

THE
AUSTRALIAN
VETERINARIAN MAGAZINE

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PUPPIES LIVES SAVED BY EXPANDING PARVO VACCINATION CLINICS

A series of heavily discounted parvovirus vaccination clinics are being rolled out across Australia to protect local pets from the puppy-killing parvovirus.

20,000 canine parvovirus cases occur across Australia annually and the most significant risk-factor for canine parvoviral disease in pet dogs is socioeconomic disadvantage – hence the focus on localised, discounted vaccination clinics for concession card holders.

Co-founder of Paws for A Purpose, Dr Mark Kelman says that disadvantaged regions report more canine parvovirus cases and higher euthanasia rates – creating enormous heartbreak from the loss of puppies in those communities.

“Our focus now is to continue to widen our reach of vaccination clinics across Australia, building on successful efforts in Rockhampton and now Wagga Wagga, focussing on places where outbreaks have been identified by our parvo disease-surveillance website ParvoALERT.com,” Dr Kelman says.

“Our research shows the highest canine parvovirus case numbers occur in rural and remote regions, which are also the most socio-economically disadvantaged.

“For example, in Rockhampton veterinarians recorded 233 canine parvovirus cases from 2016 to 2019 and in Wagga Wagga veterinarians recorded 420 canine parvovirus cases from 2014 to 2017.

“But actual cases are likely to be much higher than these reports, as many cases don’t get to vet clinics, which is why our new ParvoALERT.com website is so vital to help identify areas where we need to concentrate our vaccination efforts.

“Given that rainfall is an identified risk factor for outbreaks of canine parvovirus, we are very concerned that the deluge of rain affecting Eastern Australia could lead to severe parvovirus outbreaks.

Paws for A Purpose has just launched a clinic in Wagga Wagga where \$15 parvovirus vaccinations or microchipping are being offered to pets owned by local concession card holders, including pensioners, Newstart recipients and health card holders.

Local Wagga Wagga veterinarian Dr Ebony Schoenfeld says the clinics are offering parvo vaccines at a significant discount to protect the pets of people in the community who may not normally be able to do so.

“Parvovirus is a horrific disease that not only kills puppies and young adult dogs, but also causes awful suffering in the meantime. It is highly distressing for owners to lose their companion pets in this manner,” says Dr Schoenfeld.

“This discounted vaccination program will help pet owners to fully vaccinate their puppies and maintain yearly boosters for adult dogs against parvovirus, and in doing so, protect them from a potentially painful death.

“Even if your dog never leaves your property, this virus can live in the environment for years, and can be brought onto your property on your shoes or car tyres. That’s why vaccinating our entire canine community is so important.”

Dr Mark Kelman thanked Dr Schoenfeld and the many vets, volunteers and sponsors supporting these vaccination and microchipping clinics.

“It’s important that communities come together to help stop the spread of parvovirus vaccinating their pets,” says Dr Kelman.

“These clinics are fantastic community-led efforts to ensure those who may not normally be able to afford vaccination of their pet can do so quickly and easily.

“Our vaccination program in Rockhampton, which has been running for several years has now provided over 1,000 heavily discounted vaccinations and literally saved hundreds of puppies from catching parvo. We hope to see a similar result in Wagga Wagga.

“We believe that we can eliminate Parvo from Australia, one pet at a time, and clinics like these will go a long way towards making sure that this virus cannot get a strong foothold.”

Paws for A Purpose are a young, national charity organisation with the mission of helping people and pets in need.

Find out if there is an outbreak of parvovirus in your area by visiting ParvoALERT.com

HOW VETDB TECH IS REVOLUTIONISING MICROCHIP REGISTRATIONS FOR BUSY VETS

WA vet tech company VetDB has just released Smart Microchip Registration – an automated technology that allows vets to register microchips in seconds with its partner Central Animal Records.

This new feature – which has just been added to VetDB's state-of-the-art platform – removes the need to fill out online forms or fax or mail through registrations. With a scan of a microchip and a few clicks, an animal is safely registered.

“Our technology pre-fills the registration and sends it straight to Central Animal Records – eliminating administrative hassles and potential wait times,” Dr Steve Joslyn, Co-founder of VetDB, said.

With manual data entry, faxes and postage removed from the process, VetDB Smart Microchip Registration also removes the potential for human error – and any chance that a microchip registration is lost in transit.

“The vet practices that are using VetDB Smart Microchip Registration are finding that around 10% of their patients are unregistered,” Dr Joslyn said.

“Seeing as pet ownership in Australia is one of the highest in the world, with an estimated 6.3 million dogs and 4.9 million cats as of 2021, you can only imagine how many animals could be at risk of ending up in a shelter, or worse,” Dr Joslyn added.

“VetDB Smart Microchip Registration means registrations always make it to their destination – and the registry receives everything they need, without mistakes, in the format they need it in,” he added.

Beyond easy registrations, VetDB technology has also been developed to help reunite lost animals with their owners.

“If a lost animal is presented to a VetDB vet practice – staff can scan the animal's microchip to view which registry that animal is listed with,” said Dr Steve Joslyn.

Dr David Neck from Cottesloe Vet has seen firsthand how the application of Smart Microchip Registration is alleviating some of the pressure placed on busy veterinary practices.

“It's a huge relief not to have to fill out forms – and instant confirmation means you don't have to check if the registration has been processed,” Dr Neck said.

Dr Steve Joslyn said this latest release is one of many to come, as VetDB continues to use technology and data to create a smarter, more efficient veterinary system.

“We've got plenty more features in the works that are aimed at easing the mental load for veterinary professionals, providing owners with peace of mind and, ultimately, making sure animals receive better care,” said Dr Joslyn.



PHARMAUST COMMENCES NEXT CLINICAL PHASE OF MONEPANTEL ANTI-CANCER TRIAL FOR PET DOGS

Lymphoma is a common and aggressive cancer diagnosed in dogs. Symptoms can include swellings (enlarged lymph nodes), lethargy, weight loss and loss of appetite.

“There is no cure for B cell lymphoma at this time. Usually, only 50% of dogs with B cell lymphoma will survive without treatment for around 30 days and the other half will have progressive disease¹,” said Dr Richard Mollard, Chief Scientific Officer of PharmAust.

To date, pet dogs treated with MPL in Australia have enjoyed a high quality of life and significant anti-cancer outcomes while on trial. Following this success and to prepare for a trial to formally register MPL as an anti-cancer drug in pet dogs, PharmAust is now also conducting this clinical trial in New Zealand while completing late-stage preparations to similarly incorporate sites in the United States.

“Data from Phase 2 clinical trials to date have shown that MPL treatment stabilises B cell lymphoma, can make some lesions disappear, significantly prolongs the life of pet dogs and significantly improves the pet dogs’ quality of life,” said Dr Mollard.

“Additionally, after the completion of the 28-day clinical trial period, and following consultation with their veterinarians, some owners have asked to continue the treatment of their pet dogs with monepantel in combination with standard-of-care prednisolone.

“To date, PharmAust has been pleased to support continued treatment of eight dogs with this combination and see average life expectancy more than quadruple compared to untreated dogs and increase 2.5 times compared to dogs treated with standard-of-care prednisolone alone.

“We spent some time developing a safe and easy to take-at-home tablet for pet owners. At the recommended optimum dose, we see minimal side effects that might be attributable to MPL, with only some weight loss of approximately 2% being reported for some dogs over the 28-day trial period.

“The owners of pet dogs that continue on combination treatment with prednisolone really do not report any side effects even after 6 months. Normally one might expect some side effects from prednisolone alone, so this combination is very interesting and something we will follow up on formally in the next trial.”

MPL SAFER THAN CHEMOTHERAPY TREATMENT

Currently, the best indicated treatment option is chemotherapy, which comes with its own set of limitations and adverse events, and unfortunately, relapse can occur within six to 12 months.

“Chemotherapy is toxic with many potential safety concerns for people who handle, give or are exposed to the drug. Pet owners have to wear gloves when administering to their dogs and it is often recommended to keep children away from their pet for sometimes even up to 5 days after each treatment,” said Dr Mollard.

“Compared to this, MPL is very safe and dog owners do not have to wear gloves or keep their children away following treatment. It is a very interesting alternative, not only minimising side effects but also maintain the dogs in good spirits. Monepantel is comparatively very gentle and we would like to see dogs doing well over the first 28-day period, then three and six months, and longer.”

MPL is a “re-purposed” veterinary drug, already registered for use as an anti-worming agent in sheep. It has a very high safety profile, being first sold as an anti-worming agent on the New Zealand market in 2009. In 2013, PharmAust found that MPL possesses “off target” anti-cancer activity and since this time has completed a Phase 1 trial in humans with treatment refractory solid tumours as well as developing the new tablet and conducting the trials in pet dogs. “Interestingly, the Phase 1 trial in humans with cancer also showed preliminary evidence of anti-cancer activity,” said Dr Mollard.

PharmAust is now inviting more dogs in New Zealand with treatment naïve lymphoma to help complete the final optimisation of the Phase 2 trial in a bridging program before moving onto a registration trial. A veterinary trial centre has been set up in Veterinary Specialists Aotearoa clinic in Sylvia Park.



WHICH DOGS WITH LYMPHOMA ARE ELIGIBLE?

To participate in the Phase 2b trial, dogs can have any stage of lymphoma but must be feeling generally well.

Ultimately, the patient will only be given the treatment if they have B cell lymphoma but immunophenotyping (analysis of whether the cancer is a B cell or T cell type) is covered as part of the initial screening.

The dog entry criteria for the new clinical trial program are:

- Any stage of lymphoma (based on physical exam)
- Substage A (feeling well)
- Immunophenotype can be pending but must be submitted, and needs to be B-cell based on clinical characteristics
- No previous treatment in the previous 8 weeks, including corticosteroids (prednisolone)
- No other significant concurrent medical problems
- Good quality of life
- The dog should weigh more than 11kg.

The MPL trial involves consultations/treatments at Veterinary Specialists Aotearoa in Sylvia Park, Auckland.

Owners will have to transport their dogs to their respective centre and pay the cost for initial consultation for diagnosis. Once the pet is diagnosed with lymphoma, PharmAust will cover

all clinical trial costs, including travel expenses to and from the trial centre as well as post trial maintenance treatment if both pet owners and vets consider this might be beneficial.

The MPL tablets will be administered at home and owners will be asked to keep a simple logbook during the trial period.

Pet owners interested in enrolling their dog in the MPL trial need to contact their veterinarian for a referral to VSA clinic.

Veterinarians – for questions about patient referrals or trial sites, please email Dr Tommy Fluen or Dr Mike Coleman at medicine@vsnz.co.nz or Dr Richard Mollard at rmollard@pharmaust.com



VETERINARY TRIAL TESTIMONIALS

Ryley is our 5-year-old Border Collie x Kelpie. She is friendly, energetic, loyal, obedient, intelligent and inquisitive. Ryley was diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma in July 2021 by our local vet. My husband was giving Ryley a pat and noticed a few lumps on her neck. We had also heard her coughing a few times. When we took her to our vet at Burwood Road Veterinary Clinic, we never thought it was anything serious, as she never seemed unwell. She had her usual appetite and energy levels.

We were amazed when our vet said it was lymphoma and that her life expectancy was weeks to months. It was confronting to have that diagnosis. We didn't want to put her through anything drastic, which would make her more unwell and affect her quality of life. We felt that chemotherapy was not an option as life expectancy is still not much more than 1 year. Our main aim was to hopefully extend her life, but more importantly maintain her quality of life.

We immediately started researching clinical trials and found Dr Sonya Yu (Animal Referral Hospital), who is involved in the MPL Trial. I am a nurse with some experience in clinical trials, so I had a bit of an idea of what I thought would be a suitable trial. This trial guaranteed that she would actually be on the medication – not a placebo – and it didn't involve an excessive amount of invasive investigations and clinic visits.

The MPL trial has been a positive experience for us. Dr Sonya is fantastic and has been wonderfully supportive to Ryley and us. It's been easy to give Ryley two tablets a day and fortunately we live quite close to the Animal Referral Hospital, so it's been easy to take her for the visits. Our GP vet was also supportive of the trial, and it felt reassuring to do something.

Sharon, Sydney

Chica was a Black Kelpie born on a farming property in WA. She was a very active and very smart little dog with an incredible capacity to respond to your mood.

She was diagnosed with lymphoma in April 2021 when I took her for a check-up as she had a small lump on her face and had been a little under the weather.

My vet had heard about the Monepantel trial and researched it for me before referring us to the Animal Referral Hospital in Brisbane.

The trial was very straight-forward, it did not require much from us in terms of input or reporting; just a simple diary and to give the medication (tablet) every second day.

Unfortunately, we had to have Chica put to sleep on October 10th. Until the last week she was almost completely normal, with occasional periods of quieter behaviour than usual.

She was originally given 2 – 4 weeks to live and went on to have a great quality of life for nearly six months, so we are very grateful.

My advice to other pet owners is early detection and knowing what is and isn't normal for your dog is important. Diagnosing the lymphoma early gave us time to do something about it to slow it down.

The trial gave us an alternative to chemo (which wasn't an option for us), slowed the progression and gave us more time with Chica. We would really like to support the trial to continue as I really think it gave us a significant increase in time and quality of life for Chica. I'd love to see others have the same opportunity without the invasive treatment of chemo.

Gemma, Brisbane

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS PET OWNERS MISCONCEPTIONS OF THE INDUSTRY

We believe that as pet owners better understand the medical knowledge, advanced skills and expertise of credentialed veterinary technicians, coupled with the compassionate care they provide, their confidence and trust in technicians will increase.

Carolyn Spivock, RVT, Director of Veterinary Technician & Assistant Development, VCA Animal Hospitals



Survey finds many pet owners are unaware of the wide range of care provided by credentialed veterinary nurses/technicians, from preventive medicine to life-saving and emergency care for patients.

Pet owners from across the United States were recently polled for a survey commissioned by the North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) asking if they knew who was caring for their pets when they go to a veterinary hospital. While the survey found pet owners trust and feel positive about credentialed veterinary nurses and technicians as part of the patient care team, responses revealed striking misconceptions about their role, responsibilities, education and skills.

Nearly half (47%) of pet owners did not know that the role of the credentialed veterinary nurse/technician includes performing medical tasks and procedures. The overwhelming majority, 73%, understood their role was cleaning cages, removing animal waste, feeding or grooming pets — tasks generally performed by less experienced and non-credentialed staff. Sixty-three percent of pet owners do not know that credentialed veterinary nurses and technicians are the animal healthcare equivalent of registered nurses.

“Like their counterparts in human healthcare, credentialed veterinary nurses and technicians are also highly skilled professionals, providing life-saving and life-enhancing care for pets as well as emotional support,” Harold Davis, BA, RVT, VTS (Emergency and Critical Care) (Anesthesia and Analgesia), NAVC Board President said.

“Respondents indicated they value veterinary nurses/technicians; now it’s up to us to do a better job by educating pet owners how vital they are to the veterinary healthcare team, so their skills can be better leveraged for the benefit of animals everywhere.”

Credentialed veterinary nurses and technicians perform a wide range of procedures requiring extensive skill, knowledge, and education, including:

- Monitoring and managing anesthesia, cardiovascular and respiratory functions during surgery, and throughout recovery.
- Radiology and diagnostic imaging, including advanced studies like CT, MRI and ultrasonography.
- Dental charting, teeth cleaning, instruction in home care.
- Advanced care for hospitalized patient needs.
- Nutrition and behavior counseling.
- Specialized nursing care in disciplines which mirror veterinary specialists, including oncology and cardiology among many others.
- Phlebotomy, laboratory management and more.

On the topic of education, 20% of respondents mistakenly believe that veterinary nurses/technicians have less than two years of higher education. Respondents also have little awareness of the national exam needed to attain a license or the requirements for continued education to maintain that license.

"The vast majority of credentialed veterinary nurses/technicians hold an associate degree in veterinary technology with many obtaining and now seeking out their bachelor's to further their career goals. They have passed a national exam, are licensed, certified or registered by an external governing body in their state," Ashli Selke RVT, CVT, National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) President said. "We are educated healthcare professionals who understand the whys behind the science and can advocate wholly for our patients."

Survey findings also revealed that once respondents were informed about the roles and responsibilities of credentialed veterinary nurses/technicians, their specialties and the required level of education and expertise, their perceptions changed.

69% of pet owners reported they would feel more confident and comfortable with the level of care they can provide, and 84% would trust them as much as a veterinarian.

"Credentialed veterinary technicians are deeply passionate individuals who are committed to caring for animals and supporting their owners. It's important that we help pet owners understand the critical role credentialed veterinary technicians have as part of the medical team and their dedication to the

health and well-being of their patients," said Carolyn Spivock, RVT, Director of Veterinary Technician & Assistant Development, VCA Animal Hospitals. "We believe that as pet owners better understand the medical knowledge, advanced skills and expertise of credentialed veterinary technicians, coupled with the compassionate care they provide, their confidence and trust in technicians will increase. Building stronger relationships between veterinary technicians and pet owners is one meaningful way we can continue to improve care for pets and grow the support we can offer our clients."

The survey was conducted as a part of a national awareness and education campaign led by the NAVC and VCA Animal Hospitals, with support from NAVTA. The campaign is part of the Veterinary Nurse Empowerment Initiative, a bold new program the NAVC launched in January to elevate and advance credentialed veterinary nurses/technicians. The goal is to change perceptions and attitudes among pet owners, close the knowledge gap and instill confidence in the professionals who provide animal healthcare.

Methodology

Atomik Research conducted an online survey of 1,013 pet owners throughout the United States who indicated having at least one pet in their household. The margin of error for the overall sample fell within +/- 3 percentage points with a confidence interval of 95 percent. Fieldwork took place between December 22 and December 24, 2021. Atomik Research is an independent, creative market research agency.

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THE THREE RS OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

In celebration of National Puppy Day (March 23rd), Dogs Australia says that it's never too late for would-be dog owners to learn new tricks as it launches a national education campaign on the three Rs of responsible ownership.

The launch coincided with a spike in puppy and dog purchases¹ during lockdown and concern about a possible upsurge in dogs being dumped in pounds as people return to the office.

The three Rs campaign asks potential owners:

1. Is this the right time to buy a pup?
2. What is the right breed for your family and lifestyle?
3. Who is the right breeder to buy from?

"A dog is a big commitment. It should never be an impulse buy," said Dogs Australia ambassador and veterinarian, Dr Rob Zammit. "We recommend people thoroughly research their choice and they can start by visiting the Dogs Australia website to determine whether it's the right time to buy a pup, and which breed and breeder to choose."

The education push also promotes a video series on the Dogs Australia website, showcasing more than 180 breeds, categorised into seven distinct groups; Toys, Terriers, Gundogs, Hounds, Working Dogs, Utility and Non-Sporting.

More than three thousand rescue dogs are euthanised every year in Australian shelters.

Dogs Australia long-time President, Hugh Gent, OAM believes when people understand the characteristics and natural instincts of each breed they are less likely to make the wrong choice.

Dogs Australia also advocates buying through its network of registered breeders. "It's always sad when any dog has to be euthanised. That's why we take such care to match the right dog to the right home and continue to support the owners with advice throughout the life of their pet," said Mr Gent.

"Our registered breeders follow a strict code of ethics, conduct health and DNA tests, provide a certificate of pedigree and give the owner on-going support," said Mr Gent. "Our breeders are passionate about finding the best homes for their dogs."

¹ Animal Medicines Australia

ABOUT DOGS AUSTRALIA

Dogs Australia was launched in December 2021 and is the new consumer face of the 64-year old, internationally recognised Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC).

It unites the expertise of an estimated 60,000 members², including 11,000 registered breeders, 350 breed clubs and almost 500 sports for dogs clubs across all states and territories.

Dogs Australia aims to safeguard the future of pedigree dogs through ethical breeding and canine health research while promoting conformation shows and sports for dogs that fulfill a breed's natural instincts.



"A dog is a big commitment. It should never be an impulse buy," said Dogs Australia ambassador and veterinarian, Dr Rob Zammit.

PET CIRCLE EXPANDS HOURS OF FREE ONLINE VET SQUAD TO 24/7

With COVID-19 and floods impacting staffing and stretching veterinary services across Australia, Pet Circle, Australia's largest online pet supplies store, has expanded its free online Vet Squad advice service to be available 24 hours a day - making it the only free vet service of its kind in Australia.

The expansion will give more Australians free access to quality vet advice on how to care for their pet, helping them save money on vet visits and pet products.

Pet Circle Head Vet Dr Teagan Lever said, "We are excited to expand our free online vet advice service to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Unfortunately, vets don't always have the time to answer a lot of questions during consultations, and they are not all available 24/7, so our service will provide additional vet support for pet parents."

"You can live chat with our Vet Squad for quick general advice, including pet tips or to get help with finding the best product for your pet and budget. For non urgent questions, you can schedule a longer, free video telehealth session, or get a Vet Pet Plan with impartial health, nutrition and lifestyle advice tailored to your pet's needs."

"Our online vets can also be contacted for triage in emergency situations, especially after hours. If your pet is unwell it's really important to seek veterinary advice as soon as possible

because in most cases treatment is more likely to be successful early on. Speaking with a vet online or over the phone can help you determine whether you need to bring your pet in to an emergency centre or if the condition can be managed at home."

"We believe the current brick-and-mortar pet retail experience doesn't adequately improve the knowledge and education of pet parents and we want to rectify this. Our customers love it when they are able to speak to a vet as it helps them find the products that are best for their pet, rather than buying generic products that may not be quite right. Now that our vets are available anytime, we can help more pet parents pet better," said Mr Frizell.

"Pet humanisation and premiumisation during the pandemic has led to more vet telehealth services popping up, but what makes our vet service different is that you don't need to be a member or a customer to use it and it's completely free. We've done this as we want to democratise quality, pet first vet advice and create the best pet experience in the world."

The Pet Circle Vet Squad now has over 30 Australian registered vets with experience across a range of different animals and breeds. To chat with the Pet Circle Vet Squad visit www.petcircle.com.au/discover.

AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY CHARITY RAISING FUNDS FOR UKRAINIAN ANIMALS

The crisis in Ukraine highlights the power of the human-animal bond. Every day thousands of people flee from Ukraine with only what they can carry: often this is their pet. Australian veterinary charity Vets Beyond Borders (VBB) is raising funds to support Ukrainian animals receive veterinary care, food and bedding.

Reports received by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) from the Polish border at Medyka ascertain around 30% of refugees are bringing their pets with them, which in turn requires veterinary care. As a member of VSF International, VBB is working directly with its Czech counterparts to raise funds for these animals in need.

Seeking Refuge Together is VSF-Czech's initiative assisting Ukrainian refugees and their animals. The organisation is helping network suitable veterinary clinics, offering interpreting services for veterinary clinics taking care of Ukrainian refugees, running an information hub where incoming refugee pet owners can find relevant information, and also providing financial aid to allow pet owners to take care of their pets.

Rabies is still present in Ukraine, in contrast to many European countries, which are free from rabies. The sudden influx of non-vaccinated pets may pose serious threats to public health and highlights the importance of veterinary intervention and support.

In 2021, VBB became a member of VSF International, sharing VBB's One Health vision aimed at improving the health of

people, animals and their shared environment. VBB is working with its global counterparts to raise much needed funds to assist those fleeing the warzone with their beloved pets.

Your donation will help save animals in crisis and provide vital relief for their owners, who after losing everything are desperately trying to source the essentials to survive, for themselves and their cherished pets. All funds raised will be urgently transferred to VSF-Czech who are working on the ground with the Ukrainian refugees.

Go to <https://portal.vetsbeyondborders.org/donate> for more information.



NEW WEBSITE ENABLES VETERINARIANS AND ANIMAL INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK



The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has launched a new 'Have Your Say' website to enable Australian veterinarians and animal industry stakeholders to contribute to the Australian position on draft animal health and welfare standards from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

This new portal will encourage stakeholder feedback by simplifying the consultation process and will make Australia a world leader in stakeholder engagement on animal health and welfare standards.

Go to www.haveyoursay.awe.gov.au for more information.

What is the OIE?

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving global animal health and welfare.

Since its creation in 1924, the OIE, as part of its mandate, has established international standards to facilitate safe international trade of animals and animal products.

The OIE's Terrestrial Animal Health Code sets out the international standards for animal health and welfare and veterinary public health.

As part of the process to update existing international standards and develop new standards, the OIE seeks comments from members. Once each year, members are asked to vote on the proposed changes and adopt them as international standards.

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment collaborates with a broad range of in-country stakeholders, such as veterinarians, academics, state governments, and industry representatives, to form an Australian position on draft OIE standards.

Why are OIE standards needed?

Member countries of the OIE and World Trade Organization are obligated to adopt standards published by the OIE, unless an alternative position can be scientifically justified. This ensures trade in animals and animal products is supported, whilst protecting biosecurity.

The benefits of implementing standards go beyond trade facilitation: they contribute to job creation, food sustainability, alleviating poverty and hunger, protecting animal welfare, and developing the economy.

For example, the OIE standards on Veterinary Public Health provide recommendations for the prevention and control of Salmonella in poultry, pig and bovine production systems. This supports the production of safe food by countries implementing the standard.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CURRENT BIOSECURITY THREATS FACING AUSTRALIA?

Australia faces a range of threats to its biosecurity status. Three very serious current threats to Australian biosecurity are avian influenza (AI), lumpy skin disease and rabies.



Avian influenza

Avian influenza (AI) is a virus that can affect many species of birds (and on occasion other animals and humans), including commercial birds, pet birds and wild birds.

AI virus strains can be classified as high pathogenicity (HPAI) or low pathogenicity (LPAI), based on the severity of the disease they cause.

HPAI is an extremely infectious and fatal form of the disease that can spread rapidly from flock to flock and has been known to affect humans.

HPAI is spread in the saliva, nasal secretions, and faeces of infected birds. Susceptible birds can also become infected through contact with surfaces that are contaminated with virus from infected birds.

There have been an increasing number of outbreaks worldwide of HPAI viruses in poultry. Some of these outbreaks have resulted from a new H5N8 strain of the virus that emerged in poultry and many wild bird species in Asia in 2014.

What you can do to help

Protecting Australia's biosecurity is everyone's responsibility and must be a priority. If you are a veterinarian, you can support our biosecurity by having your say on draft OIE standards through the new 'Have your say' website.

For more information about the online feedback portal, please contact: OIEAustralia@awe.gov.au

To view the website, go to www.haveyoursay.awe.gov.au



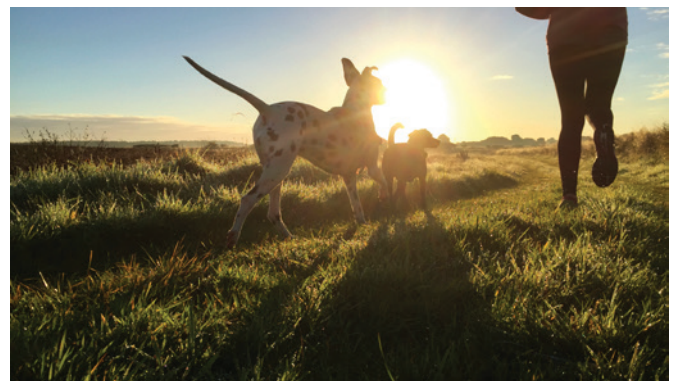
Lumpy skin disease

Lumpy skin disease is a viral disease of cattle and water buffalo that causes relatively low mortality; however, the disease can result in animal welfare issues and significant production losses.

The disease is spread primarily by biting insects such as certain species of flies, mosquitoes and possibly ticks. The disease can also be spread by fomites through such things as contaminated equipment and in some cases directly from animal to animal. It does not pose a risk to human health.

Lumpy skin disease clinical signs

Originally limited to Africa, the global distribution of lumpy skin disease is increasing the risk to Australia. Since 2019, the disease has spread through China and Southeast Asia. In 2021 the disease was confirmed in Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia. In 2022 it was officially reported in Singapore and Indonesia.



Rabies

The rabies virus is transmitted through direct contact with saliva, the brain, or the nervous system tissue from an infected animal through pathways such as broken skin or mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, or mouth.

Rabies is present in most countries in the world, with the exception of Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Japan and a number of small islands.

In recent years, the virus has continued to spread through the eastern islands of Indonesia.

Rabies poses a grave risk to human health, with almost 60,000 people estimated to die from this disease globally each year. In response, an alliance of organisations has united to pursue ZERO BY 2030, setting a goal of zero human dog-mediated rabies deaths by 2030.

Through the OIE, Australia is currently contributing to regional rabies prevention and control. Through vaccination and other measures, it is hoped the prevalence in our near neighbours, and risk to Australia, can be significantly decreased.

COMPANION ANIMAL NETWORK AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES NEW CHARITY AMBASSADORS IN MISSION TO BRING PEOPLE AND PETS TOGETHER

Leading animal welfare charity Companion Animal Network Australia (AustraliaCAN) is proud to announce pet behaviourist and dog trainer Lara Shannon and media announcer and presenter John Deeks as Ambassadors of the organisation in its mission to bring people and pets together.

Australia CAN (formerly Animal Welfare League Australia) promotes the human animal bond and responsible pet ownership through national campaigns, partnerships and initiatives.

It also represents the companion animal welfare work of six member agencies that provide rescue, shelter, re-homing, fostering, health care and enrichment services to more than 50,000 animals every year.

Australia CAN CEO Trish Ennis said she is honoured to welcome the two ambassadors who are supporting the charity's mission in developing and promoting programs that deliver high welfare standards for companion animals, such as Rent with Pets, Pets in Aged Care and Pets in Business.

Australia CAN's Rent with Pets program works to decrease the number of pet surrenders due to archaic rental laws, whilst bringing landlords and tenants together. The organisation is also working with aged care experts to find ways of preserving the bond between people and pets in the aged care settings.

"Following the increase of pet ownership during the pandemic lockdowns and the isolation of our senior citizens, it's more important than ever to support pets in aged care settings as well as workplaces," said Trish.

"Lara and John spend their time and effort increasing the human-animal bond through building public awareness. They embody our values and are totally engaged to support our mission. Both John and Lara are massive talents, and I am honoured to have them join us."



LARA SHANNON
BEHAVIOURIST
AND DOG
TRAINER

A long-time animal welfare advocate, Ms Shannon is an author and the Presenter of Channel 10's Pooches at Play program which helps to promote responsible pet ownership and pet friendly lifestyles.

"Helping to reduce the amount of companion animals ending up in shelters and being needlessly euthanised is the overall goal for everything that I do," she said. "Supporting a national organisation like Companion Animal Network Australia that can represent different state bodies is a great way to have a powerful and national impact."

Lara looks forward to working with Australia CAN's programs promoting responsible pet ownership and pets in aged care.

"The aged care is vitally important because people have to surrender their pets when they have to move into aged care facilities. It's a massive reason why many pets are rehomed. Personally, I wouldn't be able to cope if I had to go into care without my dog" she said.



JOHN DEEKS
MEDIA
ANNOUNCER
AND PRESENTER

A veteran Channel 7 announcer and current presenter on Your Live Choices podcast, John feels a personal connection to Australia CAN as he has personally seen the positive effect animals bring to human lives, whether it be a family pet or a companion.

Today, John is loved by 13-year-old Shih Tzu named Daisy and a Siamese kitten called Simon. "They are good friends and make wonderful companions for us and indeed for each other," said John. "It has been scientifically proven that animals bring great benefit to our lives. I want to help raise awareness in my community and work in tandem with Australia CAN in their commitment to promote companion animals within the wider community."

In a personal mission, John would like to help Australia CAN in the rehoming of animals within the senior community. "Loneliness as we know in the senior community is a major problem and I have personally seen the benefits a companion pet can bring," he said.



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AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PROFESSIONAL BODY FOR VETERINARY CUSTOMER CARE TEAMS LAUNCHED

On the back for the success of the British Veterinary Reception (BVRA) in the UK, the Australian Veterinary Receptionist Association (AVRA) launched in January 2022 and is the first professional body for veterinary Customer Care Teams in Australia.

Michael Mckeand, the Association's co-founder commented, 'The AVRA's mission is to recognise and raise the status of veterinary Customer Care Teams within the Australian veterinary profession'. He went on to say "The AVRA will do this by acting as a professional body to focus on the interests of veterinary Customer Care Teams as well as evolving the role through affordable CPD and training leading to the attainment of the Accredited Veterinary Receptionist Award". Michael says, "The interest in the Association and the certification has been amazing with many practice owners, managers and Customer Care Teams commenting that a bespoke veterinary association for, this often-overlooked team in practice, is long overdue".

Michael went on to say how impressed he had been by the standard of education and membership benefits the BVRA offer and felt that there is a genuine need and interest in replicating the BVRA model in Australia. BVRA and AVRA co-founder Kay Watson-Bray says that "we are delighted to working on this joint venture and to bring, what has been very successful in the UK, to Australia. The BVRA work tirelessly to raise the standard Customer Care Teams through training and education and act as a support network for them".

The Accredited Veterinary Receptionist Award (AVR) incorporates a wealth of resources for both individuals working in veterinary customer care, as well as those who train and coach them. Resources include easily accessible cutting-edge webinars which are free to AVRA members within the Bronze Level AVR award. After completing Bronze, members can go on to complete the Silver and Gold levels to obtain the AVR certificate.

"We have made membership very affordable as we do not want to exclude anyone who performs this crucial role within veterinary practice. As an introductory offer, the first 5 receptionists are included in the basic \$330 inc GST practice membership price. For further details please contact Michael Mckeand 0475 941 482 info@avra.vet or visit www.avra.vet



THE AVRA STORY

The Australian Veterinary Receptionist Association was set up by Brian Faulkner, Michael Mckeand and Kay Watson-Bray in recognition of the crucial role that veterinary receptionists play in veterinary practice.

In 2015, whilst delivering his Colourful Consultation talk at a practice, one of the vets asked Brian whether he would 'say a few words to the receptionist team' to help strengthen the connection between the consulting vets and the front of house reception staff. Sticking with a theme, Brian called the talk 'The Colourful Receptionist'. The Colourful Receptionist became the seed that evolved into the Accredited Veterinary Receptionist Award today. Brian joined forces with Kay in 2017 when 'catching up' with a drink at Celtic Manor, South Wales, UK. Brian had just become President of the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS) at that congress and whilst catching up with Kay, he mentioned an idea he had of creating a formally recognised receptionist qualification. Kay mentioned an idea she had of setting up an association for veterinary receptionists. They agreed to collaborate rather than compete as they brought a fantastic combination of knowledge and experience. Kay had set up and acted as the director of The European School of Veterinary Postgraduate Studies (ESVPS). As such she had experience in examination accreditation and awarding qualifications.

That meeting at Celtic Manor was the birth of The British Veterinary Receptionist Association, BVRA, which launched formally on October 1st, 2017.

Fast forward to 2021. Michael Mckeand from VetCX contacted Kay and Brian about receptionist training in Australia. Whilst discussing the success of BVRA in the UK, it was recognised that there was no formal training / membership organisation in Australia for anyone working in a front of house role.

On the 1st October 2021 the Australian Veterinary Receptionist Association (AVRA) was launched! The AVRA's mission is to recognise and raise the status of veterinary receptionists within the Australasia veterinary profession. AVRA does this by acting as a professional body which focuses on the interests of veterinary receptionists as well as evolving the receptionist's role through affordable CPD and training.

AVRA membership will have access to the most up-to-date, relevant CPD which is tailored for receptionists working in veterinary practice. AVRA plan to run exclusive events each year, including an annual congress.

AVRA also facilitates a 'closed' Facebook group, exclusive to its members.

PETSURE'S GAPONLY® RECOGNISED BY CANSTAR FOR INNOVATION EXCELLENCE

In its 2022 Innovation Excellence Awards, Canstar has recognised PetSure's GapOnly® payment service. GapOnly® is an innovative claims experience and payment service, that reviews and calculates pet insurance claims while customers are still at the vet. Customers simply pay the gap (the difference between the vet's invoice and the claim benefit under the policy) ("the gap") and go.

This paperless, in clinic claims experience was recognised by the Canstar judges as a unique and convenient payment service for pet insurance customers claiming for eligible vet bills. They commented that GapOnly® has a significant impact on customers, helping to reduce the costs of some eligible vet bills as they simply pay the gap and go.

"We are delighted to be recognised by Canstar for our innovative GapOnly® payment service for claims, commented Alexandra Thomas CEO of PetSure.

"GapOnly® helps makes it easier for Vet clinics and customers. Instead of having to pay a large vet bill on the spot and up front, GapOnly® allows the claim to be processed on the spot in the Vet Clinic and the customer then only pays the gap."

"PetSure has invested in GapOnly® to help take the stress and worry away for customers when making healthcare decisions for their pets at the clinic. By making pet insurance more accessible to Australians we aim to improve health outcomes for pets and their owners, Ms Thomas said."

GapOnly® is transforming the claims and claim pre-approval experience with less out of pocket expenses for eligible vet bills for the Pet parent when they pay the gap, available in 700+ Vet clinics and specialist hospitals Australia-wide.

Currently customers of some of Australia's most recognisable pet insurance brands benefit from the GapOnly® payment service, including Pet Insurance Australia, Woolworths, RSPCA, BowWowMeow, Guide Dogs, Petinsurance.com.au, and PetBarn."



Kevin Smart | National Manager, Challenger Banking & General Insurance, Canstar (left).
Peter Kerr | Chief Operations Officer, PetSure (middle). Kate Bell, Canstar (right)

ABOUT PETSURE

At PetSure, we're on a mission to improve pet healthcare moments so that dogs, cats and their people can enjoy healthier and happier lives together.

Administering insurance for pets is how we got started more than 20 years ago, and we remain an industry leader as an insurance underwriting agency, providing insurance for pets via our distribution partners.

We've led the market, broadening the kinds of services insurance policies cover and making policies transparent, while leading the industry and defining its trends.

We have extended the leadership, innovation and investment we have become synonymous for in pet insurance to a broader scope of services, and we now also lead the category embracing technology and investing in new ways to help vets and their patients.

PetSure focuses on pet health, pet welfare, supporting the industry and its people, and investing and improving technology and services to the industry.

Our work in the community extends to supporting our industry through programs designed to encourage youth to pursue higher education, inspire Vets of the future, and offer new vet graduates work experience opportunities. We want to help foster a growing industry that invests in its people.

PetSure's services, its products, its investments and its advocacy are all delivered by its dedicated people with our values at the core of everything we do.

PETS LEFT BEHIND WITH ACCESS TO MEDICINAL CANNABIS



“This simple change in the wording that eCS Vet proposed will have a huge effect on the welfare of animals in Australia, and provide appropriate recognition for our world-class veterinary professionals,” said Dr Calvo Blanco.

Following a detailed submission by animal health care service provider eCS Vet (Endocannabinoid System Veterinary Centre) to improve cannabis legislation for the benefit of animal health and welfare, the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced in an interim decision they will not amend the existing Poison Standard regulations due to perceived risks and toxicity of cannabinoid substances for animals.

Dr Marta Calvo Blanco DVM, Head of Veterinary Operations at eCS Vet, which works to improve animal welfare by providing education and support for veterinarians on medicinal cannabis, said eCS Vet is determined to clarify and substantiate their application to the TGA by their deadline.

Emerging research suggests that medical cannabis can help with many pet health conditions, such as anxiety, chronic pain, inflammation and seizures. However, unfortunately Australian animals can't access all the medicinal cannabis medications currently available to humans, missing out on all the benefits. eCS Vet aims to change this, said Dr Calvo Blanco.

In July 2021, eCS Vet (previously CANNect Vet) applied to the TGA to reword the cannabis and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) entries of the Poisons Standard. Currently, these entries only allow for human therapeutic use. eCS Vet requested the rewording to include the therapeutic use of cannabis-based medicines for animals to align access for both veterinary and medical professionals.

"This simple change in the wording that eCS Vet proposed will have a huge effect on the welfare of animals in Australia, and provide appropriate recognition for our world-class veterinary professionals," said Dr Calvo Blanco.

"It will give the animals the possibility of accessing life-changing medications through the control and support of their vets. This would have a great impact not only in Australia but all around the world, as many countries are in a similar situation and will be watching Australia carefully."



ECS VET DISAGREES WITH TGA REASONING

In their interim decision, the TGA listed concerns that the risks and toxicity of cannabinoid substances outweigh the potential benefits, alongside a lack of demonstrated therapeutic evidence in animals consistent with the Scheduling Policy Framework for Schedule 8 <<https://www.tga.gov.au/scheduling-basics>> (Controlled Drug) substances, and have given weight predominantly to the reasons related to the risk to public health and safety.

Dr Calvo Blanco said eCS Vet disagrees with the reasoning of TGA's decision, saying the TGA is differentiating between doctors and veterinarians, and despite dogs, cats and humans all being different, at the end we are all animals.

"The TGA agrees that the quality control of products containing Schedule 8 substances is well-regulated and has no concerns that this would also not be true for veterinary preparations," she said.

The TGA rejected eCS Vet's application despite receiving 35 written submissions in response to the pre-therapeutic meeting public notice. Of these written submissions, 30 submissions were in support of the Application, two were partially supportive and three opposed eCS Vet's proposal.

Interested parties, such as the Australian Veterinary Association, were also given the choice to select from options to indicate their support or opposition to the Application without providing a written component. Eighty-one (81) responses were received, including 59 supportive, 14 partially supportive and eight opposing.

STUDIES SHOW ANIMALS BENEFIT FROM THC

Medical cannabis treatments have been available for human therapeutic use since 2016. Since this time, the patient demand has been increasing, with more patients reporting a beneficial effect from these natural medicines.

However, up until now, access for animals is restricted. Vets are able to treat with cannabidiol (CBD) preparations but are not allowed to prescribe any medication containing tetrahydrocannabinols (THC).

"While case studies show that CBD can be beneficial with conditions like anxiety or inflammation, many more animal patients could benefit from medications containing THC and other components of the cannabis plant," said Dr Calvo Blanco.

Like humans, all animals (except for insects) possess a cannabinoid system. This so-called endocannabinoid system (ECS) is a messaging system that regulates body functions such as sleep, appetite, digestive function, pain, inflammation as well as neural protection. The ECS can respond positively to the intake of the active compounds from the cannabis plant.

"This has led to pet owners self-medicating their furry friends," said Dr Calvo Blanco. "On top of it being illegal, this practice bears many risks, such as overdoses and the contamination of the plant material when sources are uncontrolled and unknown."

By applying for the amendment, eCS Vet could expand the veterinary treatment options to further improve the care, health and wellbeing of Australian animals. Furthermore, eCS Vet wants to ensure safe access to cannabinoid products for veterinary patients, preventing illegal, unregulated and unstandardised forms of cannabis to risk injuring our animals.

BECAUSE THEY'RE MORE THAN HUMAN



Natural pet healthcare brand, PAW by Blackmores, has launched a new campaign highlighting its support for dog parents as they return to work whilst caring for their fur babies.

Research has suggested that pet ownership has led to pet parents feeling worried about veterinary access, economic hardship and what would happen if a pet falls ill.

As borders open, Australians start to travel and spend more time out of the home, pet parents may feel more anxious about providing adequate care for their pets - especially when they are not in the best of health. PAW by Blackmores is empowering pet parents with proven natural therapeutic expertise, so they can confidently care for their pets.

Joanne Smith, Chief Marketing and Innovation Officer at Blackmores Group said: "We all share a very special relationship with our furry friends. They're not just pets; they're members of our family and sometimes our best friends."

"Pets need their own unique type of care, and PAW by Blackmores gives pet parents the confidence that they're looking after their pets' health as well as they do their own."

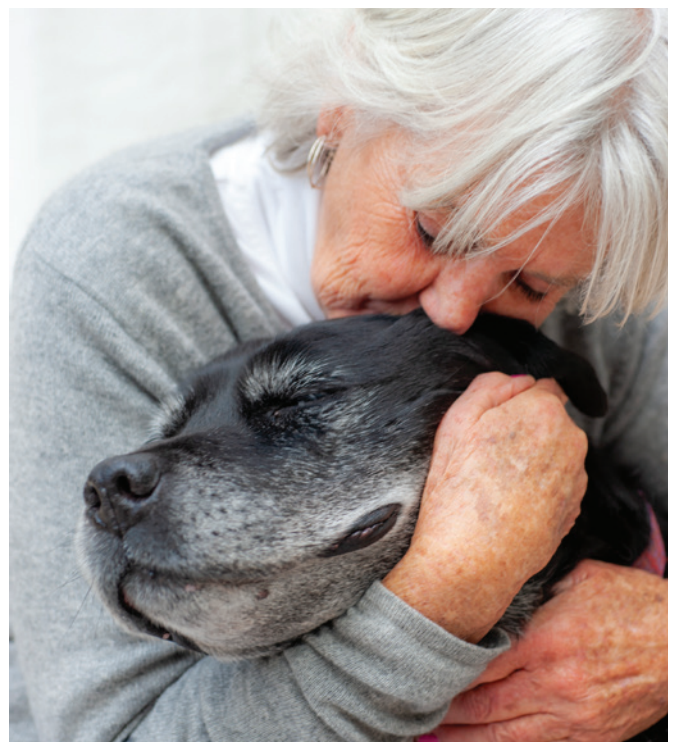
"After so much time spent with our pets at home over the past two years, common pet health issues like anxiety and joint care may be front of mind. Our products give pet parents full confidence that their furry faithful companions feel their best, easing our own concerns when we're apart from our pets."

Pure Animal Wellbeing (PAW) was developed by Dr Alister Webster, a third-generation vet from the Webster family, renowned by vets for creating quality pet products for over 80 years.

With the vision to build a global health economy, Blackmores Group extends its commitment to being a leading natural healthcare supplier and encouraging proactivity for long-term wellbeing - whether it's for our pets or ourselves.

Blackmores Group Chief Executive Officer Alastair Symington says, "Good Health is at the heart of everything we value here at Blackmores. Throughout our 90-year history, we have been one of the strongest voices constantly advocating the benefits of natural health solutions. To deliver on our promise, we pride ourselves on being able to develop products that combine the latest technologies and best natural ingredients, while maximising the health outcomes of not just humans but also our beloved pets."

The PAW by Blackmores range focuses on the following areas of natural pet healthcare: Skin and coat health; Joint health; Digestive health; Mental health and wellbeing; Liver health; Ear care; and Grooming.





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NSW WILDLIFE COUNCIL PROVIDES INSTANT FUNDING TO FLOOD IMPACTED WILDLIFE CARERS

The NSW Wildlife Council (NWC), the peak body for wildlife rehabilitation in NSW, has recently issued almost \$48,000 to volunteer wildlife carers impacted in the recent flooding events. These volunteers play a vital role in the survival of native fauna.

The NWC aims to achieve optimal outcomes for native fauna, representing 26 licensed wildlife groups and approximately 4,000 wildlife carers in the state. To ensure incoming injured and orphaned wildlife are able to be assisted the Council acknowledges the necessity to distribute donations as soon as possible to carers and groups on the frontline where it is needed most during emergency events.

The grants have helped a number of groups and carers involving wildlife from marsupial joeys, wombats, flying-foxes, marine reptiles, birds and more!

In announcing the release of funds, Audrey Koosmen, NSW Wildlife Council Chair, said, "Many of our member groups and carers have been very seriously affected in this recent flood event losing their fauna holding pens with flood waters destroying wombat burrows, fencing, equipment, aviaries and white goods all used for rehabilitating wildlife.

"The NSW Wildlife Council through generous donations received from the public has been able to fund repairs for those

worst-affected. This is one way we can help our most hard-working wildlife volunteers across the state.

"I thank everyone in the wildlife sector for the great work they are doing to care so well for our wildlife in such challenging conditions."

Ms Koosmen added "It is a real privilege to be able to help these carers. The public donated generously to the NWC Emergency Fund to support our work with wildlife and these donations will go where the public expect them to go – to directly benefit native animals needing our help".

Wildlife Council member groups cover the whole of NSW with 4,000 volunteers trained to look after wildlife that need help.

The NWC encourages its member groups and their volunteers who were impacted in the recent flooding to apply. All grant enquiries to grants@nwc.org.au



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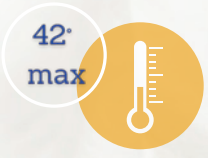
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ONE IN THREE GUIDE DOG HANDLERS PUT IN DANGER WHEN REFUSED ACCESS OR SERVICE

According to a new survey by Guide Dogs Australia, over a third of Guide Dog Handlers across Australia have reported being denied access to a public venue or form of transport because of their Guide Dog in the past year. Alarmingly, the same proportion reported a discriminatory refusal left them feeling unsafe or in danger during their time as a Guide Dog Handler.

Taxis or rideshares were responsible for two thirds of these instances where Handlers reported their safety was compromised, followed by cafes, restaurants and bars, and retail outlets.

Around half of Handler respondents said they had been left stranded in an unfamiliar or wrong location, with a similar proportion reporting being verbally mistreated during the refusal incident.

Female Guide Dog Handlers were more likely than male Handlers to have said they've experienced a refusal in the last year. Males and females were equally as likely to have been put in danger as a result of a refusal over the course of their time as Guide Dog Handlers, with rideshares and taxis the leading cause for both. However, 76% of female Guide Dog Handlers report feeling unsafe and scared after the incident versus 29% of males.

Sydney based Liz has been a Guide Dog Handler for 7 years, now paired with Poppi, says she experiences refusals in public regularly and has previously been left feeling very unsafe due to a highly traumatic and dangerous refusal situation.

"Recently I was using rideshare and ended up being put in danger by a driver who did not want my guide dog in his vehicle. In an attempt to avoid taking me, but still maintaining his access to the app he told me he had arrived, after following the drivers instructions, I tried to get into two cars nearby, both ended up being a strangers car."

"The driver who turned out to be two blocks away, eventually cancelled. It is shocking that he sent a vulnerable person who he knew was blind towards the cars of strangers, as well as never trying to find me and ultimately not picking me up at all."

"I want to raise awareness that I am not taking Poppi with me as my pet. She is highly trained and working with me as my eyes. Poppi is the reason I get to participate in daily life activities, experience independence and enjoy a sense of freedom."

In response, Guide Dogs Australia's Rethink Refusal campaign aims to educate businesses, industries and the community on how a Guide Dog refusal – illegal in the first place – can have further implications for the immediate safety of a person with low vision or blindness.

In all states and territories across Australia, a Guide Dog in harness with their Handler is legally allowed to enter all public places, including public transport and taxi/rideshares, with it

being an offence to deny or charge a fee for the entry of a Guide Dog.

Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Orientation and Mobility Specialist Ryan Jones said, "while the public generally do the right thing, this survey shows that there can be quite frightening flow on effects when a Guide Dog Handler is refused their legal Access Rights."

"We're asking the community to rethink the implications of telling a Guide Dog Handler 'No'. No one should have their safety compromised or be put in a dangerous situation because they can't catch a ride late at night, enter a venue, café or restaurant or stay at their chosen accommodation. Who else would you leave in the dark?"

Ryan said the survey also revealed that refusals can leave a lasting impact on a Guide Dog Handler's daily routine. "Guide Dog Handlers told us that having their basic Access Rights denied or questioned is overwhelmingly frustrating. They also told us that being left in an unsafe or dangerous situation, makes them feel anxious or scared in the aftermath. Shockingly, two fifths of Handlers survey said they have changed travel habits because of an unsafe incident; a quarter stopped going out as much or at all after the event."

"This is the exact opposite of the freedom and independence a Guide Dog is meant to bring into someone's life," Ryan said.



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PEAK PSYCHOLOGY BODY SUPPORTS CALLS FOR VETERINARIAN MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING

The Australian Association of Psychologists (AAPi) is supporting calls by the Australian Veterinary Association for both major political parties to commit to investing \$3 million over five years to save the lives and wellbeing of Australian veterinarians.

AAPi Executive Director Tegan Carrison said veterinarians had one of the highest rates of suicide in the world and ongoing mental health support was crucial.

“In Australia, a vet takes their own life every 12 weeks. Not only do we need to increase awareness of the pressure they are under and normalise the need to seek support, we need to make psychological services more accessible so help is there when it is needed,” she said.

Dr Nadine Hamilton, AAPi psychologist and a leading expert on veterinarian mental health, said she made a number of submissions for grant funding for vet mental health but all had been rejected, including a pre-budget submission by AAPi in 2021.

“I feel the government is not seeing the desperate need in this profession. The funding we applied for would have gone towards counselling, wellbeing workshops and educational resources,” she said.

Dr Hamilton, founder of the charity Love Your Pet Love Your Vet, said although community awareness of vets and their mental health had improved, there was still a stigma among vets about seeking help in the first place.

“A lot of vets feel ashamed about asking for help and often don’t want to go to their GP in the beginning to get a referral to a psychologist - if they could self-refer it would streamline the process,” she said.

“Vet nursing staff are also under pressure and often need counselling but for them it is often a budgetary issue that stops them from going.”

Ms Carrison said the Medicare rebate for all psychologists needed to be raised to \$150 so those who needed mental health care could afford it.

Dr Hamilton is the author of “Coping with Stress and Burnout as a Veterinarian” and provides reduced cost counselling via her website.

Tegan Carrison is the Executive Director of the Australian Association of Psychologists Inc (AAPi), a not-for-profit peak body representing all psychologists in Australia.



“A lot of vets feel ashamed about asking for help and often don’t want to go to their GP in the beginning to get a referral to a psychologist - if they could self-refer it would streamline the process.”

About Australian Association of Psychologists Inc (AAPi)

The AAPi is a not-for-profit peak body for all psychologists that aims to preserve the rich diversity of psychological practice in Australia. Formed in 2010 by a group of passionate grassroots psychologists, the AAPi’s primary goal is to address inequality in the profession and represent all psychologists and their clients equally to government and funding bodies. Its primary mission is to lobby for equitable access for the Australian public to professional psychological services funded under the current Medicare Better Access Scheme.

THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE DEMONSTRATES THE STRENGTH AND BREADTH OF RESEARCH WITH THE 2021 REF RESULTS

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) has demonstrated its breadth and depth of research excellence, celebrating 88% of research being rated as world-leading (4*) or internationally excellent (3*), according to the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) results.

The results highlight the increasing relevance of the RVC's research to society, with 83% of RVC's impact being scored 4*, and 7.5 of the 9 impact case studies submitted found to have "outstanding reach and significance".

Additional highlights from the results include:

A 54% increase in the number of full time equivalent academic staff submitted since the last assessment – establishing the RVC as the largest veterinary research institution in the country

An increase in the proportion of our research scored as world-leading and internationally excellent in all categories of REF 2021, compared with 2014 results, including 17% improvement on the impact of its research, an 11% rise in its research output and an 11% increase in overall performance.

The impact case studies submitted by the RVC covered a broad range of research areas, including those which advance clinical practice; protect public health by enhancing food safety; inform World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation policy on the control of disease afflicting some of poorest people in the world; and tackle antimicrobial resistance through innovations in drug delivery. Many of these are underpinned by the RVC's One Health approach to research, the importance of which has been highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The results also highlight the RVC's holistic and transdisciplinary approach to research, with researchers, teachers, clinicians and pathologists working collaboratively to ensure 'real world' impact and advances in clinical practice.

"I am very pleased with the outcome of the REF2021 exercise – as a specialist institution with a clinical focus, the challenge of addressing the scientific spectrum, from fundamental research to clinical application, is at the very core of our mission. Knowing that we are assessed as delivering to that agenda by our peers is important and encourages us to continue our efforts of making meaningful impact on animal and human health globally."

Professor Stuart Reid CBE, President and Principal of the RVC.

ABOUT THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

- The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) is the UK's largest and longest established independent veterinary school and is a Member Institution of the University of London.
- It is one of the few veterinary schools in the world that hold accreditations from the RCVS in the UK (with reciprocal recognition from the AVBC for Australasia, the VCI for Ireland and the SAVC for South Africa), the EAEVE in the EU, and the AVMA in the USA and Canada.
- The RVC is ranked as the top veterinary school in the world in line QS World University Rankings by subject, 2022.
- The RVC offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in veterinary medicine, veterinary nursing and biological sciences.
- A research led institution with 88% of its research rated as internationally excellent or world class in the Research Excellence Framework 2021.
- The RVC provides animal owners and the veterinary profession with access to expert veterinary care and advice through its teaching hospitals and first opinion practices in London and Hertfordshire.
- <http://www.rvc.ac.uk>



WATCH OUT FOR SYMPTOMS OF DEADLY BACTERIAL DISEASE IN DOGS

Following recent veterinary reports of exposure to a deadly bacterial disease in NSW and NT, leading animal welfare charity Companion Animal Network Australia (Australia CAN) is urging pet owners to be cautious when out and about with their dog and watch for signs of leptospirosis infection.

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease (affecting both animals and humans) caused by bacteria found specifically in infected animal tissues and urine. Infection with *Leptospira* bacteria may cause liver and kidney damage; however, it can also affect the nervous and respiratory systems, and in extreme cases cause death, according to the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA).

“After weeks of wet weather – with more on the way – and an ongoing mouse plague, we remind pet owners of the risk of leptospirosis as the bacteria can live in water, soil or mud or be carried by rodents,” says Trish Ennis, CEO of Australia CAN.

Last month, Northern Territory Health Director of the Centre for Disease Control, Dr Vicki Krause, announced known hotspots for leptospirosis exposure in the Fogg Dam and Harrison Dam areas in Greater Darwin, rural Darwin, the Katherine district, Finnis River, Tipperary, Daly River and Gunbalanya.

Cases of leptospirosis have also been recently detected in NSW’s Hunter region, Marrickville and the Northern Beaches, claiming two dogs in Sydney and leaving another critically ill.

Outdoor activities with your dog such as walking, camping and swimming may increase the risk of infection. The bacteria can enter a dog’s body via cuts or abrasions on the skin, or through mucous membranes in the mouth, nose or eyes, according to the AVA.

Symptoms of leptospirosis may include vomiting, diarrhea, inappetence, jaundice, lethargy, changed frequency of urination and bleeding. A vaccine is available to prevent leptospirosis.



PETSTOCK ASSIST DONATES \$30,000 TO PET MEDICAL ORGANISATION

PETstock Assist has announced its latest donation recipient. ACT Pet Crisis Support supports disadvantaged or low-income pet owners by helping them meet the high cost of veterinary care to avoid euthanising beloved pets.

PETstock Assist is donating \$30,000, to support ACT Pet Crisis Support’s opening of a mobile vet clinic and support low-income pet owners that struggle to secure an appointment at a traditional vet clinic due to the recent increase in pet ownership.

Charity and Events Lead, Jessica Curtis, says the recent donation further supports disadvantaged members of the pet community across Canberra and local regions allowing them to receive greater access to lifesaving veterinary care.

“No matter the owner’s financial situation, we believe that all pets deserve the opportunity to receive proper care,” says Jessica. “Access to affordable care and procedures will not only give owners peace of mind financially, but also reduce animal euthanasia rates and surrenders within the community.

“We’re so proud to partner with ACT Pet Crisis Support. While this donation will go a long way in supporting owners and their furry companions in the ACT, the charity does rely solely on donations from the community to help fund their incredible work.”

ACT Pet Crisis Support founder and veterinarian, Dr Eloise Bright, says that the generous donation is going to help them double their impact and target disadvantages pet owners.

“Many pet owners don’t have the transport or resources to take their pet to the vet – this includes those pet owners that live in aged care and those with disabilities.

“Given the increase in pet ownership during COVID, one of the biggest obstacles that we face is that vet clinics are very busy and often booked out weeks in advance.

“We would receive desperate emails from pet owners who were unable to get an appointment with a vet. We thought the ideal solution was to open our own mobile clinic to specifically help low-income pet owners.

“We hope to double our impact in 2022-2023, targeting those pet owners who don’t have transport and may have never taken their pet to the vet.

“Thanks to PETstock Assist, the donation allows us to expand our service through a mobile clinic and ease the burden on our already overworked veterinary community so that they can continue looking after their existing clients.”

For more information or to apply for a donation, please visit www.petstock.com.au/pages/petstock-assist-grant-program.

TREAT YOUR DOG TO THE GOOD STUFF, WITHOUT THE JUNK

Leading pet supplement brand, ZamiPet, launches a new range of dog treats that support positive reinforcement and improve your dog's overall health and wellbeing.

HappiTreats, made in Melbourne, are packed with vitamins and minerals to improve treat time, enabling dog owners to give rewards without the guilt.

ZamiPet Head Vet Dr Andrew McKay said with 40 per cent of dogs in Australia experiencing obesity and up to 70 per cent displaying signs of anxiety, pets needed healthier options for treats, as treating is an important part of the human-dog relationship.

"Treats help us humans train our dogs via positive reinforcement, particularly as we return to work from lockdown and need to incentivise the right behaviour during this adjustment period," he said.

"Treats can also help us bond with our dogs. With so many dogs experiencing weight problems and signs of anxiety we knew there needed to be a guilt-free treat for owners and dogs so they can continue to develop this bond without contributing to potential health conditions."

HappiTreats consist of a five-product range, made from delicious, high quality Australian chicken and salmon

and formulated by leading Australian veterinarians. With no hidden nasties, HappiTreats are a tasty and nutritious snack for dogs with an added health and functional benefit, perfect for training purposes or simply spoiling your beloved pooch. The unique clover-shape chews can be broken into smaller pieces as required for a nutritious reward.

"Treating your pet is an important step in training them as well as developing that special bond between animal and owner. With HappiTreats, you can treat your dog without the junk and know that they're benefitting in other ways at the same time," said Dr McKay.

"HappiTreats, with their functional benefits, work in tandem with the current ZamiPet supplements range, and so by incorporating a combination of both into your dog's daily diet, you will see improvements to their gut and overall health.

"Just like everything though, moderation is key. HappiTreats contain a limited amount of calories, are healthy, tasty and will fill nutritional gaps via ingredients such as Omega 3s, prebiotics and turmeric. They also have an added functional benefit, unlike the other treats out there that contain 'empty' calories," added Dr McKay.



BEST TREAT ETIQUETTE:

- The best time to treat your pet is determined by the reason you are treating your dog. If you are using the treats to reward good behaviour during training, provide them immediately after they have behaved correctly after your command. If you are treating to improve or nurture the bond between yourself and your dog, then provide these treats between meals.
- Don't fall into the habit of rewarding bad behaviour. For instance, if your dog is chewing your shoe, don't remove the shoe & then provide a treat as they will see it as a reward for chewing your shoes!
- Spoiling your dog with treats too often can potentially have negative long-term impacts. If you are providing a number of treats throughout the day, reduce the size of the dogs main meal slightly.
- Refrain from feeding them table scraps as they often contain a large number of hidden calories.
- Consult your local vet to determine the appropriate number of main meals per day (usually 1-2) for your dog.

HELPING DOGS LIVE THEIR HEALTHIEST LIFE

New pet-health company ilume is giving thousands of dog owners the option to access chef-prepared meals, specifically personalised through technology to enhance and extend the lives of their dogs.

Dog owners in Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide can now experience the convenience of nutritious, human-grade food meals delivered right to their front door, and developed based on intuitive data and insights into their dogs' health needs.

ilume is the first pet health program to bring together nutrition and tech, using a collar tracker and companion app to make intelligent decisions based on pets' real-time data. Developed

in Melbourne, backed by science, powered by technology and made with love, ilume is leading a revolution and changing the way we feed our dogs.

The level of care ilume customers demonstrate for their pet's health and wellbeing is echoed in the company's values, with CEO and co-founder Craig Silbery having sold his \$700 million business, Life-Space probiotics, to launch ilume as a love letter to his two dogs, Tokyo and Murray, and to help the 23 million pet owners across Australia.

With degrees in science, human nutrition and psychology, Craig's passion is backed by knowledge: "We created ilume to empower pet owners and deliver a unique insight into our pets' worlds, something we've never had before. By harnessing this insight through the use of smart technology and scientifically backed, restaurant-quality food, ilume helps to create a happier and healthier life for our beloved four-legged friends. Our pets are now clearly defined as part of our families, and we've developed ilume to give us even longer time with them. "All meals are created in ilume's commercial kitchen, using only the freshest, human-grade, locally sourced produce, led by culinary director Gary Sauer."

Visit <https://www.weareilume.com/> for more information.



PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN A CURE: DELIVERING QUALITY VACCINES TO STOP THE SPREAD OF ANIMAL DISEASES

Amongst the many challenges facing animal health, preventing animal diseases is a core mission of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Immunising animals against diseases thanks to vaccination, when vaccines exist, is the best preventive method to stop their spread. Vaccination has even led to the full eradication of Rinderpest, once a deadly livestock disease. Well aware of the severe health and socio-economic consequences animal diseases can have, the OIE, along with partners and donors, has made a goal to deliver high-quality animal vaccines to countries in need, by setting up vaccine banks.

As the old saying goes, prevention is better than a cure. This could not be truer, as we have to tackle several animal disease epidemics throughout the world, with devastating impacts, not only on animal health, but also on livelihoods, food security, international trade, and sometimes on human health. Vaccine-preventable diseases such as rabies, peste des petits ruminants (PPR) or foot and mouth disease (FMD) can be contained since we have a tool to stop them: vaccination.

Animal vaccination against the main livestock diseases is used with the aim of fighting diseases to improve the living conditions of breeders, supply the population with animal products and fight against poverty.

Dr Idriss Oumar Alfaroukh, PRAPS Coordinator

However, implementing effective animal vaccination campaigns can be challenging. Having the resources to purchase and deliver quality vaccines, sometimes in remote areas, while respecting storage and transportation factors to keep the vaccines properties, can be difficult.

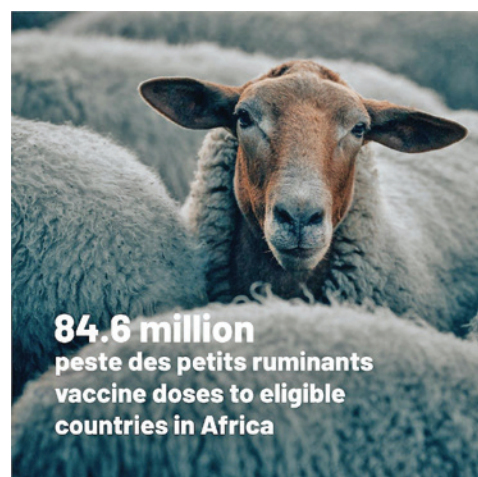
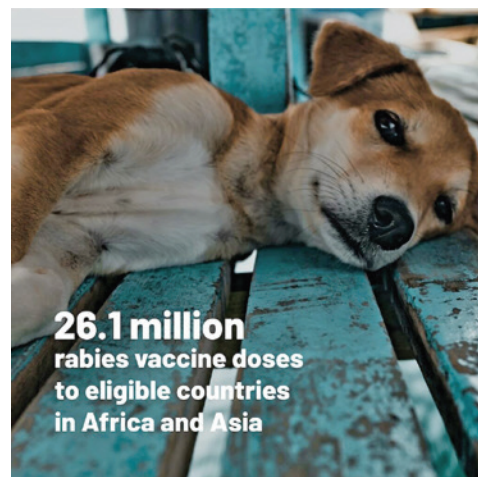
This is why the OIE, with the support of donors and partners, has set up vaccine banks for several diseases. Since the creation of its first vaccine bank to control avian influenza in 2006, the OIE has helped its Members in addressing several animal diseases. The OIE vaccine banks allow the delivery of high-quality vaccines complying with OIE International Standards in a timely manner and at a pre-established low and fixed price. Because vaccines are dispatched safely and rapidly, the beneficiary countries can focus on other essential aspects of their national disease strategies, such as raising awareness, training vaccinators or improving biosecurity measures, etc.

As of December 2021, the OIE vaccine banks have enabled the delivery of a significant amount of doses against rabies, FMD and PPR.

In 2021, the FMD vaccine bank was closed. As of January 2022, the rabies and PPR vaccine banks remain active.

For more information on how vaccine banks work, you can visit the website www.oie.int

SOURCE: World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)



Pharmachem's ADVANCED FLY CONTROL RANGE FOR HORSES

For as long as can be remembered, "Fly Sprays" have been the go-to product for horse owners.

To be effective, however, they need to be applied at least once a day (sometimes twice). A majority of them will simply wash off with rain or sweat.

"THERE HAD TO BE A BETTER WAY"

Pharmachem took up the challenge to find a product that not only has superior protection but is also easier to apply.

So they developed not one, but two products creating a new generation of fly control for horses.

SWAT™ WIPE-ON" | SHIELD "POUR-ON"

Manufactured here in Australia, these products provide **"ONCE A WEEK"** superior protection against flies and biting insects.

Applied differently, both products give the horse owner not only convenience but products that actually work.

SWAT™ is a **"Ready to Use"** **"WIPE ON"** application. It utilises its powerful 87g/L Permethrin concentrate (from the Pyrethroid family) to great effect by killing flies and biting insects as they land. Simply apply the dose (maximum of 30mL per 500kg horse) to a mitt or cloth and wipe on where the flies congregate (particularly effective for stable fly and horse flies).

Alternatively, apply as an "all over" protection. To achieve this, apply half the dose to the mitt or cloth and wipe one side as per the directions. Then apply the second half of the dose to the other side.

SHIELD is a **"Ready to Use"** **"POUR-ON"** application. Referred to as the "Spot-on" for horses, it utilises its 40g/L Permethrin concentrate by spreading through the waxy layer of the horse's skin. As flies migrate around the horse, it kills them as they land. Easy to apply, it's highly effective and convenient.

Both products are rain and sweat-resistant, provide long-lasting protection and are safe to use on pregnant mares and foals over 12 weeks of age. SHIELD and SWAT™ are both non-systemic (they don't absorb into the bloodstream).

Refer to the Pharmachem website for full directions and capabilities of each product.

**So give flies the flick and embrace the
NEW generation of fly control for horses.**



BYE-BYE-FLY™ 





URGENT CLIMATE ACTION NEEDED TO PROTECT ANIMALS & PETS, VETS SAY

The latest IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report documents widespread and critical impacts on people and the natural world from increasingly frequent and intense heatwaves, droughts, bushfires, storms and floods. Some impacts are now irreversible.

Veterinarians for Climate Action are committed to bringing a halt to climate change to protect the health and welfare of all animals, livestock, unique Australian wildlife and much loved pets. Dr Helen McGregor is a veterinary consultant supporting farmers and vets across Australia. She says: “Veterinarians in rural and regional Australia are already experiencing the impacts of climate change on the farm businesses and communities they work with. Without urgent action for change, this will only increase.”

“Heat stress can adversely affect livestock growth, reproductive success and milk production. The impacts of climate change are already being felt across the agricultural industry. An increase in the number of hot days is also contributing to more severe droughts and changes in rainfall patterns are leading to both water shortages and impactful flooding.”

In cities and other built up areas with extensive roads or paved surfaces and few trees, temperatures are predicted to warm more than 4°C by the end of the century unless strong climate action is taken with drastic cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. Taking dogs for a walk on overheated pavements risks burning the pads of their feet. Heat stroke, leading to organ failure and death, may occur when there is no shade provided, when animals are left alone in houses or vehicles or during excessive exercise.

The IPCC report stresses the importance of healthy environments and biodiversity. Australia is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world. Climate change is already damaging precious ecosystems, from forests to alpine areas. Nearly three billion animals – mammals, reptiles, birds, and frogs – were killed or displaced by the 2019-20 bushfires in Australia. The number of critically endangered species is rising.

Without political commitment and action, the latest IPCC report confirms there is worse to come and faster than scientists had thought. Veterinarians for Climate Action urge all governments in Australia to take vigorous action this decade to bring climate change under control. Australia must aim to achieve net zero emissions by 2035, contributing to the global effort to manage this crisis. There must be a rapid shift away from fossil fuels to a fully renewable-powered economy.

ABOUT VETERINARIANS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

VfCA is a national, not-for-profit, registered charity with over 1,400 members, mostly from the veterinary and broader animal care community. We help tackle climate change by:

- reducing emissions within the veterinary and animal care sectors,
- encouraging members to advocate for strong climate policies
- inspiring the public to take and advocate for climate action.

Our Patron is Professor Peter Doherty, veterinary surgeon, Nobel Laureate and Australian of the Year in 1997. Thirty former Chief Veterinary Officers from all States and Territories work alongside us. We are evidence-based and informed by published scientific findings.



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Take your practice forward with the **Veterinary Dental Education Centre.**

Develop the confidence and skills to start offering exceptional standards of dental care, regardless of your previous experience.

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- ✓ Attend live presentations/webinars for veterinarians/technicians/nurses
- ✓ Visit Melbourne, Australia and attend our practical hands-on courses
- ✓ Receive support from Dr David Clarke, Diplomate, American Veterinary Dental College and Dr Angus Fechney, Massey University (Resident in Veterinary Dentistry)



Visit www.vdec.com.au

BRINGING CALM TO PARROTS WITH STRESS AND ANXIETY



Pet birds become stressed for a range of reasons and show signs of their stress and anxiety in sometimes life-threatening ways.

Vetafarm, Australia's leading innovator in companion animal health and welfare, is proud to launch Parrot B-Calm, the world's first complete parrot calming pellet diet, and put a spotlight on pet bird stress, anxiety and wellbeing.

"Whilst there are pet bird calming supplements on the market, Parrot B-Calm pellets are the only complete diet that has calming effects and provides the rest of their nutrition as well," said Dr Tony Gestier, Avian Veterinarian and Director of Vetafarm.

Parrot B-Calm is a functional complete diet formulated by avian veterinarians that provides balanced nutrition and supports the reduction of stress and anxiety with natural ingredients. Made with the amino acid L-Tryptophan – a natural precursor for the synthesis of serotonin in the brain – the non-drowsy and non-sedative action is balanced with fresh Australian whole grains, vitamins, minerals and turmeric to support your bird's health and wellbeing.

Vetafarm's resident parrot trainer Carmen McGill has been working with birds for more than 30 years and rescue parrot Miranda was the worst rehabilitation case she had ever seen.

The beautiful Macaw had been severely traumatised by a bigger and stronger male bird, did not trust anyone and could not fly.

Miranda nearly died from blood loss due to self-mutilation, repeatedly ripping out her tail feathers and screaming. Carmen spent three years rehabilitating Miranda, which took a lot of patience, love, tears and determination to win the parrot's trust.

Halfway through Miranda's rehabilitation, Carmen began trialling Parrot B-Calm. "Within a week I could clearly see a difference!" she said. "Parrot B-Calm took the edge off – it wasn't making her sleepy, just more relaxed."

Today, Miranda has all her feathers, a boyfriend named Ares and laughs a lot, just like Carmen! And she can fly! "Of course, behavioural training is still required as Parrot B-Calm is not a 'fix all' but an aid for birds who are stressed and anxious," she added.

PHARMAUST MONEPANTEL TRIAL

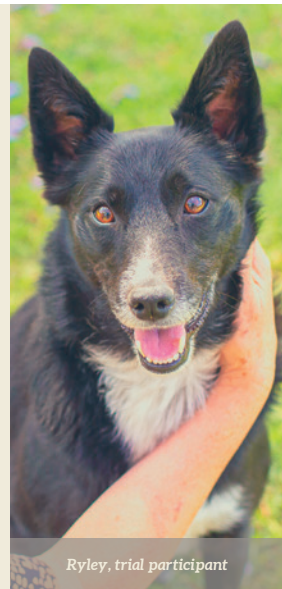
B CELL LYMPHOMA CLINICAL TRIAL : DOGS NEEDED

Biotech company PharmAust is calling out for pet dogs with treatment naive B cell lymphoma to finalise evaluation of a promising newly formulated anti-cancer drug

The Monepantel (MPL) clinical trial program in Australia is transitioning from Phase 2 to Phase 3!

For more information, trial entry criteria or to refer a patient for the trial, contact your nearest Veterinary Trial Clinic located in NSW, QLD and WA at www.pharmaust.com/petdogtrial

Pet owner trial testimonials can be found at: www.pharmaust.com/veterinary-trial-testimonials



Ryley, trial participant



TIPS FOR MANAGING AND PREVENTING STRESS AND ANXIETY IN PARROTS

- Patience and calmness are always required when dealing with a stressed and anxious parrot. Understanding the source of your bird's stress is very important.
- Make sure the cage is a suitable size with the right components, including multi-level tree branch perches from the top to the lower level of the cage. Half covering the cage with shelter enables your bird to hide from any threats, helping them to feel safe.
- During times of change, such as moving location or routine, transition slowly giving your bird time to familiarise them with these changes.
- If you've been together with your bird for long periods of time, you can reduce the effects of separation anxiety by giving your bird time alone, then gradually extending the time alone to prepare them for the change.
- Provide a calm environment in your home with reduced noise to minimise their stress.
- Regularly provide your bird with foraging enrichment. Foraging is the instinctive behaviour of searching for and obtaining food. Foraging enrichment can involve hanging fresh vegetables and fruits around the cage. Look for ways to make your bird work for their food.
- Regularly provide other stimulating activities that involve chewing, shredding and playing. Natural leaves, branches and gum nuts are great for chewing. Observe your bird and offer different toys to keep their beaks busy.
- Minimise over handling of your pet parrot. If they start to bite, they are communicating that they have had enough and need some quiet time in their enclosure.
- Make sure your bird has fresh water daily and the correct diet as mentioned above, including Vetafarm's Parrot-B Calm. Feed Parrot B-Calm to the ratio of 10% of their body weight. This is important as an inadequate diet can lead to vitamin and mineral deficiency triggering stress and illness.

COVID PANDEMIC INCREASED BIRD OWNERSHIP AND IMPACTED BIRD HEALTH

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Carmen has seen an increase in parrot ownership, but now that people are going back to the office, their feathered friends are home alone and stressed from boredom and separation anxiety.

Symptoms of stress in birds include excessive screaming/vocalisation, over-preening/cleaning or plucking feathers, walking around the cage incessantly, doing somersaults (head flips), flattening their feathers and trembling, or other behaviours that are out of the ordinary.

"Parrots are highly intelligent and need mental stimulation," said Carmen. "If they are left in a cage with no stimulation, they become bored and start exhibiting behaviours that are quirky and potentially harmful."

Moulting, mating, over handling and changes to environment or routine, such as a new baby or pet, can also cause stress in parrots. Plus, a poor diet, lack of exercise or even interrupted or insufficient sleep can trigger stress. "The correct parrot diet involves parrot pellets, fresh fruit and vegetables. Nuts and seeds can also be used as treats in moderation," said Carmen.

"A correct diet is vital in supporting a parrot's mental and physical wellbeing and combined with behavioural training achieves amazing results!"



VET NURSE & PRACTICE MANAGER LAUNCHES VET NURSE SCHOOL

Local Vet Nurse and Practice Manager of The Point Vet, Tess Nolan has recognised a gap in the vet industry career path for Vet Nurses and is aiming high to highlight the underrated and overlooked career as a veterinary nurse and increase the amount of vet industry workers.

It's becoming common knowledge that the vet industry is drowning. The amount of currently qualified Veterinarians and Veterinary Nurses verse the evergrowing amount of pets is astonishing. The Australian Veterinary Association recently shared the statistics. There are 125,000 doctors for 26 million people. There are only 13,500 vets for 30.4 million pets.

We need to help more people navigate their way to a career in the veterinary industry. Vets, Vet Nurses, Vet Techs and everything in between. "I realised there is this huge gap. Where people would love to work with animals, but are not sure where and how to get started. That is why I have created Vet Nurse School to fill this gap and streamline people into the veterinary

industry. The struggles with the vet industry is you need experience with animals. When you apply for a job everyone can most likely use microsoft word, but not everyone can safely restrain a 65kg Rottweiler. My courses are created to assist you in getting this hands on experience. With the hopes to one day, benefit us all in the industry, ease the burden, reduce the amount of burn out, compassion fatigue and staggering statistics of people who leave the industry."

Tess has been able to utilise her social media followers to find a huge amount of like-minded animal lovers and she's teaching them how it is easily possible.

Find out more;

Instagram - Vet Nurse School

Tiktok - TessVetNurse

Website - vetnurseschool.com

PET OWNERSHIP BARRIERS TO BE BROKEN DOWN

Pet charity Paws for a Purpose are conducting a national survey to learn about the key factors that may be preventing wider pet ownership in Australia.

Pet ownership provides valuable social and health benefits to both the pet and their owner, yet many people, including the vulnerable and elderly, are often unable to experience pet ownership.

Dr Mark Kelman, co-founder and CEO of Paws for a Purpose, says discovering why people are unable to own pets is key to finding ways to help spread the benefits of pet ownership – with "pets" defined as any domesticated creatures ranging from insects to horses.

"Pets provide unconditional companionship and owning one can improve wellbeing and alleviate loneliness and isolation in our communities," says Dr Kelman.

"Yet if you are vulnerable, elderly, disadvantaged or on a low income, pet ownership can often be out of reach, due to a plethora of circumstances.

"We've designed this Pet Ownership Survey to better understand how and why people can and can't own pets, as first step towards developing projects to support those most in need of help to own a pet or keep their current pets.

"We need your help. Please take a few minutes to complete our confidential Pet Ownership Survey as we strive to understand barriers to more people owning pets."

You can complete the survey here:

www.pawsforapurpose.org/petownershipsurvey

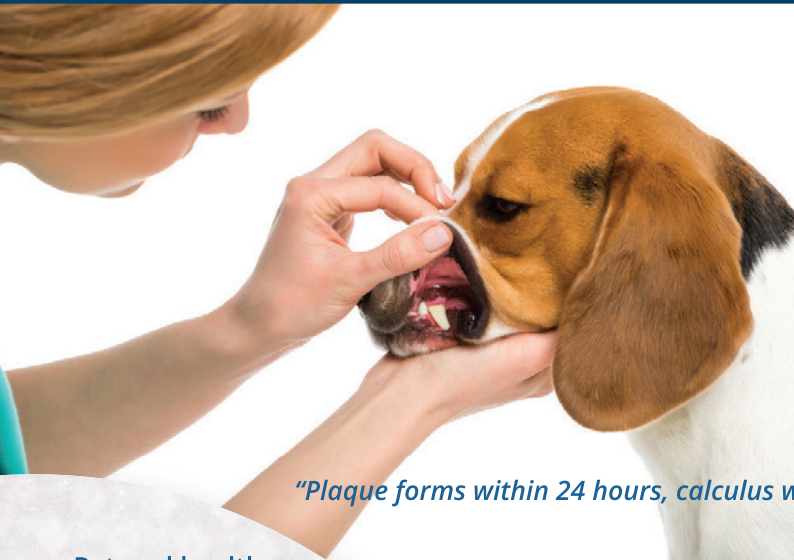
The survey takes 5 to 15 minutes to complete. The information collected in this survey will be used for research purposes only. All responses remain completely anonymous, and your identity will never be linked to any answers.



Zinc: Plaque's natural enemy



BRUCE ADDISON, Veterinary Microbiologist • Addison Biological Laboratory, Inc.



"Plaque forms within 24 hours, calculus within 3 days and gingivitis begins as early as 2 weeks."

— WSAVA.org

Pet oral health care is an ongoing challenge for pet owners and veterinary teams. Periodontal disease is the number one health problem in small animal patients, according to the American Kennel Club. By age 3, more than 80 percent of dogs and cats have some form of periodontal, or gum disease. Pet owner resistance to in-clinic dental procedures that involve x-rays and anesthesia is well known.

To optimize pet health, **the starting point for comprehensive oral care must be in the home** where bad breath is the primary warning sign. Most veterinary clinic personnel miss the opportunity to educate pet owners about daily oral care and promote in-home solutions for their pets.

Quite simply, "a chew alone won't do."



Working with natural zinc compounds, Addison Biological Laboratory pioneered the use of a natural, zinc-based compound that is safe for daily use, inexpensive, taste-free and provides excellent pet acceptance. The unique formula works to break down plaque on contact and can be used daily without brushing.

Addison's neutralized zinc is a combination of select amino acids and zinc. Taurine and zinc gluconate form a complex bond that inhibits the precipitation of zinc in the neutral pH (6.7 – 7.0) range. In this narrow pH range, an oral zinc preparation delivers increased bioavailability that ensures its duration of effect and efficacy.

"Zinc is well documented to tie up sulfur compounds in the oral cavity which are a primary cause of bad breath, the first signal of impending dental disease." — Bruce Addison, Veterinary Microbiologist, President and Founder

Putting zinc to work

New to the MAXI/GUARD® product family are MAXI/GUARD® Oral Cleansing Wipes. They provide a proprietary neutralized zinc oral care compound on a textured applicator wipe. They are recommended for daily in-home use.

MAXI/GUARD® Oral Cleansing Wipes

Features / Functions

- Taste free
- Oral product and applicator all-in-one
- Neutralized zinc formulation
- Quick and easy wipe application
- 100 textured wipes per large container

Benefits

- Increases pet acceptance
- No mess; more sanitary than a toothbrush
- Removes plaque; resolves offensive mouth odors
- Supports pet owner compliance
- Up to 100 days of effective daily oral care

email: info@k9gums.com.au ph: (03) 8795 0050

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ONE HEALTH PRINCIPLES PROTECT HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH

The outbreak in Australia's eastern states of Japanese Encephalitis, a zoonotic virus that is potentially fatal to humans, pigs and horses demonstrates the complex and critical interrelationship between the health of people, animals and the environment, Animal Medicines Australia (AMA), the peak body representing veterinary medicines and animal health in Australia, said.

This connection and its principles, termed 'One Health' originated in the early 2000's in response to the SARS pandemic and has been subsequently developed and endorsed via a collaboration between the FAO, OIE and WHO (the Tripartite). As a concept, One Health can help governments, industries and communities better respond to illness and diseases, said Ben Stapley, Executive Director of Animal Medicines Australia.

“One Health is a governing set of principles that recognises the health of humans is increasingly entwined to the health of animals and our shared environments,” said Mr. Stapley.

“This approach has become more important than ever in the past decade as environmental, social and economic issues have changed interactions between people, animals, plants, and our environment.”

Recent deaths in Australia as a result of Japanese Encephalitis are a tragic reminder of the need for effective biosecurity as well as innovative new animal health tools and diagnostics.

By ensuring that our animals are protected from zoonotic diseases such as Japanese Encephalitis, we can prevent these diseases being transmitted to humans.

“Australia has an enviable record on the global stage in protecting the health of its livestock, equine and companion animals against deadly zoonotic diseases such as rabies and foot and mouth disease,” says Mr. Stapley.

“However, with two people sadly deceased and 19 other people infected with this outbreak, it highlights the fact human and animal health are intrinsically linked. While the immediate focus is rightly on human health impacts, we should not overlook the serious impact Japanese Encephalitis also has on animal health and welfare.”

According to global animal health association, Health for Animals, 60% of diseases in the world are zoonotic which means they are transmissible between animals and humans, with the majority thought to originate from wildlife. Rabies, one of the world's deadliest zoonotic diseases, kills 59,000 people a year.

Mr. Stapley says as a human vaccine is rolled out to people in high-risk areas in Australia's eastern states, there is currently no animal vaccine for Japanese Encephalitis registered in Australia by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association (APVMA).

“In Australia, the vaccination of pigs is not routinely recommended for the control of Japanese Encephalitis in an outbreak situation,” says Mr. Stapley.

“However, in Southeast Asia where Japanese Encephalitis is endemic, a preventative vaccine is used in pig populations at the start of the mosquito season to slow the spread of the virus and reduce the risk to human populations where human and



pig populations have a significant interface. It also reduces production losses in pig populations. By protecting the health of animals, we are simultaneously protecting people from zoonotic diseases.”

Japanese Encephalitis attacks the brain and spinal cord of vertebrate animals and is particularly prevalent in pigs, horses, migratory water birds and some livestock birds, such as chickens and ducks. It cannot be contracted by eating pork or poultry products, says Mr. Stapley and is transmitted to humans via a mosquito which has bitten an infected animal.

“If an appropriate vaccine for horses is available during an outbreak, voluntary vaccination of horses in and near transmission areas may be encouraged to limit disease and improve animal welfare outcomes,” says Mr. Stapley.

“With regards to Japanese Encephalitis, horses are dead-end vectors which means while horses are not immune to getting this virus, they do not spread it any further unlike pigs or poultry. Clinical disease in other domestic livestock species is rare, and the scientific view is that vaccination is not warranted.”

There are currently vaccines against Japanese Encephalitis for pigs and horses, but no vaccines for poultry. It is believed this outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis was caused by the proliferation of mosquitoes and infected migratory water birds attracted by recent flood waters.

Ben Stapley says the veterinary medicines industry is at the forefront of developing and delivering new animal health products and stands ready to supply animal health tools and expertise during zoonotic disease outbreaks.

“Protecting and maintaining the health of companion animals and our animal industries is essential to meet Australia’s ongoing animal health challenges, and in the context of our global One Health principles, both are vital to humans and animals and to the environment we all share” says Mr. Stapley.

SOURCE: Animal Medicines Australia

ABOUT ANIMAL MEDICINES AUSTRALIA

Animal Medicines Australia Ltd (AMA) is the peak industry body representing the leaders of the animal health industry in Australia.

Animal Medicines Australia member companies are the innovators, manufacturers, formulators and registrants of a broad range of veterinary medicine products that prevent, control and cure disease across the companion animal, livestock and equine sectors.

In the livestock sector, member company products are improving agricultural yield while delivering improved environmental, health, safety and animal welfare outcomes.

In the companion animal sector, veterinary medicines produced by member companies are facilitating longer partnerships between humans and animals.

Animal Medicines Australia works closely with a variety of industry organisations to promote an evidence based approach to public policy.

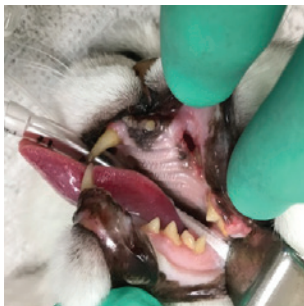
ORAL SURGERY IN A DIABETIC GERIATRIC CAT TO REPAIR AN ORO-NASAL FISTULA

Dr David E Clarke BVSc Diplomate AVDC Fellow AVD Registered Specialist, Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery. Dr Leah Bradbury Registered Specialist, Veterinary Anaesthesia

Oro-nasal fistulas may be caused periodontal disease or as a sequela of extraction. Diagnosis may be obtained using a periodontal probe, seen as haemorrhage from the nostril, or visualised after extraction. Fistulas require surgical closure to prevent constant influx of food and liquid into the nasal cavity and possible aspiration pneumonia. In minor, acute or recent fistula formation, closure involves extraction of the tooth root related to the fistula and closure with a single mucogingival flap. It is not possible to repair the fistula without extracting the canine tooth once the infection has communicated with the nasal cavity. In chronic fistulas, infection and inflammation may need to be controlled prior to surgery.

“Billy” is a 13-year-old male desexed Burmilla who presented for anaesthesia and dentistry to extract a retained maxillary canine tooth root and correct an oronasal fistula. Besides age related concerns, “Billy” is also a diabetic and has renal insufficiency.

The left sided oro-nasal fistula (Figure 1) was first noticed by the owner and then confirmed by their veterinarian, who referred Billy for our services.



ALERTS

- Feline
- Geriatric
- Diabetic
- Renal

Figure 1. The left sided oro-nasal fistula.

Before commencing any anaesthetic it is helpful to construct a list of alerts for that patient. Prior to induction of anaesthesia ensure that you revisit the list and have addressed each of these concerns. Following the CEPSAF (Confidential enquiry into Peri anaesthetic Small Animal Fatalities) in 2008 by Brodbelt it was highlighted that healthy cats were more likely to suffer an anaesthetic related death when compared to dogs. With the highest risk time being the recovery period. In addition to this, increased age, independent of disease status has been identified as another important risk factor. Older cats are less able to compensate for the cardiorespiratory depressant effects of anaesthesia and they are more prone to hypothermia and protracted recoveries.

Ideally patients with diabetes should have their disease well regulated prior to induction of anaesthesia. Anaesthesia should also be performed early in the day avoiding prolonged fasting. The patient should be fasted overnight and on admission a blood glucose be taken. Fluids and insulin can then be administered as per the table below. Blood glucose should then be measured at regular intervals until the patient is eating.

	BG < 6mmolL	BG 6-11mmolL	BG >11mmolL
Insulin	None	¼ usual am dose	½ usual am dose
Fluids	Supplement Hartmanns to make a 1-5% dextrose solution	Supplement Hartmanns to make a 1-5% dextrose solution	Withold dextrose until BG < 8mmolL

Patients with renal disease should be stabilised prior to anaesthesia. Diuresis of azotaemic patients may be warranted using 1.5 - 2x maintenance fluids. Care should be taken to avoid fluid overload especially in cats. No one anaesthetic protocol has been shown to be better for renal disease. However, a plan to monitor and maintain adequate blood pressure and renal perfusion is essential.

On admission to hospital “Billy” had blood taken and was placed on Hartmann’s fluids at a rate of 3mL/kg/hr. Bloods revealed a mild azotaemia and a blood glucose of 8.3mmolL. Fluids made up to a 2.5% glucose solution and were continued for 3 hours prior to induction of anaesthesia. A quarter dose of insulin was administered.

Premedication of methadone and induction with alfaxalone and midazolam was performed. Anaesthesia was maintained with isoflurane in oxygen via a bain breathing system. Pulse oximetry, capnography, ECG and Doppler blood pressure were monitored. Mepivacaine local nerve blocks were used to provide a balanced analgesic plan. Intra-operative hypotension was managed using depth adjustment and a constant rate infusion of dopamine. “Billy” was kept normothermic via the use of a forced warm air blanket. His blood glucose was checked every 30mins throughout surgery.

Once Billy’s anaesthesia was stabilised, the oral cavity was examined and full mouth radiographs taken. A retained maxillary left canine root tooth (black arrows) was visualised within the oro-nasal fistula and the exact position confirmed by radiography using the #2 DR sensor and a periodontal probe (Figure 2). It was hypothesised that the ongoing root infection and Diabetic condition contributed to the lack of socket healing and oro-nasal fistula.

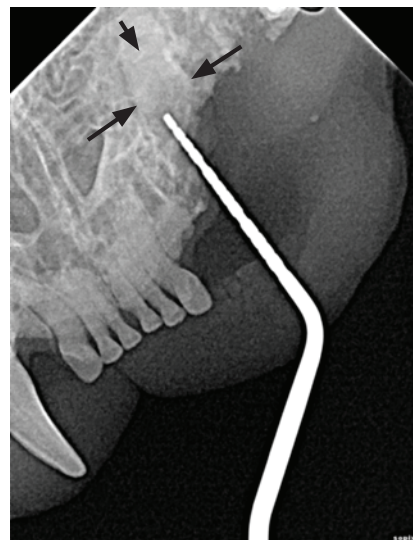


Figure 2. Radiograph of retained tooth root.

PROCEDURE

1

The edges of the fistula are debrided with a #15 scalpel blade by excising 1mm from the fistula edge.

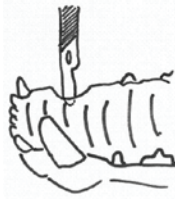


Figure 3. The circular incision around the oro-nasal fistula edges ensures fresh epithelial edges are available.

2

Diverging releasing incisions at the mesial and distal aspects of the fistula are extended apically into the mucosa so that the ensuring flap has adequate size and can be sutured under no tension. The base of the harvested flap should be 3x the width of the fistula, whilst the donor edge should be 2x this distance, as the flap will shrink once it is cut.



Figure 4. Diagram showing a black circle, which represents the oro-nasal fistula and the dotted lines represent the incisions to be made.

3

A periosteal elevator is then used to raise the mucoperiosteum using a Molt 2/4 periosteal elevator (Figure 5) and the tooth root extracted (Figure 6) with a 1.3S-XS dental elevator. Ideally the periosteum should be removed from the underlying bone to give the flap some strength and a better blood supply.



Figure 5. The diverging dorsal incisions allow the underlying mucoperiosteal tissue to be raised as a flap using a periosteal elevator.

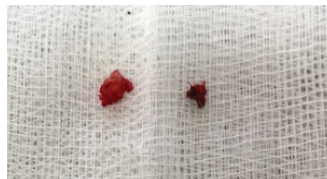


Figure 6. Extracted tooth root.

The area was palpated and sharp bony edges were found and confirmed on radiograph (Figure 7). These were removed using a #2 diamond bur on a high speed water cooled handpiece. Radiographs confirmed smooth bony margins (Figure 8).

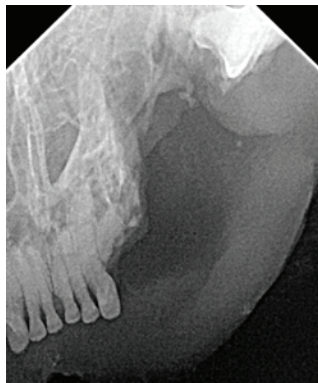


Figure 7. Radiograph showing rough bony edges.



Figure 8. Radiograph showing smooth bony edges.

The flap is drawn coronally to cover the fistula and sutured with simple interrupted sutures of an absorbable material (Figure 9). I like to use 5/0 suture in cats.

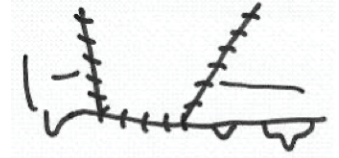


Figure 9. The harvested mucoperiosteal flap is closed over the ONF with simple interrupted sutures with no tension.

Home care involves dispensing clindamycin 11mg/kg bid 10 days, NSAIDs, an E collar and soft chunks of meat for 10 days. I ask the owner not to open the mouth or look at the surgical site or commence tooth brushing during this time.

“Billy” recovered quickly from anaesthesia. His pain score in recovery was low and he was monitored closely for the first 3 hours.

On recheck 48 hours post surgery, Billie’s owner reported he had recovered from his dental experience and eating/drinking normally.

On his 14 day recheck he was recovering well, the sutures were asdasdwd



Figure 10: 30 days post surgery healed flap.

INCREASE SUCCESS BY:

- a. Ensure flap is large, it is better to cut a too large flap than a too small flap
- b. Ensure donor flap has adequate periosteum for strength
- c. Ensure flap is sutured without tension
- d. Homecare is paramount.

GLOBAL CAT OWNER SURVEY REVEALS CHALLENGES TO FINDING SUITABLE PET FOOD

Most pet parents like to buy food that is good for their animal's health and well-being, but choosing the right product and brand proves to be difficult.

A survey carried out by GlobalPETS and Yummypets in Canada, the US, the UK and France highlights the differences in buyer preferences between consumers in the different countries.

The survey concludes that most cat owners (40%) stick to the same cat food brand. On the other hand, 37% like to experiment and continuously look for new flavors or brands their cat might enjoy even more.

UK cat parents are more likely to vary the brands and flavors they buy (48%), while only 29% of Canadians follow this behavior.

When it comes to feeding, 54% of respondents prioritize products that are good for the cat's health. However, 62% of owners find it difficult to choose a product that matches their cat's nutritional or health needs.

Consumers also value that the cat likes the taste (21%) and that the food is high quality (15%). UK and US owners are the most concerned about the taste of the food and if their cat likes it or not, French the least. For French owners, it's most important that cat food is beneficial for their cat's health.

PURCHASING DECISIONS

While 7 out of 10 cat parents like to go to a physical store to buy food for their felines, consumers in the UK (80%) and US (79%) are the most prominent ones - followed by Canadians (65%) and French (62%).

Half of the cat parents state that the quality of ingredients is the most important factor when purchasing cat food. At the same time, 66% of respondents find it difficult to determine whether the ingredients used are actually beneficial for their animal's health.

The second most important factor seems to be the brand (for 44% of owners). Yet, most owners (57%) find it difficult to pick a good brand. US owners tend to be guided more by the brand in their purchasing decisions, than owners in other countries.



OTHER DIFFERENCES

Other differences between the buying behaviors and preferences of cat owners in the different countries:

- French consumers and the older generations are the most likely to never give treats to their felines.
- About one in five owners in Canada and France base purchasing decisions on recommendations from their vets. Only one in ten owners do so in the UK and the US.
- Price is an important factor for 34% of respondents. UK cat owners are influenced by the price the most, whereas French consumers care a little less about price.
- UK owners tend to look for age-appropriate food more often than owners in other countries, while US and Canadian owners find this aspect of small importance.
- 25- to 54-year old's do most of their cat food purchases online. Canadian cat owners buy online the least and are more likely to buy in pet retail stores.
- Products that mention they're grain-free are important for 12% of respondents, predominantly in France and Canada.
- British cat owners and the younger generations are most open to the idea of feeding their felines food with alternative proteins. French respondents take to the idea of alternative protein the least, while elderly respondents are much less outspoken on this topic.

A total of 1,776 pet owners responded to the survey, carried out in March.

ABOUT GLOBALPETS

GlobalPETS is the go-to resource for the international pet industry, offering the latest industry news, in-depth reports, and the latest trends and market figures. Their flagship magazine - PETS International - has been the leading B2B publication for the international pet industry since 1988. It is published six times a year reaching over 40,000 decision-makers in the pet industry in 130+ countries.

ABOUT YUMMYPETS

Yummypets is the ultimate online destination for pet parents, connecting with more than 3 million members from around the world. Just as LinkedIn is the go-to for work, Yummypets is the go-to for pet owners and their pets. Yummypets aims to be the worldwide leader when it comes to providing valuable pet parents' insights for the pet industry.

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