

SEPT 2024



# The Better Pet Gazette

hIGHLANDSVETERINARYHOSPITAL.COM.AU



**As a pet owner, we hope our beloved pets will pass peacefully in their sleep when the time is right.**

Euthanasia means 'a good death' and refers to a gentle, painless and assisted way of dying. The choice to end your pet's life is never an easy one. It can be very emotional, and often the guilt can be overwhelming. For an ethical veterinarian, it is only a choice when all else fails.

A debilitating disease, an accident, or if your pet is deteriorating to such a degree that their quality of life has been compromised are all factors that can force this difficult decision. Discussing this with your vet can guide you at this time. We can advise you of any other possible medical options that may help your pet to lead a life of dignity. We can also advise when, sadly, no more can be done and explain the process of euthanasia to you, so you understand your choice.

You will always remember your pet, but you may want to plant a tree at your home in honour of your friendship. Or, you may wish to scatter their ashes in a favourite place, commission a painting of your pet, or make a photo book from all the many photos that you have. They may be gone, but they will live on in your heart forever.

*Please see page 2 for how Highlands Veterinary Hospital can help you through this difficult time and remember your pet in a special way.*



*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**



*We were so excited to meet this magnificent guy! Our lovely Kellie holding a beautiful example of a Ragdoll cat - the gentle giant of the cat world.*





*supporting  
you through*

# pet loss

*Facing the loss of a beloved pet is an incredibly difficult experience, and the HIGHlands team is here to support you every step of the way. From compassionate guidance during the euthanasia process to offering meaningful ways to remember your cherished companion, we want to ensure that you and your pet receive the utmost care and respect. Additionally, our website provides resources to help you through this journey:*

- *There is a form that you need to fill out if you decide to go ahead with euthanasia. You can now fill this out in the privacy of your own home. The form is called 'Authority for Euthanasia' and is available on our website [here](#).*

- *You may want to celebrate your pet's life - if so, you can create a lasting tribute to celebrate the life of your beloved friend [here](#).*

- *You can also find information about our Pet Memorial Garden [here](#) and talk to our helpful team if you would like that option.*



## *the great* **indoors** *a guide to indoor cat bliss*

**Transitioning a cat from an outdoor to an indoor lifestyle can be a challenging, but rewarding, journey.**

While the great outdoors offers endless excitement and stimulation, the indoor environment can provide safety, comfort, and a longer lifespan for your feline friend.

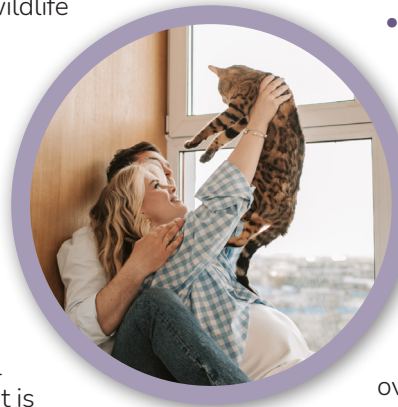
An inside cat is safe from erratic traffic, encounters with toxic chemicals in garages on the street, and without the serious risk of injury or disease from other cats. With your cat inside, the local wildlife will also be safer.

If you decide to transition your outdoor cat to the life of an indoor cat, make the changes gradual.

### **Tips to Succeed**

- Your cat will have to use a litter box full time now, so ensure it is always immaculate as cats are very clean animals.
- Feed your cat inside, but instead of letting them go back outside as soon as they are finished eating, keep them inside for an increasing amount of time to adjust.
- Ensure they have a bed or two in prime areas within your home. Cats love to sleep a lot.
- Tubs of cat grass will provide a tasty chew as well as provide some essential vitamins.
- Provide a scratching post or two so they don't use your furniture.

- Leave out some fun toys and play with your cat to help satisfy their stalking instinct.
- A pet indoor tree to climb, or a shelf by a window (closed, of course) that allows them to watch what is going on outside will be fun.
- A simple cardboard bag or perhaps a box with a 'window' will provide hours of fun.



- Groom and brushing their coat will trigger their purr button as cats love being pampered.

- Cats are active during the night. You may wake up to kitty thundering down the hall, attacking the pot plants, or keeping you awake. You can overcome this by playing

games before bed, leaving them a trail of tasty snacks to find, and toys for them to play with.

The younger the cat, the easier to transition from an outside cat to a pampered inside kitty.

Point to note – if you don't want something you love to be pushed off its shelf and smashed as your kitten watches on in awe, put all valuables away so that they can't be cat-handled.

Finally, cats like their comfort, so they should adapt quickly to having their human fulfil their every need.

# upcoming

## f LIVE TALK



**bladder blunders**  
understanding pet urinary health

Join us on your lunch break:  
**04.09.24**  
**@ 12:30pm**

@ facebook.com / highlandsveterinaryhospital

**f LIVE** Highlands Veterinary Hospital  
04 - SEPT - 2024 - 12:30PM

**Veterinarian Dr Diederik Gelderman** will cover the causes and treatments for urinary disease and what you can do to help your cat or dog recover from this condition.



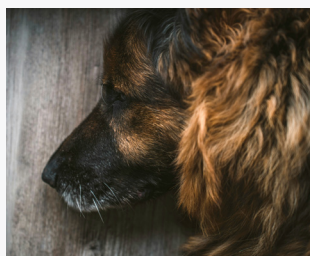
The development of urinary disease in your cat or dog is common, although males have a higher chance of a urinary infection becoming life-threatening, especially if it is not treated immediately. During this talk, Dr Diederik will cover the cause, the treatment, and what you can do to help your cat or dog recover from this condition. Intervention and treatment are essential to return your beloved pet to its usual happy state. Often a urinary disease will reoccur, so Dr Diederik will also outline some pertinent ongoing management options, such as a specialised diet.

Please join in on Wednesday, 4 Sept at 12.30pm on our Facebook page [here](#). All of our previous talks can be found in the Live section under the More menu.

### AUGUST FACEBOOK LIVE TALK RECAP

#### "Silent Suffering: Recognising and Managing Pain in Pets"

The usual giveaways to recognising pain in your pet are generally picked up via a behavioural change such as a grumpy demeanour, shaking, excessive licking or scratching, loss of appetite and perhaps limping. Usually, we are so tuned into our pet's feelings that we can pick up when they are not well.



In this useful talk, Dr Diederik outlined the typical symptoms of how your pet would react if they had a health issue. More importantly, he covered some great strategies when handling an animal in pain and how you can help them without hurting them or being hurt yourself.

You can view this recorded episode of Facebook Live [here](#) as Dr Diederik covers ways you can assist your pet when in pain.



## HERO

### OF THE MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2024



Last year, Edith had to have her back leg amputated. As if that wasn't enough, later in the same year she was diagnosed with Histiocytosis, a normally fatal disease...

*But Edith is a fighter, she has hung in there and never gives up! It is now 9 months after being diagnosed and her purr always welcomes us when she visits.*

*Histiocytosis is a group of rare disorders in which too many histocytes (a type of white blood cell) build up within certain tissues and organs. Treatment depends on the severity of the disease, and where in the body it gets a hold.*

*But Edith keeps fighting... she is a champion and survivor against all odds. She endured all testing and treatments with grace and dignity. While we closely monitor her health, she continues to go on living her best life, purring and kneading biscuits like the true heroine that she is!*





# paws for celebration!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our wonderful clients for sharing such fantastic photos of your beloved pets on Facebook in celebration of Dr Diederik's birthday recently! Your enthusiasm and creativity made this occasion special, filling our feed with adorable and heartwarming images. We are excited to share this delightful assortment of pet photos with our community.



## Lend a Hand to Helping Paws

Helping Paws is an initiative to help pets in urgent need of medical assistance. Disasters often happen at the worst possible time and can stretch a pet owner's financial capability. No pet owner should have to face the heartbreaking decision of whether they can afford life-saving treatment or medication for their pet.

So how can you help? By purchasing a raffle ticket from our veterinary reception, you donate to help a pet in urgent need. We are partnering with our local business community for awesome prizes to reward you for your generosity. You are also able to donate a prize if you wish, just contact Michele at Highlands Veterinary Hospital at [info@highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au](mailto:info@highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au)

Tickets are only \$2 each or \$5 for 5. By giving a little it helps a lot! Thanks so much for your help.



Pippa



Maggie, Possum, Chia, Shadow and Melon



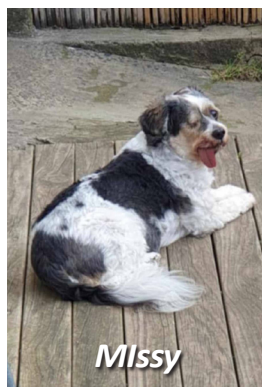
Doza



Roxy



Scarlett



Missy



Sydney



**a** 66 Old Hume Highway, Braemar NSW 2575 **t** 02 4872 1144

**e** [info@highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au](mailto:info@highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au) **w** [highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au](http://highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au)