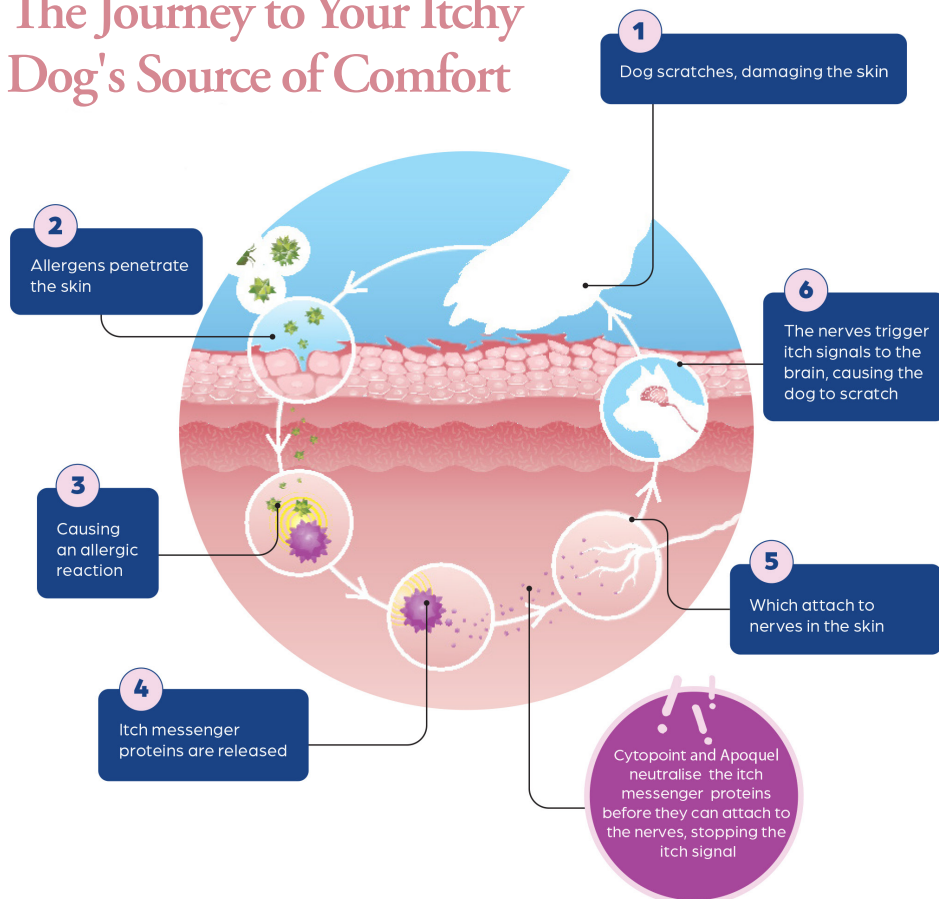
This photo of Thunder was taken 2 hours after surgery and he was already up, eating, drinking and receiving lots of attention from our vet nurse, Olivia.

Dogs, just like humans, can live perfectly fine without a spleen! Thunder's surgery went smoothly and with minimal aftercare, he'll be back to his playful self in no time.



You may remember Missy, the gorgeous Labrador puppy that was our Hero Of The Month for October. She was diagnosed with Persistent Right Aortic Arch. This condition can be rectified by opening the chest for surgery (like open heart surgery). It was a tricky decision, as doing surgery too early can put a puppy at risk from the anaesthetic. On the flip side, if you wait too long to do surgery, the risk is that the condition may not be reversible, due to stretching of the oesophagus. Missy's owner used a vertical feeding technique until she was 13 weeks old, after which the operation went ahead. Missy was amazing and like a true hero, bounced back after a very successful operation. You can watch the video [here](#) to learn more.

The Journey to Your Itchy Dog's Source of Comfort



Itching and scratching – it can drive your pet (and you) simply nuts... BUT there is help. Depending on the severity of the itching, and whether it's from parasites like fleas or mite infestations, or perhaps it is caused by diet, whatever the case, constant scratching by your dog is a serious health issue. Two top products that provide rapid relief from the dreaded itching are highlighted below.

APOQUEL is safe and doesn't have the side effects associated with steroid use. It can be used just for a few days to get relief, or it can be used for long-term treatment management. It comes as a tasty chewable formula.

CYTOPOINT is a monthly injection for long-lasting relief. It is given by us and can be used to stop your dog from intense scratching. As a result, the skin has a chance to heal, which is vital to healing.

Both problem solvers have been intensely tested in professional trials in the field and are regarded as a safer choice of treatment for itching for your dog.

Although not labelled for use on cats, there are some cases where it can be used - but only under the watchful eyes of the vet team. You need to discuss with us and we can advise you on the best course of action. So, if you have a persistently itchy doggo, call us and we can advise you of your options.



Awwww that face! Meet Beau, the 10wk old Dogue De Bordeaux, who was in to see us for his puppy vaccinations recently. On the left was his first visit and on the right is 4 weeks later - he's literally doubled in size and weight!