

devoted vets

for your animal's life!



for your pet's health

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Spring 2016

In this issue

New treatment
for itchy dogs

We highlight
the dangers of
feeding bones

A new
treatment for
kidney disease
in cats

Problem
barkers?
We've got
you covered!

Newsflash!
Claira's Corner
stolen. Charlie is
the chief suspect!

*Sick of cold, windy, rainy
weather? Looking
forward to
warmer days?
Much better for
walking dogs!*

Do you have an itchy dog?

Believe it or not, skin allergies are one of the most common causes of itching and scratching in dogs. Allergies are often caused by pollens or house dust mites. (The other common causes of itching are food allergy and fleas.)

Unfortunately dogs don't have a STOP button when it comes to itching. They often scratch until they cause a dermatitis, with hair loss, redness and pain. Skin infection can set in as a secondary problem.

Until recently, we have had to rely on cortisone to stop the itch. Now the good news for itchy canines is the release of a new treatment called Apoquel.



Oi! Heard the news?

It stops the itch before it turns into a dermatitis. Relief for pets and owners!

Call **Devoted Vets** on **5623 2525** to learn more about this breakthrough treatment.

The dangers of feeding bones



Do you know that feeding bones to dogs has some serious risks to their health? Bones can shatter teeth, get stuck in the oesophagus or stomach, and cause constipation or pancreatitis!

When dogs break their teeth on bones, the broken tooth attracts plaque. A tooth root abscess can develop, requiring extraction under general anaesthetic.

We used to recommend bones to keep dog's teeth clean, but not any more! So what do we recommend for great dental health? Raw chicken necks or wings, and dry food like Royal Canin dental, Hills t/d or Hills Vet Essentials.

Phone **5623 2525** for a free dental check for your pets with our star nursing team.

Good news for cats too: a new treatment for kidney disease

Do you own a senior cat? Or know someone who does?

There's a new treatment out for cats with chronic kidney disease called Semintra. As you probably know, kidney disease or renal failure is very common in older cats. It causes severe protein and weight loss, weakness, an excessive thirst, bad breath and ill health.

Semintra quickly reduces protein loss and helps to maintain a healthy weight - which is great news.

Diet is also critical, and a low protein prescription diet is an important part of treatment.



Of course, diagnosis comes first, so if you suspect your cat has kidney disease, a blood test and urine analysis is an urgent priority! Phone **Devoted Vets** on **5623 2525**

Do you have a problem barker?

Here's a great tip from our resident dog trainer, Jo Fontana:

Have you tried water as an effective negative when solving behavioural problems?

It's great for dogs that just love to BARK BARK BARK! Strategically place water spray bottles around the home - in the problem spots.

Easy and ready to grab when needed. Then immediately there is a bark, SPRAY!



What if your dog loves water? Your dog is smart. He or she will figure out pretty quickly that you're not playing a game.

Most importantly, try to figure out why your dog is barking. Is it an alert, over excited, anxious?

Remember to praise your dogs when they're not barking, so they know what is good behaviour and what is not. Positive and negative go together, and when used correctly, gives a much speedier result when solving behavioural problems.

Don't forget to walk your dog/s. It's a great cure for boredom! For further dog obedience advice, call Jo or Kate at the Clinic on **5623 2525**.

Sshhh... someone's stolen Clair's Corner! It's an outrage!



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Clinic Hours

Monday and Thursday: 8am to 7 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8am to 5pm

Saturday: 9am to 12 noon