AUSTRALIAN

VETERINARIAN

Veterinary peak body calls on Government to wipe HECS debt p7

Australia's veterinarian industry in crisis p4

How, When, What and Why to Refer to a Veterinary Dental Specialist p20



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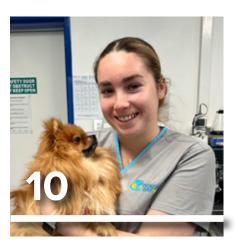
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THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARIAN

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AUSTRALIA'S VETERINARIAN INDUSTRY IN CRISIS AS NEW SURVEY REVEALS GRUELING WORKPLACE CONDITIONS

A new survey by Professionals Australia on veterinarian employment has revealed that Australia's veterinarian industry is in crisis, with veterinarians experiencing high stress, under-staffing, long working hours, customer abuse and low pay, resulting in extremely low morale and a suicide rate amongst veterinarians four times higher than the general population.

The in-depth *Veterinarian Employment Survey* conducted in August 2022, was completed by 510 veterinarians from across Australia, with 90 per cent of the respondents employed in private veterinarian practices.

Professionals Australia CEO Jill McCabe said the survey revealed an industry where many veterinarians faced grueling workplace conditions and held little hope for the future of the industry.

While deeply dedicated to their profession and to animal health and welfare, many veterinarians are experiencing stress and burnout due to increased work demands, long working hours, inadequate remuneration and grueling working conditions.

As a result, 77 per cent of vets are dissatisfied with the industry, 70 per cent would advise against embarking on a career as a vet and 30 per cent are planning to leave the industry within the next five years.

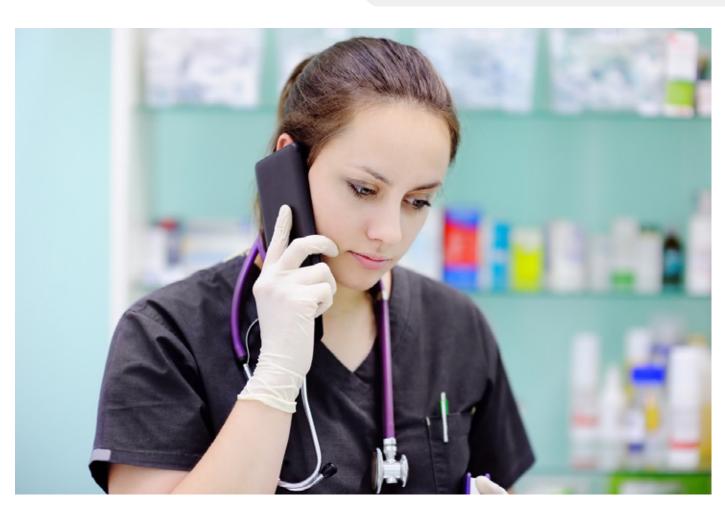
Ms McCabe said that poor working conditions and remuneration,

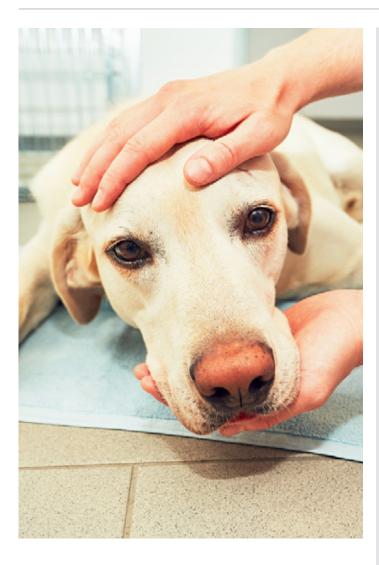
a lack of work life balance and wanting a change in career were the main reasons for veterinarians planning to leave the industry.

While already stretched, Australia's veterinarians had to contend with the addition of 3 million 'pandemic pets' in just two years, worsening existing issues with under staffing and unpaid overtime. As result, our already hard working veterinarians have been pushed to the absolute brink.

Demand for veterinary services increased during the pandemic and this further intensified workloads and pressure. As a result, many of our already hard-working veterinarians have been pushed to the absolute brink and are wanting to leave the industru.

"The level of study and cost of university education is not worth the income and hours worked"





Over a third of vets are dissatisfied with their pay – and believe their pay does not reflect the value of their skills or expertise and that they are poorly paid compared to other professions.

Given the significant amount of time and money that vets invest in their education, they are understandably dissatisfied with their pay and conditions.

Ms McCabe said the survey was an invaluable resource in understanding the problems that veterinarians face and would inform the development of much needed reforms in the industry, including those proposed by the Federal Government's new industrial relations reforms.

"These survey results clearly demonstrate the need for major industrial relations reform and clearly make the case for the measures proposed in the Albanese Government's Secure Jobs, Better Pay Bill, which will further assist vets to improve their pay and conditions by making bargaining more accessible.

"Our union will be working hard to drive improvements in veterinarians' pay and conditions through the industrial relations system and better health and safety practices in veterinarian workplaces, including mental health support for vets.

"We'll also be calling for greater government support for vets in regional areas and for lower costs for veterinarian education and training" Ms McCabe said.

KEY STATISTICS

Pay and remuneration

36 per cent of veterinarians were dissatisfied and 84 per cent believed they were poorly paid compared with other professions, and that their salary does not reflect the value of their skills and expertise.

State of the veterinarian industry

77 per cent of veterinarians reported they were dissatisfied with the state of the veterinarian industry.

Morale of veterinarians

70 per cent of veterinarians would not recommend a career in the veterinarian industry.

Working hours

a significant proportion of veterinarians worked excessive hours with 13 per cent working over 46 or 50 hours per

Unpaid overtime

36 per cent of veterinarians received no form of compensation for overtime.

Future employment plans

30 per cent of veterinarians planned to leave the industry within the next five years and 10 per cent were actively looking to leave immediately.

The key reasons for leaving given were 'poor working conditions and renumeration' and a 'lack of work life balance'.

> YOU CAN DOWNLOAD A FULL COPY OF THE VETERINARIAN **EMPLOYMENT SURVEY** HERE FREE OF CHARGE



GUIDE DOGS RECOGNISE COLES' TOP DOGS

Guide Dogs Australia has today revealed Coles' "top dogs" with Coles Mackay in Queensland taking out the honour of having the top fundraising coin Collection Dog in the country.

The much loved and iconic Collection Dog at Coles might not bark or move but it's been changing lives one coin at a time with the help of shoppers by raising over \$800,000 nationally for Guide Dogs Australia last financial year.

Every coin dropped into one of the beloved in-store Collection Dogs helps Guide Dogs assist someone with low vision, blindness or specialised support needs live a life without limits.

While dogs are what they're best known for, the charitable organisation also provides a range of services including Adult and Children's Mobility, Early Childhood Services, Assistive Technology, Occupational Therapy, Access Consulting, Advocacy, Therapy Dogs and more.

Coles' Top Dogs were awarded with their very own rosette worthy of any best in show and visits from Ambassador Dogs and puppies in training to thank customers and team members.

Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Ryan Jones thanked Coles and its team members and customers for their support.

"We're incredibly grateful that our coin Collection Dogs have found a loving home at Coles. It's been an amazing journey since we introduced the first Collection Dog at Coles 40 years ago to today having raised more than \$12 million from over 900 dogs across Australia," he said.

"It's also a truly special feeling to know that people who have been putting a gold coin in the Collection Dogs since the very beginning have now passed on that tradition to their children and grandchildren. I have done the same with my own little one!"

Guide Dogs Client Liz Wheeler said money raised by shoppers is helping her to live a life without limits with the support of Guide Dog Poppi.

"Poppi has made the ordinary for me not only possible, but extraordinary," she said.

"Nine years ago I lost my vision, my job and the ability to do ordinary things like cross roads or cook. I lost all hope, but then Guide Dogs gave me Poppi."

"It was hard to be scared to leave my front door when Poppi was so excited to go. With Poppi by my side, I achieved my goal of completing my studies - she graduated along with me and was even presented with her own honorary award!"

Coles General Manager Corporate & Indigenous Affairs Sally Fielke said Coles was proud of its long-standing partnership with Guide Dogs Australia.

"Coles is extremely proud to have raised over \$1 million for Guide Dogs Australia last financial year from Collection Dogs in our stores and the sales of specially marked reusable shopping baas."

"We couldn't have achieved this milestone without the generosity of our customers who have kept our Collection Dogs well fed and we can't thank them enough for their ongoing support. Every dollar raised can help to make a huge difference to the life of someone living with low vision, blindness or specialised support needs."

Coles has proudly been involved with Guide Dogs since the late 1930s when Lady Margaret Coles became interested in establishing a Guide Dogs Service in Australia. Lady Coles was an animal lover who dedicated her life to helping improve the bond between humans and animals.

Today, the partnership between Coles and Guide Dogs Australia has expanded to include hosting hundreds of the iconic Collection Dogs, selling reusable community bags to raise funds, and customer accessibility initiatives.

COLES' TOP DOGS BY STATE IN FY22

| QLD | NSW/ACT | VIC |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mackay | 1. Liverpool | 1. Dandenong (Princes Hwy) |
| 2. Sunnybank Hills | 2. Norwest | 2. Victoria Gardens |
| 3. Miami | 3. Broadway | 3. Keysborough |

| SA | TAS | WA | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| 1. Adelaide | 1. Eastlands | 1. Greenwood | |
| 2. Port Adelaide | 2. Glenorchy | 2. Belmont | |
| 3. Northpark | 3. Mowbray | 3. Midland | |

VETERINARY PEAK BODY CALLS ON **GOVERNMENT TO WIPE HECS DEBT** FOR REGIONAL VETS



Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) has doubled down on its call for the Federal Government to wipe the HECS debts of veterinary graduates who live and work in rural and remote

The call comes off the back of the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) also calling on the Federal Government to offer discounted course fees, loan offsets and HECS relief for veterinary students and graduates who live in the regions as part of their recommendations to the Jobs and Skills Summit.

"... not enough veterinary graduates are moving to the regions to fill these important roles, putting increasing pressure on the agricultural industry – a central pillar to Australia's economy."

AVA President Dr Bronwyn Orr said the tightening jobs market in rural and regional areas is causing great stress on the profession, and support is urgently needed for a sustainable veterinary presence in the regions.

"Vets play a critically important role in ensuring that commercial farms and their livestock remain healthy," Dr Orr said.

"But not enough veterinary graduates are moving to the regions to fill these important roles, putting increasing pressure on the agricultural industry – a central pillar to Australia's economy."

"In order to boost the attraction of working in the regions, we are calling on the Albanese Government to wipe the HECS debt for all graduates willing to live and work in the regions and use their skills to support agriculture."

NFF President Fiona Simson said the much-anticipated Jobs and Skills Summit provides an opportunity to address one of the root issues stunting Australia's farm sector: chronic labour shortages.

"Even before the pandemic, farmers were reducing planting or shifting to less labour-intensive produce," Ms Simson said.

"Recent weather has thrown curveballs at food production. Couple that with issues like the workforce crisis, and the results are devastating.

"Governments can't control the weather, but they can ease the workforce crisis."

The skills shortage has plagued the veterinary industry for years. In 2021, the AVA conducted a Workforce Survey which revealed that 31 per cent of practices advertising for vets were taking 12 months or longer to fill vacancies.

More information on the need to future-proof the veterinary profession can be found by scanning the QR code above.



ANTI-INFLAMMATORY HOME MADE DOG FOOD

Makes: 40 cups

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup chia seeds

1/2 cup hemp hearts

1 dozen eggs, hardboiled, peeled, and chopped

2 (12-ounce) packages or 4 cups uncooked quinoa, prepared

4 pounds ground sirloin, browned and drained

2 pounds (32-ounces) frozen green beans

4 cups fresh or frozen blueberries

2 (15-ounce) packages of frozen turnip greens

2 (10-ounce) packages of shredded carrots

6 tablespoons good quality olive oil or other oil that is rich in Omega 3's

4 cups uncooked quinoa, rinsed

6 cups water

INSTRUCTIONS

Place the chia seeds and hemp hearts in a blender or food processor and pulse to break down. Set aside.

Prepare the hardboiled eggs and quinoa in the Instant Pot as directed below.

When all of the ingredients that require cooking are ready combine everything in a large container and mix well. I find it easier to layer the ingredients in, adding a little of the olive oil with every layer. Then pop on a lid and give a big shake, it's a whole lot easier than stirring.

Portion out into individual servings and freeze if desired.

Cook on 1-minute high pressure with 10 minutes slow release. Cool before mixing into other ingredients.

NUTRITION

Serving Size: 1 cup

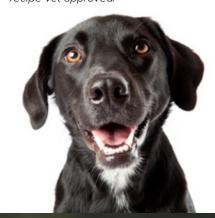
Calories: 253Sugar: 4.1 g Sodium: 46.6 mgFat: 6.3 g

Carbohydrates: 54.3 g

Protein: 7.7 g

Cholesterol: 55.8 mg

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BRAZILIAN PARASITOLOGIST TO RECEIVE 2022 WSAVA ONE HEALTH AWARD

A Brazilian parasitologist who campaigns against the killing of dogs infected with Canine Leishmaniasis is to receive this year's World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) One Health Award. In his role as President of the Tropical Council for Companion Animal Parasites (TroCCAP), Dr Filipe Dantas-Torres works to educate his veterinary colleagues and stakeholders across Latin America that leishmaniasis should be controlled by community-wide use of repellents and vaccination rather than by the culling of affected dogs.

A prestigious global Award, the WSAVA One Health Award is presented by the WSAVA's One Health Committee (OHC) to an individual or organization which has promoted an aspect of One Health relevant to companion animals.

Dr Dantas-Torres is a researcher in the Department of Immunology, Instituto Aggeu Magalhães, Recife. An EBVS Veterinary Specialist in Parasitology, he also holds a Master's degree in Public Health, a PhD in Public Health, and a PhD in Animal Health and Zoonosis. In addition to his role as President of TroCCAP, he is Editor-in-Chief of Parasites and Vectors and a director of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology. He will receive his award and give an Awards Lecture during this year's WSAVA World Congress, which takes place from 29-31 October in Lima, Peru. The lecture is entitled: 'Challenges and opportunities for tackling companion vector-borne diseases in Latin America.'

Dr Michael Lappin, Chair of the WSAVA One Health Committee, said: "The work that Dr Dantas-Torres is completing epitomizes the mission of the WSAVA One Health Committee. He has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of dogs and their owners and his work is impactful around the world."

Dr Dantas-Torres said: "I am thrilled to receive this prestigious award from the WSAVA One Health Committee. It recognizes the efforts of many people I have had the pleasure to work with. I dedicate this award to pet owners who lost their dogs during the visceral leishmaniasis control program in Brazil and other endemic

The WSAVA represents more than 200,000 veterinarians worldwide through its 114 member associations and works to enhance standards of clinical care for companion animals. Its core activities include the development of WSAVA Global Guidelines in key areas of veterinary practice, including pain management, nutrition and vaccination, together with lobbying on important issues affecting companion animal care worldwide. WSAVA World Congress brings together globally respected experts to offer cutting edge thinking on all aspects of companion animal veterinary care.

Source: WSAVA



BOWIE DROOLS OVER THE ALPHABET



HEALTHY FRESH FOODS AND RECIPES YOU CAN SHARE WITH YOUR FURRY BEST FRIEND

Good health starts with good food and that also applies to your furry best friend. Australia's hungriest Labrador, Bowie, has been trying, testing and drooling over his human mama's wholesome home cooking and enjoying the health benefits, too!

Now, pooches across the country can enjoy the same delicious recipes shared in the book *Bowie Drools Over the Alphabet: A to Z Fresh Foods You Can Share With Your Dog, Complete With Nutrient Guidelines and Over 30 Dog Friendly Recipes to Try.* Whether you are new to fresh food feeding or a seasoned fresh food feeder, there is something for everyone and every paw!

Bowie's pawrent Riesa Renata is an avid home chef who combined her passion for cooking and love for dogs and their nutritional health to create *Bowie Drools*. The book also includes recommendations of dog supplements that can help support your dog's health and wellbeing and plenty more resources about dog nutrition and making food for your dog.

PLUS, there are more than 30 dog friendly recipes to inspire you to become your dog's personal Master Chef — all of which have been tested and approved by Bowie! The recipes range from supplemental foods to formulated complete meals, both raw and cooked options to accommodate dogs with different types of diet.

Why feed fresh foods?

Research shows that eating lots of highly processed food is linked to an increased risk of obesity, heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes, and cancer in humans.

"This should offer more reasons to limit intake of ultra-processed foods and instead consume more real foods," said Riesa.

The same goes with our furry best friends. They will benefit from consuming a variety of fresh foods and less highly processed, inflammatory and refined foods which drive chronic disease, she added.

The concept of raw food feeding has become more popular nowadays due to its health benefits, but it may also turn some dog parents off, said Riesa.

"That's why I call it 'fresh food feeding' or 'feeding whole foods' because it's not just raw, it can be gently cooked depending on which suits the dog. It's more about feeding a variety of nutrient-dense whole foods with minimal processing and no or less processed, highly inflammatory foods," she said.

"Food can nourish, heal and make our dogs thrive, but it can also make them unwell. Every time your dog eats is an opportunity to nourish their body and it is never too late to improve their diet and support their body and protect it against chronic disease through providing nutritious real food.

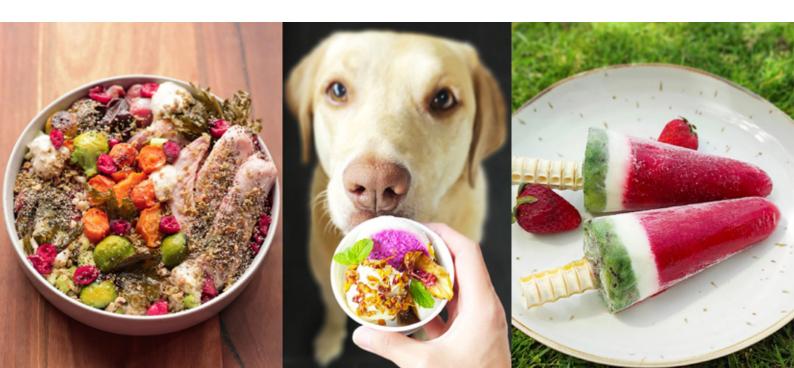
"I hope to inspire people and their dogs to eat and live healthfully. No longer does my dog eat better than I do, and vice versa!"

Follow Bowie's food adventures on Facebook and Instagram series, publishing her first book — a paperback and digital copy — *Bowie Drools over Dumplings* in 2021.

"I know Bowie loves a recipe more than others by the amount of drool he produces. That's why the series is titled Bowie Drools. It's his unique feature!" laughed Riesa.

In *Bowie Drools Over the Alphabet*, dog lovers can find an alphabetical list of healthy fresh produce and everyday foods you can safely feed their dog with the nutrient guidelines showing which foods are rich in different nutrients.

Having studied raw dog food nutrition, Riesa also explains in the book dogs' physiology and the nutrients they need to thrive. She provides useful guidelines with practical advice and tips to ensure your dog has a nutritionally complete and balanced diet and a successful transition to a fresh food diet if you'd like to feed your dog fresh foods.





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DEMAND FOR NEW VETERINARY WORKERS

With the number of pets in Australia now outnumbering humans, TAFE NSW is training a future workforce with the skills to care for the growing pet industry.

With approximately 61 per cent of Australian households now owning a pet, TAFE NSW Animal Studies Teacher Celia Innes said in her time working in the animal services industry, she has never seen such a high demand for vets and vet nurses.

"Employers are screaming out for staff right now — there is an incredible boom taking place in the animal services sector so there are job opportunities galore," Ms Innes said. "Our hands-on, practical courses at TAFE NSW ensure students can graduate on Friday and walk into a vet clinic with all the skills to start work on Monday. "If you have a love for animals, veterinary nursing is an incredibly rewarding profession. Helping an animal that comes in sick recover and watching them go home happy and well with their owner is the best feeling in the world." Many studies show that owning a companion animal has huge benefits for mental

health. A recent survey by the Waltham Foundation found that 86 per cent of respondents felt they had bonded more with their animals in lockdown, whilst 60 per cent thought their pet had helped them maintain a regular routine, and 43 per cent said their animal reduced their anxiety.

Hannah Murphy is a 21- year-old Umina local who has scored her dream job in the industry as a Trainee Veterinary Nurse at Beach and Bay Vet after studying a Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing at TAFE NSW Gosford.

"It's a very rewarding career, there's nothing better than sending home a healthy animal," Hannah said.

"The TAFE NSW training took me three steps forward in my career. I am now at the stage on doing anaesthetics and aiding in putting catheters in animals and sometimes that just involves a bit of cuddling so it's a pretty good field to work in."



COMPANION ANIMAL RESCUE AWARDS 2022 FINALISTS REVEALED AND THEY'RE PAWSOME!

The Pet Insurance Australia Companion Animal Rescue Awards is delighted to announce the 2022 FINALISTS, shining the light on rescue groups, animal shelters, and companion animal welfare organisations who continue to save thousands of animal lives during these challenging times of high surrender of 'pandemic pets'.

The Rescue Awards is Australia's first and only national awards program that celebrates and recognises achievements in the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of companion animals.

The Rescue Awards is a for-purpose program managed by Pets4Life, an independent education resource for cat and dog guardians and provider of professional force-free dog training services.

"The Rescue Awards is the national platform to showcase achievements in rescue, sheltering, re-homing and companion animal welfare. The Finalists have demonstrated their tireless effort to not only rehome pets but also work with their community to keep people and their pets together," said Cathy Beer, Rescue Awards founder and rescue advocate from Pets4Life.

In its fifth year, the Rescue Awards attracted many and diverse entries from around the country across 10 categories. Like the past four years, the Volunteer of the Year category received the greatest number of entry submissions.

The surprise this year is the significant increase in entries from local government councils for the award category, Australian Pet Welfare Foundation Award for Councils.

"Companion animals are more than cats and dogs. It's great to see rabbits, rats, and a pony among our amazing finalists across the country in the Ivory Coat People's Rescue Story and Ivory Coat Foster Carer Story award categories," said Cathy. "The judges were moved by the hundreds of wonderful pet adoption stories and foster carer stories that show the power and strength of the human-animal bond."

This year, **Pet Insurance Australia** is once again the Platinum Rescue Hero and Naming Partner.

Pet Insurance Australia's CEO Ali Osmani said, "Pet Insurance Australia is once again proud to support the Companion Animal Rescue Awards in its fifth year. It is inspiring to see how rescue groups, animal shelters and thousands of volunteers continue to rescue pets and save lives across the country in these challenging times. Pet Insurance Australia congratulate the finalists in 2022."

The Finalists were determined by a panel of highly respected Judges.

Ivory Coat People's Rescue Story:

Find out the 10 finalists here.



Ivory Coat Foster Carer Story:

Find out the 5 finalists here.



Plus a Special Foster Carer Award:

Roxy and Others and Suzanne, read their story here.



THE FINALISTS

Outstanding Rescue Group:

Lamb Care Australia (VIC), Small Paws Animal Rescue (QLD), The Rabbit Sanctuary (NSW)

Outstanding New Rescue Group:

Big Dollan's Fur Rescue (VIC), Lake Road Veterinary Rescue (NSW), Strong Hearts Cat Rescue (VIC),

Outstanding Animal Shelter:

Greyhound Rescue (NSW), Just Cats (TAS), SAFE Animal Rehoming (NSW)

Australian Pet Welfare Foundation Award for Councils:

City of Cockburn (WA), Goulburn Mulwaree Animal Shelter (NSW), City of Palmerston (NT)

Innovation in Companion Animal Welfare and Management:

Greyhound Rescue (NSW), The Rabbit Sanctuary (NSW)

Working with the Community to keep People and their **Pets Together:**

Mildura Loves Pets (VIC), Second Chance Animal Rescue (VIC), The Rainbow Paws Program (ACT)

Volunteer of the Year:

Kate Button (Greyhound Rescue NSW), Maxine Cooper (Greyhound Rescue NSW), Tara Doherty (Rachie's Ratirement Home QLD), Amy Gasnier (Northern Rivers Animal Services NSW), Kyla Grimmond (Rachie's Ratirement Home QLD)

Refuel Creative Digital Marketing:

Rachie's Ratirement Home (QLD)

Thanks to Refuel Creative, the winners will be revealed at a virtual Rescue Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, 26 October at 4pm AEDT. Join in the celebration and watch this special live streaming event via the Rescue Awards Facebook page at @rescueawards

Thank you to our wonderful Supporters for donating cash prizes and/or products and services for the winners. See the list of fabulous prizes. More information at www. rescueawards.com.au

Please sign up for the e-newsletter or follow Rescue Awards on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. #PIARescueAwards2022



NEW STUDY INVESTIGATES THE MICROBIOMES OF DOGS AROUND THE WORLD

Source: Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

In a new study, researchers have sampled the fecal micropiomes across diverse geographical populations of dogs to better understand what they look like around the world.

Although the microbiome -- the collection of all microbes that live in the body -- in the fecal matter of dogs has been investigated extensively, those studies have mostly been limited to domesticated dogs. In a new study, researchers have sampled the fecal microbiomes across diverse geographical populations to better understand what they look like around the world.

"A lot of the studies look at how different diets affect dog microbiomes. Although they are extensive, they work with dogs in veterinary centers, which lead a very different life from dogs that don't live as pets," said Karthik Yarlagadda, a former graduate student in the Malhi group. "It's similar to how studies on the microbiomes of humans have been focused on people who live in cities and eat processed foods."

To sample a diverse range of microbiomes, the researchers collected fecal matter from three geographical locations: pets from South Africa, stray dogs and shelter dogs in India, and dogs from a rural village in Laos. The samples were collected on FTA cards, which contain chemicals that preserve the DNA so it can be sequenced and analyzed later.

"Most of our previous studies have looked at animals that come into a vet clinic or are housed in a research facility; they are vaccinated and eat food that is processed," said Kelly Swanson, a professor of animal and nutritional sciences. "But that is different from animals, like the ones in Laos, that live outside and have a variety of environmental exposures. By carrying out these studies, we can learn what is considered "normal" for different populations around the world."

In each location, the dogs had different diets. The shelter dogs were fed rice, lentils, yogurt, and dog food; the stray dogs likely scavenged human leftovers; the village dogs consumed local agricultural products, including maize, corn, bamboo, sticky rice, and fish from nearby rivers; and the pet dogs were likely fed commercial dog food.

Interestingly, although the microbiomes among the different populations differed, functionally they were the same. "It was cool to see that you can have different microbiomes, but they all fulfil the same metabolic function. For example, dogs that were consuming dairy in the South African and Indian populations had different Lactobacillus species that were probably involved in the same pathway," Yarlagadda said. In addition to comparing

the microbiomes of dogs from different geographical locations, the researchers wanted to contrast these samples with ancient microbiomes, obtained from fossilized dog feces. Presumably, dogs that live in an outdoor environment and have a mixed diet will have similar microbiomes to that of ancient dogs, providing insight into how industrialization affects the fecal microbes.

The researchers indeed observed that the microbiomes from ancient dogs closely resembled the non-US populations, potentially due to overlapping diets and more environmental exposures. Further work will elucidate whether the human microbiome diversity in non-industrialized settings will also follow similar trends. "Using sequencing techniques from a previous study, we want to find more data on ancient microbiomes in various dog species," said Ripan Malhi (GNDP/GSP/IGOH), a professor of anthropology. "Since we know what their diet consisted of, we can make more comparisons to see how diet influences the microbiome." The study "Geographically diverse canid samples provides novel insights into pre-industrial microbiomes" was published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences and can be found at 10.1098/rspb.2022.0052. The study was funded

Journal Reference:

K. Yarlagadda, A. J. Zachwieja, A. de Flamingh, T.
 Phungviwatnikul, A. G. Rivera-Colón, C. Roseman, L. Shackelford,
 K. S. Swanson, R. S. Malhi. *Geographically diverse canid sampling provides novel insights into pre-industrial microbiomes*.
 Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences,

2022; 289 (1974) DOI: 10.1098/rspb.2022.0052





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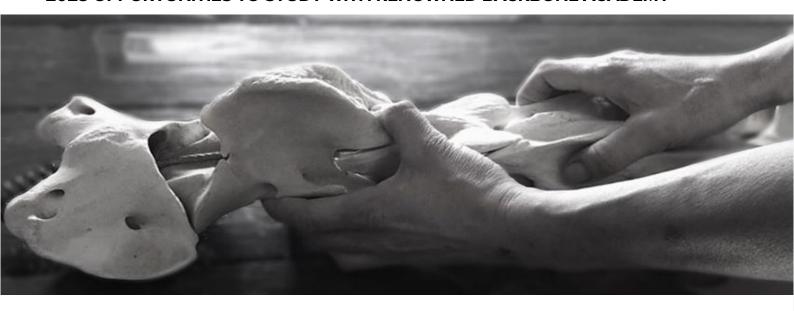
Pasteurella haemolytica, P. multocida and Haemophilus somnus.

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Back Bone Academy GET YOUR BACK IN TO IT!

2023 OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY WITH RENOWNED BACKBONE ACADEMY



Veterinarians, do you want to broaden your treatment strategies and increase your knowledge of animal biomechanical locomotion?

Is evidence-based rehabilitation and skillsets a part of your clinical reasoning? Then 2023 is the opportunity for you to enhance your business and personal careers by joining us in Australia and expanding your professional education in animal chiropractic therapy and rehabilitation.

We are reaching out to all veterinarians and Doctors of Chiropractic who would like to broaden their treatment opportunities or add value to their existing business.

The study of animal biomechanical medicine and animal chiropractic is increasing in expectance and popularity with animal owners and veterinarians alike as it provides the treating person and owner more avenues for the long-term health and care of the animals in their care. It is about combining the branches of two different sciences, Biomechanics and Medicine, that complement each other to focus on the whole body as a unique individual. Acknowledging these two scientific studies gives us a diverse set of diagnoses and treatment techniques for prevention-based resources other than those used in conventional medicine.

Here in Australia, Animal Biomechanical Solutions and the BackBone Academy Australia are bringing Australian veterinarians and Doctors of Chiropractic the opportunity to participate in a basic animal chiropractic course in Biarra, Queensland, close to the picturesque town of Esk in the Brisbane Valley. The course is certified through the BackBone Academy Australia and recognised by the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association (IVCA), the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA), and the Chiropractic and Osteopathic Collage (COAC). Our goal is beginning to teach our course participants to diagnose and adjust horses and small animals with light hands.

Basic Veterinary Chiropractic Course

The BackBone Academy, Australia's Basic Veterinary Chiropractic Course, is open exclusively to licensed Veterinarians and Doctors of Chiropractic (university education in human chiropractic, four years minimum).

The theoretical part of the course can be studied conveniently on your PC at home. The compact, practical training is offered during the weekend of a module in our seminar houses in Biarra, Queensland, Australia.

Every student will be taught individually on both horses and dogs during technique labs. The attainable goal is diagnosing and treating structural and functional problems confidently.

Join us in Biarra, Queensland, in April 2023 for this ground-breaking opportunity. Instead of travelling overseas to obtain international animal chiropractic certification, we have the curriculum to fast-track new opportunities and your professional careers right here.

Don't miss this opportunity to join this certification program recognised by the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association (IVCA), the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA), Chiropractic and Osteopathic Collage (COAC), and delivered by two leading international companies in this field.

Don't miss this opportunity, Australia; if you are considering taking the course but are not sure? Visit us at www.backboneacademy.com to get a feel for it, or read through the course curriculum below and realise how comprehensive this course is.



Gourse Gurriculum

Anatomy and Neurology:

Focus on equine and canine joint osteology, myology and syndesmology. Skeletons of the horse and dog, spinal models and many individual bones are available at any time during the lectures. Students will investigate and feel relevant comparative anatomical structures by examining dissected specimens. Static palpation and localisation of all chiropractically relevant anatomical landmarks on the equine and the canine on patients. Review of neuroanatomy and -physiology. Focus on the central and peripheral nervous system and the neurologic patterns that explain the chiropractic adjustment. Modern functional neurological concepts open up a perspective on functional problems that is useful for any medical approach.

Biomechanics and Gait Analysis

Normal biomechanics in equine and canine. Biomechanical changes during movement and pathophysiological changes can occur under stress. Equine and canine gaits. Gait analysis will include topics such as normal gaits and abnormal gaits, comparing individuals and species.

Animal Chiropractic Adjusting Techniques

Theoretical class focuses on the factors that increase the chiropractic adjustment's efficiency, safety, reliability and comfort. Students will apply the principles learned above through hands-on laboratories. Topics are doctor position, hand and body positions, contact points, safety and handling of animals in regard to adjusting. The motion palpation lab deals with learning how to diagnose and helps develop the "feel" for normal versus abnormal movement in motion units. Each student will feel hypermobility and hypomobility. Specific animal chiropractic techniques will be demonstrated on horses and dogs covering the cervical, thoracolumbar, sacropelvic, front limb,

rear limb, ribs, TMJ, tail and cranium. Hands-on labs in very small lab groups are designed to let all students practise to adjust on dogs and horses at least four times during the course to gain confidence in the chiropractic treatment of the animals. An introduction to other modalities in lectures provides practitioners with a basic understanding of the pertinent aspects of using other healing options or rehabilitation ideas, incl. physical modalities, to speed up the healing process.

Case Management of the Animal **Chiropractic Patient**

Diagnostic Imaging (Plain film radiography, digital radiography, myelography, fluoroscopy and magnetic resonance imaging) are discussed and evaluated for the chiropractic patient. Case management addresses common topics in everyday case management, including lay lectures, introduction to leads and collars, saddle and harness fit, equine teeth and the equine foot. In integrated case management, the "diagnosis" aspect is based on the "case approach" is emphasised. Ideas and standard operating procedures will be given like signalment, history and consultation, posture analysis, static palpation (osseous, muscle, temperature, coat changes, etc.), motion palpation and gait analysis, so that case intake and progress plan will become second nature and proper therapeutic protocols and a realistic prognosis, can be achieved and communicated to the owners of our patients. Emphasis is placed on how these diagnoses relate and integrate into the animal's primary health care and are demonstrated in real cases.



Chiropractic Philosophy and Studies

Modern history of animal chiropractic and the roots of chiropractic philosophy. In Chiropractic Basics, the terminology and listing systems are introduced, and an overview of the vertebral subluxation complex is given. The compensatory mechanisms that develop secondary to the vertebral subluxation complex are presented in chiropractic pathology.

Veterinary Studies

Fundamental veterinary topics incl. safety and handling, physiology and pharmacology, zoonotic and metabolic conditions, lameness, and relevant large and small animal pathologies regarding a differential diagnosis for chiropractic patients, are presented.

Ethics and Legalities

The class will prepare the students to deal with the everyday legal issues faced in both conventional and alternative/ complementary practice.

Scientific validity

Up-to-date available research validates the spinal manipulation health care modality and expands knowledge of functional neurology. Part of the homework is to read several current research articles handed out on CD-ROM each module.

Examinations

From the second module, the students will have a written and practical review test on the theory and techniques of the previous module with average passing grades of 80% for each section to sit the final exam. The final exam consists of a written and a practical part with passing grades of 80% for each section. All practical examinations will be held on both species, horse and dog, for every student.

Home Study

From the second module, each student must hand in one case report at the beginning of the module. These reports will help to reflect the review of chiropractic techniques at home. Each student must hand in five test questions. This will help the students to find the key points in the offered reading material.

As you can see, the course will cover all aspects of animal chiropractic and give you a diverse set of diagnoses and treatment techniques for prevention-based resources other than those used in conventional medicine.

E-Learning

E-learning plus: Organised into five modules cervical, thoracolumbar, sacropelvic, extremities, and integrated. Vivid lectures can be watched conveniently at home or anywhere with internet access. The theoretical part is open on demand and done before the practical part. The practical training is intensive, granting more time to practice under direct instructor tuition on module weekends in small groups with horses and dogs at the home of Animal Biomechanical Solutions in Biarra, Queensland, Australia, near the township of Esk.

The BackBone Academy Australia holds and asks for high standards in practical education: A special step-by-step training system allows BackBone course participants to feel for the smallest changes in the neuro-muscular control and to evaluate and treat them accurately. The side effect of veterinary chiropractic studies is a broadening of diagnostic abilities. Therapy is easy — with the most accurate diagnosis!

The Basic Veterinary Chiropractic Course Schedules

E-learning participants have at least three weeks of access to the module's lecture material and come onsite for the practical training weekends of every module in Biarra, close to the township of Esk, Queensland, Australia. We meet the evening before the practical training days for review and Q and A at 5 p.m. and end at 5.30 p.m. on Sundays.

In Biarra, we offer a compact Basic Course: Modules 1-2 and 3-4 starting on Wednesdays and ending Sundays, with the integrated Modul 5 being Friday start and finishing on Saturday; this allows the Sunday for course participations who achieve their BackBone Academy certification to sit the IVCA entry exam if they wish.

Language of instruction: Offered to your choice as the e-learning material is available in English and German with the practical training modules in English.

BACKBONE ACADEMY AUSTRALIA 2023 Course Schedule



FOR TECHNIQUE LABS MODULES

Module 1-2 April 26th – April 30th

Module 3-4 June 7th - June 11th

Module1-5 August 4th – August 5th

Course Registration is only through the Academy website: www.backboneacademy.com

The course fee for the Australian 2023 course is \$8,000.00 Australian Dollars for all five modules.

Please note registration is only complete when payment is received.

Join us in Biarra, Queensland, in April 2023 for this ground-breaking opportunity. Instead of travelling overseas to obtain international animal chiropractic certification, we have the curriculum to fast-track new opportunities and your professional careers right here.





2023 IS A TIME OF OPPORTUNITY

The course is certified through the BackBone Academy and recognised internationally by the IVCA, AVCA, and COAC.

We teach you to diagnose and adjust horses and small animals with light hands.

We teach veterinary chiropractic therapy in Australia to Veterinarians and Chiropractic Doctors to:

- Enhance diagnostic skills.
- Add value to existing business.



For all inquiries: www.backboneacademy.com





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LOCAL VET BEGS TO PROTECT

Local vet calls on dog owners to ensure their dogs are protected against the deadly paralysis tick in response to a national anti-serum shortage

15 November 2022: With the perfect storm of high paralysis tick risk due to the warmer weather and a national shortage of paralysis tick anti-serum – **Dr Geoffrey Golovsky from Vet HQ Double Bay** – is calling on dog owners to ensure their dogs are protected against these parasites.

Tick paralysis is caused by the paralysis tick, *Ixodes holocyclus*, which inhabits coastal regions of eastern Australia and is traditionally most active during the warmer spring and summer months, however cases are seen year-round. Paralysis ticks are parasites that live by feeding on the blood of host animals, in the process injecting saliva that contains a neurotoxin which can cause signs of paralysis. Animals with tick paralysis are normally treated with tick anti-serum to neutralise the neurotoxin. The shortage of this potentially life-saving medication means that if a dog is affected with tick paralysis, it will be even more difficult to treat.

Dr Geoffrey says, "Now is the time to ensure your pet is protected against this potentially fatal parasite. The risk of not being protected against paralysis ticks all year round is really a matter of life or death, particularly now treatment options may be limited.

"Fortunately, there are simple steps you can take to protect your dog. Firstly, we urgently and strongly recommend all dogs be given an effective tick control product such as NexGard® or NexGard SPECTRA®.

"Secondly, dog owners should also perform daily tick searches. And finally, be on the lookout for any of the signs of tick paralysis as the earlier cases are diagnosed, the better the outcome," concluded Dr Geoffrey.

Signs of tick paralysis can vary, and may include:

- Altered mobility, which may include loss of coordination and weakness, often seen as a wobbly walk
- · Change or loss of voice/bark
- Laboured or rapid breathing, grunting noises and/or abdominal heaving
- Coughing, gagging and vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- · Appearing generally unwell

More information on how to perform a thorough tick search can be found here Tick Check \mid NexGard .



Zinc: Plaque's natural enemy



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



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.

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| • Taste free | Increases pet acceptance | | |
| Oral product and applicator all-in-one | No mess; more sanitary than a toothbrush | | |
| Neutralized zinc formulation | Removes plaque; resolves offensive mouth odors | | |
| Quick and easy wipe application | Supports pet owner compliance | | |
| • 100 textured wipes per large container | Up to 100 days of effective daily oral care | | |
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HOW, WHEN, WHAT AND WHY TO REFER TO A VETERINARY DENTAL SPECIALIST

Tracey Small BA (Soc Sc), VN, Dip VN (Dentistry)

Dr David E Clarke BVSc, DAVDC, FAVD, DAVC-ZWD, MANZCVS, Cert IV TA

Registered Specialist, Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery

www.vdec.com.au

The American Veterinary Dental Society often quotes that 85% of dogs and 70% of cats will develop periodontal disease by the age of 3 years. This is supported by many published studies which have confirmed that dental pathology is the most diagnosed health condition within the veterinary field and is more prevalent as the pet ages. Routine prophylaxis and simple extractions are commonly performed procedures in small animal practice. However, many dental procedures that appear simple can quickly become complex and require a dental specialist to ensure the procedure is done timely, successfully and without additional trauma.

The veterinary profession includes a variety of disciplines, requiring a broad range of medical knowledge. It is unrealistic to expect every veterinarian to be an expert in all of these. Whilst the major of cases can be treated by the general veterinarian, more complex cases should be either referred to a specialist in their field to manage, or specialist assistance obtained to ensure a successful outcome. Dentistry is no exception, so knowing what, when and how to refer to a dental specialist is imperative to provide optimum treatment and management to achieve the best outcome for the patient.

Veterinary dentistry has advanced over the past 20 years. Universities have not fostered these advances, consequently, the new graduate is ill equipped with essential dental skills and knowledge so often feel they are lacking in skills, knowledge, and equipment to provide the necessary treatment required.

A veterinary dental specialist has expertise in endodontics, periodontal disease, orthodontics, restorations, dental radiology, and maxillofacial surgery. They have completed a residency, passed a theoretical and practical examination demonstrating competence in all mentioned disciplines certified by the American and European Veterinary Dental Colleges. In Australia there are currently six veterinary dental specialists located in Victoria (Drs David Clarke and Robert Menzies), South Australia (Dr Kirsty Hailstone), Queensland (Drs Olivia James and Williana Basuki) and Western Australia (Dr Kevin Ng).

The veterinary dental specialist is a great resource for the general veterinarian for providing advanced procedures that they are not equipped to perform themselves. Knowing your limitations and asking for advice or referring a complex case rather than attempting an inferior treatment or performing unnecessary procedures is providing the best health care for your client.

Importance of dental radiographs

Dental radiography is fundamental in veterinary dentistry since many dental lesions are located beneath the gingival surface. Without radiography there is no visual context for diagnosis of pathology, genetic abnormalities or the ability to foresee potential introgenic trauma.

Pre-procedure radiography is essential for treatment planning as it provides information determining severity of pathology, delineating root structure and the health of the bone. This information prevents excess trauma such as removing bone for a root that is not present or fracturing a compromised jaw due to periodontal disease. Similarly, post dental radiographs are imperative to confirm treatment is complete, as leaving root fragments may lead to osteomyelitis and constant pain for the patient.¹Case 1.



(Figure 1

A 10-year-old cat was diagnosed with moderate gingivitis and gum recession by the primary veterinarian. Under general anaesthesia, they noted that all teeth were solid with no obvious tooth resorption. There was a deep 8mm periodontal pocket associated with the right canine tooth and the veterinarian extracted this tooth. No radiographs were taken.

Eight months later the cat returned to the primary veterinarian. On examination it was noted that there was now bleeding and severe inflammation around the maxillary carnassial teeth bilaterally and pain associated with the mouth when opened, a diagnosis of stomatitis was recorded. The veterinarian explained to the owner the need to extract all premolar and molar teeth to resolve the gingivitis/stomatitis. The cat returned for this procedure where again no dental radiographs were taken.

The cat returned 3 weeks later for a post operative check; the stomatitis had not resolved. The veterinarian explained to the owner the importance to remove all roots otherwise the disease will remain. The veterinarian recommended a referral to a veterinary dental specialist for a comprehensive oral health assessment, radiographs and treatment for ongoing gingivitis/ stomatitis.

The cat was anesthetised at the dental specialist clinic, a CBCT and full mouth radiographs were performed. Interpretation of images revealed multiple retained roots and spicules of bone in all arcades (Figure 1). The retained roots were extracted and an osteoplasty performed to smooth bone spicules. Post radiographs confirmed complete removal.

If pre-surgery radiographs were initially taken, then a treatment plan could have been formulated based on the health of the periodontium. It may not have been necessary to perform extraction of all teeth, but selective extractions or prophylaxis and rigorous home care may have sufficed.

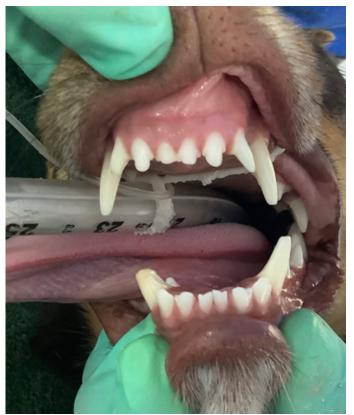
Post extraction radiographs would have informed the veterinarian that the procedure was incomplete, evident by retained roots, root fragments and spicules of bone. This valuable information would have demonstrated the location of the remaining roots and ensured a complete procedure was performed.

It is highly recommended to perform extractions in the cat with pre and post dental radiographs. If your practice does not have dental radiograph equipment, then the clinic needs to either invest in buying the equipment or refer all extractions to a dental specialist who has the facilities to radiograph the patient.

Fractured teeth are not a case of 'wait and see'

It is estimated that 20-27% of canine patients have a fractured tooth.² Despite the prevalence, it is regularly overlooked within the veterinary field, as we see several clients who have to 'self-refer'. Owners regularly tell us that they are informed by their veterinary clinic not to worry, that their pet is not in pain and are advised to monitor with a "wait and see" approach. Maybe this outlook is adopted because the veterinarian is concerned about the difficulty of tooth extraction and not informed to the availability of root canal therapy.

A fractured tooth with pulp involvement is painful because the nerve is exposed. Subsequently, bacteria infiltrate the periapical structures resulting in pulpitis, necrosis, abscess, and pain.3 There is no 'wait and see approach', this tooth will develop periapical periodontitis. Furthermore, if left until clinical signs are present root canal therapy may not be possible due to the significant destruction to periapical structures.



(Figure 2).

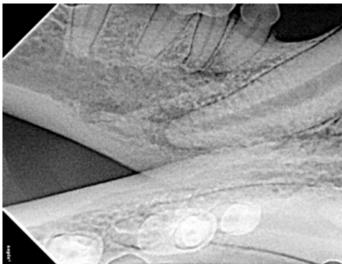
Case 2.

A 2-year-old speyed Kelpie was self-referred to the dental specialist for a complicated crown fracture of the right mandibular canine.

The owner had bought her dog into her primary veterinarian for assessment of a fractured right mandibular canine tooth (404) resultant from chewing on a bone. The veterinarian advised the owner that it was okay to leave as it was "such a massive tooth to remove and they would extract the tooth once it became painful, loose or infected." They also said there is a high chance of a jaw fracture during extraction of the mandibular tooth.

Two weeks later, the owner returned to the same practice as they were concerned the dog was in pain as she was mouth chattering. A second veterinarian examined the tooth and noted "that there was no sign of infection or colour change therefore okay to leave".

The owner took the initiative to email a veterinary dental specialist explaining she had seen two veterinarians at her regular practice





(Figure 4)

for a fractured tooth, both advised her to leave the broken tooth until it became a problem. She ended her email requesting advise on whether her dog could have the tooth capped or did it need extraction.

The dog was bought to the dental specialist, on examination it was noted that the tooth was fractured mid crown with pulp exposure and internal discolouration (Figure 2). Radiographs revealed periapical lucency and an interrupted lamina dura around the apex indicative of periapical bone loss and tooth root abscess (Figure 3). Root canal therapy and restoration was performed on this tooth with no complications (Figure 4).

This dog was in constant pain, initially the cause of pain would have been from nerve exposure, evident by the mouth chattering. Subsequent pain would be associated with the periapical abscess causing a constant throbbing dull pain. Animals are stoic and will disguise their pain. Ill-informed advice to leave fractured teeth until clinical signs are evident is never the correct solution, by this time periapical infection is so chronic that apical periodontitis has advanced to periapical abscess, periapical granuloma with or without a draining sinus. ⁴All fractured teeth with pulp involvement require treatment. There are only two options: root canal therapy or extraction. The optimum treatment for a fractured principal tooth is root canal therapy for it is less invasive and less painful that a surgical extraction. Preserving a fractured tooth maintains the integrity and functionality of the jaw. If the owner wishes to save the tooth and the practice is not able to perform root canal treatment, these cases must be referred once diagnosed for the best possible outcome for the patient.



Figure 5).

Know your skill level and refer when a procedure is beyond your abilities

Knowing your skill level and your limitations in diagnosing and performing dental procedures are paramount.⁵ Referral of a dental case is not a reflection of the primary veterinarians' inadequacies, but rather working with a referral team for best veterinary care for your patient. Dental specialists are a great resource to the general veterinarian, they will diagnosis pathology, perform advanced dental procedures and communicate with both the owner and to referring veterinarian. In addition, many veterinary dental specialists will have a specialised anaesthesia team working together to reduce anaesthesia time and risk with minimal trauma. The specialist will not perform any other procedure that is not dental related.⁵

Unfortunately, many patients are referred to the dental specialist after the primary veterinarian has attempted a procedure that is beyond their abilities resulting in an unfavourable outcome. Worse still, many patients are referred after multiple failed attempts on the same procedure. These cases would have been better served if the case had been referred at a much earlier stage. Each failed attempt sacrifices tissue and bone thereby undermining the ability to treat and reconstruct the initial pathology.



(Figure 6)

To repair failed procedures are more challenging than if the patient had been referred at the outset. The dental specialist is left to treat the original dental pathology with the added complications of excessive bone loss, necrotic bone, compromised soft tissue and insufficient tissue to close defects.

These cases often leave the client angry with their primary veterinarian for not referring them sooner to a specialist. They have paid for multiple failed procedures, endured medicating their pet and watching their pet suffer with no favourable outcome. Contrasting this experience with one visit to a specialist whose skills and equipment can resolve the issue timely with less trauma attached.



(Figure 7).

Case 3.

A 12-year-old neutered male dachshund was referred to a veterinary dental specialist to repair an oral nasal fistula after the primary veterinarian had attempted and failed twice to repair the condition.

The primary veterinarian had initially admitted the dog for multiple teeth extractions due to periodontal disease. On extraction of the left maxillary canine an iatrogenic trauma resulted in an oro-nasal fistula. The veterinarian attempted to repair the fistula however the flap broke down. Despite the unsuccessful attempt, the veterinarian attempted to repair the fistula again, which also failed. After two failed attempts the veterinarian referred the patient to a veterinary dental specialist.

On examination it was noted that there was a 10mm x 8mm oro-nasal fistula associated with the previously extracted canine (Figure 5). On radiograph, the affected site was compromised with necrotic soft tissue and bone (Figure 6). The area was debrided of diseased tissue and necrotic bone, a full thickness muco-periosteal flap was elevated and sutured without tension over the defect. However, due to the multiple attempts by the primary veterinarian there was limited healthy tissue to close the defect with no tension. This procedure was challenging due to the trauma and loss of valuable soft tissue. This resulted in a larger than usual flap to close the defect.

When the dog returned to the practice for a follow up check and the veterinarian discovered the flap had broken down the dog should have called for advice or been referred to the dental specialist.

The issues most likely to contribute to flap breakdown for oronasal fistula repair are: too much tension on the flap, the flap is not large enough to cover the fistula, there is necrotic bone under the flap, the area has uncontrolled osteomyelitis, the bony edges are sharp and irritate the flap, analgesia is inadequate for the length

of healing, the sutures are placed too far apart allowing food and debris into the fistula, the dog paws the site and rubs the head along the ground.

Case 4.

A 6-year old neutered male cat was referred to the veterinary dental specialist to repair iatrogenic trauma resulting in a fractured jaw and compromised canine and incisor tooth roots.

The primary veterinarian had diagnosed the cat with severe periodontal disease and informed the owners that the mandibular canines would need to be extracted. During the dental procedure the veterinarian extracted the right mandibular canine and whilst attempting to extract the left mandibular canine, separated the mandibular symphysis.

The veterinarian called the owners to inform them that the jaw had fractured, and they would need to repair it. The veterinarian placed a thick 20-gauge cerclage wire around the mandibles caudal to the canines and twisted it under the jaw.

The cat returned to the clinic for a second procedure as the wire had become loose. According to the veterinarian's history, the wire was moved to a better position and tightened (Figure 7)

It was only after the jaw was not healing and significant soft tissue trauma was observed that the veterinarian suggested referral to a dental specialist for a second opinion.

Oral examination and radiographs were performed by the veterinary dental specialist. Radiographs revealed a 20-gauge cerclage wire was used around the previously fractured mandibles caudal to the canines. The mandibular left canine was mobile with gingival recession and periodontal attachment loss, and significant associated soft tissue damage. The mandibular left 2^{nd} and 3^{rd} incisor roots were compromised with loss of surrounding alveolar bone.

Cerclage wire was removed, compromised incisors extracted. Radiographs and oral visualization revealed minimally displaced mandibular fracture extending from the lingual alveolar plate across through to the buccal plate. There had been significant buccal bone removed. Diseased/necrotic bone was debrided, loose fragments of bone removed. Fracture site stabilised with PDS 2/0 placed in a circumferential suture around both mandibles in the rostral aspect with the knot buried beneath the buccal soft tissue of the right mandible.

When severe periodontal disease affects the mandibular canines, correct extraction technique is paramount. Mandibular fracture is always a risk factor, and many clients comment to us that their veterinarian referred their pet because they were concerned about jaw fracture. To decrease this occurring, a generous gingival flap and cautious removal of buccal alveolar bone prior to the use of correct sized dental elevators will decrease the chances of mandibular fracture. Otherwise, referral is always an option to reduce the risk of jaw fracture. In this case, technique was questionable and inappropriate materials and placement of wire compromised the incisor roots.

Once the wire became loose and there was evidence of soft tissue trauma, the veterinarian could have asked for advice or the patient could have been referred to the dental specialist.

Lack of knowledge and skill caused significant undue trauma to this cat. The excessive bone removal, the inappropriate materials used could have been avoided from the outset. In addition, the client was angry.



Lack of knowledge

The veterinary student receives limited dental education both in theory and practical skills throughout the course of their degree. Newly graduated veterinarians are ill-prepared to enter small animal practice and with limited knowledge and experience, they are expected to perform advanced dental procedures from day one. Consequently, dental pathology is often under diagnosed, undertreated and/or performed aggressively or incorrectly.

Case 5.

The primary veterinarian admitted a 5-year-old speyed female Dachshund for a routine dental procedure – COHAT – scale and polish. After full mouth dental radiographs were taken, the veterinarian interpreted a radiolucency around the cervical area of the right mandibular 1st molar tooth (409) as a resorptive lesion within the bifurcation. The veterinarian then attempted to extract the molar by sectioning the tooth, and without any gingival flap or buccal bone removal, fractured both the tooth and mandible, leaving behind both roots. The veterinarian informed the owners that the patient would need to be referred to a dental specialist to remove the retained roots and repair the iatrogenic mandibular fracture. The dachshund was subsequently referred to the veterinary dental specialist for treatment.

On examination of the veterinarian's radiograph, the radiographic image was overexposed giving the appearance of a radio-opaque area within the bifurcation. However, this image is normal as the cervical area does not have enamel or bone over the margin to superimpose the image and is commonly known as 'cervical burnout'. The lack of anatomical and radiographic interpretive knowledge by the veterinarian lead to a misdiagnosis of a resorptive lesion of a healthy molar tooth and subsequent jaw fracture.

At the dental specialist, oral examination, CBCT and dental radiographs revealed both mesial and distal roots of 409 were retained with healthy periodontal structures indicating this tooth was healthy and prior to referral did not need to be extracted (Figures 8 and 9).

After creation of a large gingival flap and buccal bone removal, both roots were extracted, an alveoloplasty was performed to smooth spicules of bone and the jaw was stabilised with interdental wire and an acrylic splint. After extubating occlusion was checked and a normal occlusion was maintained.

Dentistry has developed and progressed over time; therefore,

clients should be offered the best treatment options in a variety of multidisciplinary areas including, periodontics, exodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, and maxillofacial procedures. Current university veterinary education is inadequate in dentistry, thereby graduating veterinarians who are not prepared for real world clinical practice. The recently graduated veterinarian is exposed to dental pathology which they have not been taught and are inadequately trained to treat. Unfortunately, the level of dental training in Australasian veterinary schools has not increased in the last 20 years, and with inadequate funding of veterinary schools and no desire to change, it is unlikely to improve. It is a no-win situation, the patients suffer with low quality treatment, or no treatment; the practice suffers as clients are anger and upset when things go wrong or they must self-refer; and the

individual veterinarian suffers from stress, fatigue and eventually

burn-out from 'dentals' taking too long or the procedures having

There are many skill-based post graduate training courses available to increase your skills and knowledge in the dental field. These provide hands on training in radiography positioning and interpretation, basic anatomy, charting, extractions and more advanced endodontic procedures. If you believe your dental education is lacking, then I encourage you to take a course. Courses in 2023 are now available on the Veterinary Dental Education Centre website: www.vdec.com.ua. And of course, develop a relationship with the dental specialist in your area, they are an asset to you and your patients, and we are all available to help you. Whether it is to read a radiograph, answer a question whilst you have the patient under general anaesthesia, or refer a case.

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unfavourable outcomes.

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SUPPORTING VETERINARIANS WITH A HELPING HAND GRANT

Credabl, 1 September 2022. The Credabl Helping Hand Grants are back to help practices grow. Valued over \$10,000, the grants will be awarded to up to five recipients around Australia. If you own, manage or work for a medical, dental or veterinary practice, you can apply now.

Specialist medical lender Credabl is delighted to announce the return of its Helping Hand Grants for healthcare practices across Australia. The 2022/23 grants have officially launched — both direct applications from practices and nominations from the general public are being accepted until 31 December 2022. The recipients will be announced on 13 March 2023.

The grants are designed to support practice growth, showcasing the amazing contributions occurring in local communities, and to help drive patient numbers and engagement. The grants are valued over \$10,000 and will be awarded to up to five medical practices around Australia across the medical, dental and veterinary professions.

Each grant includes a cash incentive, practice growth and management coaching from industry partners including Health Business Network, Prime Practice and Vettr, a Delonghi Nespresso coffee machine, 50,000 Qantas Points* for their business and a digital guidebook filled with great tips to help boost patient numbers.

This year's judging panel are Dr Garnett Hall (Veterinary Surgeon, Founder and CEO at VetChip and President of AVA WA), Dr Geoff Toogood (Cardiologist and Founder of Crazy Socks 4 Docs), Dr Kristina Cain (Dentist and Business Owner of SmileChix), Stafford

Hamilton (CEO at Credabl), Glen Stewart (Chief Risk Officer at Credabl), and Kelly Gall (Finance Specialist at Credabl).

Stafford Hamilton, Credabl CEO and Co-founder, says the return of the Helping Hand Grants is a way to continue to shine a light on hard-working healthcare practices right across Australia.

"At Credabl, we have seen first-hand how hard the past few years have been on medical practices, emotionally and financially. The Helping Hand Grants enable us to support up to five businesses whilst also acknowledging the challenges many practices are currently facing – from patient retention and community engagement to financial hardship," Hamilton shares.

For previous winner Family Dental Yamba in Yamba, NSW, the last two years had significantly impacted the practice's growth plans, like many others.

"Thanks to the grant, we were able to complete our practice renovations and upgrades despite the floods and other challenges. Without Credabl's help and support, these dreams would not have become a reality and we are forever grateful!" -Dentists, Aninke Lippert and Willem Espag.

Our 2020/21 Helping Hand Grant recipients also included Brentford Dental in VIC, Cygnet Clinic in WA, Modbury Veterinary Clinic in SA and Family Health Clinic in QLD.

Medical, dental and veterinary businesses can directly APPLY for a Helping Hand Grant via the dedicated program page here, while patients and clients can NOMINATE a doctor, dentist or vet by visiting the nomination page here. T&Cs apply.





Scan the QR code or visit credabl.com.au/helpinghand22 Applications close 31 December 2022.

Helping Hand Grants brought to you by



Participating partners









T&Cs apply. *A business must be a Qantas Business Rewards Member to earn or receive Qantas Points for business. A one-off join fee of \$89.50 including GST normally applies, however this will be waived for Credabl Pty Ltd (ACN 615 968 100) customers if they join at www.gantasbusinessrewards.com/credablfree. Membership and Qantas Points are subject to Qantas Business Rewards Terms and Conditions (www.qantas.com/au/en/business-rewards/terms-and-conditions). Qantas Points for business are offered under the Credabl Terms and Conditions (www.credabl.com.au/qbr/terms-and-conditions).

NURTURING CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS

Story by Claire Pritchard

Here's how to nurture client relationships, even if you're understaffed and overwhelmed So, you think you're in the animal business - after all, as vets we came into this profession to help our fluffy, feathered, hooved or scaled companions. But each of these patients comes with a human who is their primary healthcare provider on a day-to-day basis. So, we're as much in the business of human care as we are animal care.

Nurturing relationships - whether with colleagues, customers or friends - can be time-consuming, but they are nevertheless essential in all aspects of life. And most importantly, building loyalty and trust with clients is the key to driving business. So, what's the secret? With consistent human connection we will foster thriving client relationships. We'll also feel the benefits of improved engagement, as well as patient health compliance and practice revenue. What can a vet practice do to provide consistent human connection?

As vets, we are the trusted source of care and emergency cover for our clients' beloved pets. And with so much misinformation out there on the world-wide-web, it's essential that we consistently communicate our unique knowledge and expertise. By doing so, we can help clients optimise the health of their pets.

But in today's digital age, we are all bombarded with information, wherever we might be. Getting emails and texts opened and read can be tricky, as notifications become overwhelming. So, how do we get the right messages into the hands of our clients and stand out from the crowd?

To help improve those read and open rates, every message must be properly personalised. Ultimately, the key to providing that human connection is ensuring your clients receive bespoke information, not junk-worthy rubbish.

What do we mean by properly personalised?



Keep branding consistent

Keep consistency and build familiarity and trust in your communications by making it clear the communication is coming from you, and not a third party. Use the same sending email address and, if you're sending an SMS, ensure the sender name is your practice name, instead of an unknown number.

Providing a familiar and recognisable design with every communication will build trust in your messaging too. Your messaging should be an extension of your digital sites, such as your website and social media. Keep things consistent, with similar style and branding throughout each communication. Ensure you include key brand details, such as your practice logo, brand colour and, most importantly, your practice or site contact information

Make it personal

These days everyone expects to be greeted by their name. After all, it's the very first step in making a connection and the most basic form of personalisation, so it should be included in every message. Connect with your client by addressing them by name, referencing animal names and having easy-to-follow buttons, so it's clear what they should do next.

To do this, it's therefore vital that your client data is accurate. Ask staff to verify the spelling of names and contact details when talking to clients, and provide clients with an easy access tool, so they can amend their account information. That way, they can keep their own details up to date.

It's also important to keep notes separate to client data - during our work with practices it's not unusual to see that Mrs Smith has accidentally been alerted that she's noted down as a bad debtor. Making sure your software helps to clean the data is something that could really save you time, blushes and business.

Keep messages clear and combined

Do more with less. After all, no one has ever said they 'like to be spammed'. If your clients have multiple pets, combine messages such as parasiticide and appointment reminders, or even health advice. Combining to-dos will put the client in control and avoid messages getting deleted or ignored. Importantly, include clearly labelled action buttons too, so it's clear what their next steps should be.

Stick to what's relevant

Now that you've directed the message to the right person and made it obvious it's coming from you - the trusted source - you need to ensure you're building that trust by providing the most useful content. Quality advice and education will keep your clients interested, engaged and more likely to respond to your call-to-actions.

It's important to keep things targeted too. What do we mean by this? Instead of sending all your clients (cat, dog, hamster and horse owners) a message about Cushing's disease, ensure that you tailor your messages to the right audience. It's also important to consider excluded audiences. For example, when sending healthcare awareness about heart disease symptoms, exclude those patients already on heart medication.

Get smart with smart content

SMART makes things even more engaging and profitable. Marketing folk tend to use a lot of buzzwords, and 'smart content' might be something you've come across before. "Smart" or "dunamic" content is the term used for content in any digital form (website, email, SMS etc) that can adapt depending on who is

With smart content, pet owners will always receive communications with content appropriate for their pet. Cleverly, that includes everything, from images to message wording.

For example, if a female cat owner is reading about neutering, it'll be more relevant to talk about spaying rather than castration. And if you're messaging all your clients to wish them a Merry Christmas, you could use smart content in the imagery. That way you'd ensure that cat owners receive a festive cat picture, while dog owners receive a Christmassy canine.

To sum it up!

These days clients expect the real personal touch. Delighting your clients and keeping them engaged creates a loyal and longlasting customer base, which in-turn boosts profits. This means targeted, tailored and relevant communications at just the right time - but using smart technology to do the heavy lifting for you.

Studies show that tailoring each message to the client and patient will pay serious dividends. With tried-and-tested communications, from reminders to education and survey feedback requests, to ongoing medication support, a smart tech solution like iRecall commonly offers 8x return on investment.

Sounds like a lot of work?

Well, the good news is that your already stretched team won't need to sift through excel spreadsheets and become expert copywriters. There are smart tech solutions out there that can lighten the load.

iRecall, a leading solution, delivers content created by vets, for busy vets like you, to the right clients at the right time. With iRecall, every communication is always automatically properly personalised, which means no more time-draining copy and paste.

iRecall's smart software integrates with your PMS system, cleans data and works automatically in the background. That means you can deliver quality, smart messages that help build relationships - without putting a strain on your team's resources. So, why look any further?

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.

BASICS OF INCLUSION CRITERIA

- · Dogs of any sex, at least one year of age, with B cell nodal lymphoma
- · No other significant intercurrent disease
- · No previous medication for the lymphoma
- WHO stage 1-5, substage a.
- Modified Karnofsky performance score 0 or 1

BASICS OF EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Dogs that have received prior treatment for lymphoma
- Any corticosteroid use in preceding 8 weeks
- · Puppies less than 1 year old
- · Lactating or pregnant bitches
- Dogs used for breeding
- · Modified Karnofsky performance score 2 or above

PARTICIPATING TRIAL CLINICS

QUEENSLAND

Veterinary Specialist Services Jindalee, Brisbane Dr Catherine Chan cchan@vss.net.au 1800 442 648

Animal Referral Hospital, Brisbane Centenary Technology Park, Sinnamon Park, Brisbane Dr Kathleen O'Connell K.OConnell@arhvets.com (07) 3172 0593

NEW SOUTH WALES

Animal Referral Hospital, Homebush Homebush, Sydney Dr Sonya Yu S.Yu@arhvets.com (02) 9758 8666



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australian Veterinary Emergency and Specialty (WAVES) Success, Perth Dr Sue Bennett sue@wavets.com.au (08) 9412 5700

Perth Veterinary Specialists Osborne Park, Perth Dr Jessica Finlay jfinlay@perthvetspecialists.com.au (08) 9204 0400



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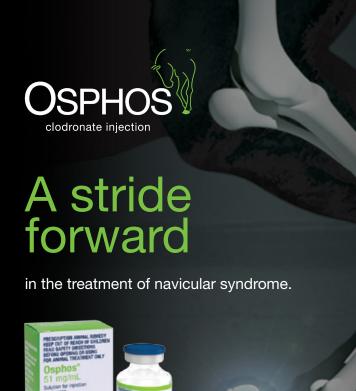
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FRONT-LINE MEDICAL CARE FOR SOLDIER'S 'BEST FRIENDS'

Source: Australian Government Defence news https://www.defence.gov.au

When you imagine a small, deployed military health facility made up of several camouflaged tents, buried away in bushland outside Townsville, you wouldn't normally envisage a physio or a pharmacy, let alone a veterinary clinic.

Deployed to Townsville Field Training Area on Exercise Talisman Sabre (TS21) is the 3rd Health Support Battalion's front-line health facility, providing care to soldiers and their "best friends".

Major Kendall Crocker, of the 3rd Health Support Battalion, and Private Lianne Salerno, of the 4th Combat Service Support Battalion, are providing specialised medical support to the 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment and their explosive detection dogs (EDDs).

Major Crocker said the ADF's ability to care for military working dogs in the field has only been in place in the past 10 years - a capability he has been able to help get off the ground.

"We've shaped a lot of our terminology, organisational structure and doctrine from our coalition partners to leverage off their existing veterinary capabilities and ensure we have in-built interoperability," Major Crocker said. "So while I'm not working with members of the United States Army Veterinary Corps or the British Royal Army Veterinary Corps this Talisman Sabre, the capability we are exercising here today owes a lot to their proven

"The other great thing about Exercise Talisman Sabre is the ability to help train other military medical personnel in key aspects of the emergency care of military working dogs. "If a handler does have an injured animal, they will be heading towards the nearest

red cross they can find; whether there is a vet there or not. So if it happens, the medical team in location can have enough familiarisation and understanding of how they can best assist to get that animal help."

Major Crocker believes the Army veterinarian capability is important not just to the animals, but to the rest of the Defence Force as well.

"Our military working dogs, like the EDDs deployed on TS21, are integral members of the team. Having been a veterinary officer in Defence for about a decade now, I've seen the important relationship that handlers have with their dogs and the important status and respect the dogs have in the wider Defence Force," Major Crocker said.

"Military working dogs are just four-legged diggers, as it's often said, and they deserve the same level of care and medical support in the field as our soldiers do."

Private Lianne Salerno, a combat medical attendant, is working as a veterinary assistant on TS21.

"As a veterinary assistant, I provide support to the veterinary officer. I do a lot of that preparatory support, getting ready for minor procedures if we need to, clipping the animals fur, checking their vitals and temperatures, pulse rates and heart rates, that kind of thing. I also provide assistance in the case of a required surgery," Private Salerno said.

"I love the variety of the work; you never know what you are going to get. I like to think I have a bit of an affinity with animals, so I find the role really rewarding."



Army veterinarian oScer Major Kendall Crocker and veterinary assistant Private Lianne Salerno, at the Townsville Field Training Area in during TS21. Photo: Leading Aircraftwoman Emma Schwenke

CALL FOR VIGILANCE AND ACTION BY BANKS AS PET SCAMS SOAR

When people act on emotion, they are easier to scam and that's especially true for pet lovers who want a furry friend.

During **2022 Scams Awareness Week (November 7 – 11)**,leading animal welfare charity Companion Animal Network Australia (Australia CAN) called for vigilance when buying or adopting a pet and banks to take action, following reports of widespread pet scam activity.

"Banks can also do more to help protect the public as hundreds of bank accounts are reportedly being used for pet scam-related activities," says Australia CAN's CEO Trish Ennis.

Scamwatch is led by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and this year's theme is How to spot a scam. Australia CAN has partnered again with the ACCC and Puppy

"Educating the public of the dangers and more importantly supporting and guiding victims through this traumatic event has been priority."

Scam Awareness Australia (PSAA) to help animal lovers identify and avoid pet scams that continue to cause heartbreak and anger.

According to the ACCC's *July 2022 Scamwatch report*, pet scams increased in 2020 as a result of lockdowns, but despite restrictions easing, Scamwatch continued to see pet scam reports increase by 48% in 2021, receiving 3,332 pet scam reports with over \$4 million in reported losses.

"With scammers continually developing new ways to fool people,

pet lovers need to increase their vigilance in checking for those little clues that can alert us that something is a scam," says Ms Ennis.

"Scammers are professional crooks, and it can be difficult to distinguish between what is real or a scam. We encourage pet lovers to learn **how to spot a puppy scam** and avoid the heartbreak, loss of money and in some cases, potentially having to surrender their pet to the shelter."

According to Scamwatch, the most common contact method reported was email, which also had the highest losses. The most common pets used in scams were puppies followed by kittens. Scamwatch also received reports about a wide range of animals including snakes, goats and ferrets.

PSAA have also partnered with Meta to collaborate on ideas of how to combat scams on social media. Since 2021, more than 600 Australian fraudulent bank accounts, 3,000 websites and over 5,000 social media pages/groups and profiles have been reported to PSAA.

"Banks need to do more to help protect the public!" says Ms Trujillo.

On October 3rd, PSAA reported an account to a major bank with evidence provided that the account is being used for fraudulent activities. The same account was re-reported (with evidence provided) three days later because the account was still in circulation and being used by a different scammer. On October 11th, a victim 'Sharon' was scammed from this account.

"Every turn that Sharon has tried to take has been met by the bank with rudeness, denial and obstruction. They refuse to accept the evidence provided. Her contact with the AFCA (Australian Financial Complaints Authority) have also been fruitless with



them stating that due to the amount she has lost they are not interested," says Ms Trujillo.

"Educating the public of the dangers and more importantly supporting and guiding victims through this traumatic event has been priority."

PSAA has recently launched a Breeders and Pet Transport Directory to help validate and help protect businesses from scammers stealing their intellectual property. Having "the only directory who are getting ahead of the scamming problem," PSAA also work with breeders whose IDs get stolen to restore their reputation.

"Most breeders are now dubious of strangers coming over and stealing their pups," says Ms Trujillo. "This has also become a thing during Covid. Many choose to speak on the phone or do Facetime. It's not always possible to find a breeder in your state too. Victorian laws are regulated so heavily that Victorian's are choosing to buy interstate. That's how most get caught in scams."

How to spot a pet scam https://australiacan.org.au/pet-projects/ puppy-scams/

For tips to avoid fake websites and a list of fraudulent websites www.puppyscamawarenessaustralia.com.au

For a guaranteed pet to welcome into your family, contact a Australia CAN member in your state https://australiacan.org.au/ who-we-are/

If you think you are scammed, contact your financial institution right away. For more information www.scamwatch.gov.au

Australia CAN is a registered charity representing the companion

animal welfare work of member organisations across the country, including Animal Welfare League QLD, Animal Welfare League SA, Lort Smith (VIC), Sydney Dogs and Cats Home, Dogs' Homes of Tasmania and Saving Animals From Euthanasia Inc (WA).

Australia CAN celebrates the human-animal bond and promotes responsible pet ownership through national campaigns, partnerships and initiatives, including the Rent with Pets and Pets in Aged Care programs.

"Pet scammers will generally advertise on fake websites, social media or classified sites. Scammers may also act as a rescue group," says Ms Ennis.

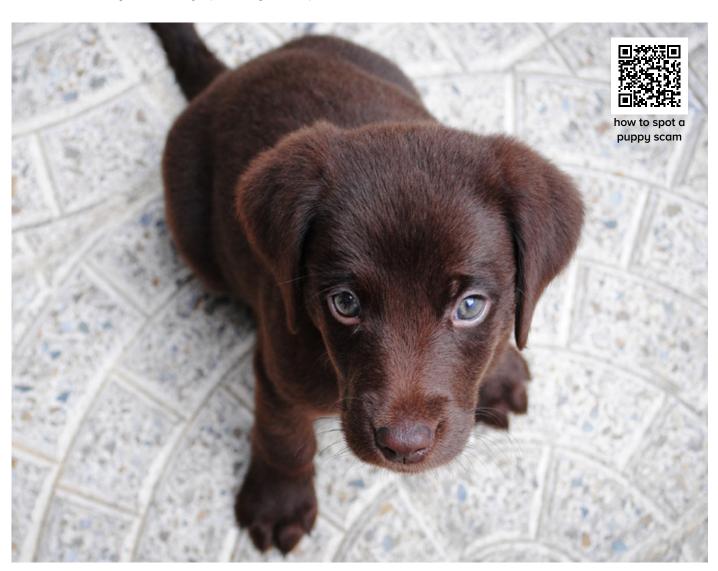
"People won't be able to see the pet and after it's paid for, victims will be asked for more money because of a range of issues involving transport, illness or need for vaccines. Scammers go to a lot of effort to convince people that the pet is being delivered."

Partnership with Puppy Scam Awareness Australia (PSAA)

Puppy Scam Awareness Australia is a dedicated organisation that brings awareness about the thousands of pet scamming syndicates who prey on pet shoppers, help puppy shoppers spot a scammer and assist those that have been scammed.

"We work hard reporting and negating scams daily to actively protect Australians from scams," says PSAA founder Sandy Trujillo. "We don't just report scammers, we shut down their online presence immediately, and help victims try and get their money

Source: Companion Animal Network



RSPCA KNOWLEDGEBASE

WHY DOES THE RSPCA ADVOCATE DESEXING **CATS BEFORE PUBERTY?**

Desexing cats before they can reproduce plays an integral role in reducing cat overpopulation and there are also many health and welfare benefits for individual cats. The RSPCA advises owners to have their cats desexed before four months of age (before puberty) and advocates desexing of all cats before puberty as routine and normal practice. The Australian Veterinary Association also recommends that cats should be desexed prior to puberty.

Traditionally, veterinarians have recommended that cats are desexed between about 51/2 and 6 months of age. However, many cats will have reached puberty by four months of age. If cats are desexed at the 'traditional age' of $5^{1/2}$ to 6 months, this creates the potential for cats to reproduce between the time the cat reaches puberty and the age at which they are desexed. Desexing a cat before puberty means desexing them by four months of age.

Desexing prior to puberty, or 'pre-pubertal desexing' (PPD) refers to desexing at or before 16 weeks of age, before cats are physically capable of reproduction. In most cases, PPD is performed between 12-16 weeks of age.

'Early-age desexing' (EAD) is a term commonly used to describe desexing earlier than traditional age. The term EAD has been used extensively to describe desexing at 8-12 weeks of age as is commonly practiced by animal shelters and other rehoming organisations to ensure that kittens are desexed prior to adoption (transfer of ownership). Since this is the widely accepted use of the term EAD, we use the term EAD to refer specifically to desexing at 8-12 weeks of age.

The RSPCA has been desexing kittens before puberty in its shelters for many years. Based on this experience and the cumulation of considerable scientific evidence, the RSPCA considers desexing cats before the age of four months to be a safe and effective strategy for cats owned by the wider community to prevent unplanned/unwanted

Desexing before puberty also reduces the amount of time young animals need to spend in the shelter environment as there is no need to wait until kittens are older to desex and then adopt them to new homes. The RSPCA also advocates desexing of kittens prior to sale from breeders or pet shops, and desexing prior to puberty makes this possible.

In addition to helping to prevent unwanted pregnancy, desexing prior to puberty can offer significant animal welfare benefits when compared to traditional age desexing. Desexing surgery is faster and easier when carried out on younger patients as their anatomical structures are less developed. There is less tissue trauma and less tissue handling involved, the surgery incision site is smaller, and bleeding is reduced and minimal. The anaesthetic recovery and wound healing times are also shorter, providing further animal welfare benefits. Desexing prior to puberty also significantly reduces the risk of mammary cancer in cats. These benefits are in addition to all of the commonly accepted benefits associated with general desexing, such as a reduction in wandering/roaming and undesirable sexual behaviours such as mounting and urine spraying.

If you want to know more about desexing prior to puberty and the evidence of the risks and benefits associated with this procedure see the RSPCA Australia Research Report on Pre-pubertal Desexing QR link below.





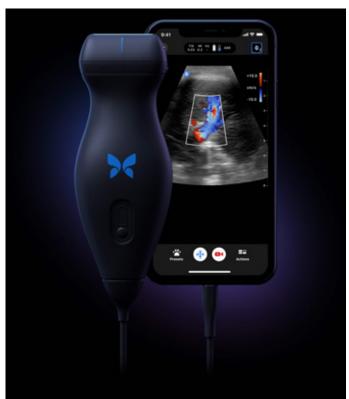
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE VETERINARY SCIENCES AND BUTTERFLY NETWORK COLLABORATE TO INCORPORATE BUTTERFLY IQ+ VET INTO CURRICULUM

University of Melbourne becomes Butterfly Network's flagship global veterinary education partner

GUILFORD, Conn., NEW YORK, NY, and DOOKIE COLLEGE, Australia – Butterfly Network, Inc. (NYSE: BFLY), a digital health company transforming care with handheld, whole-body ultrasound, and the University of Melbourne announce an exciting partnership to equip veterinary students with the **Butterfly iQ+** Vet for hands-on education and training. This is the first global veterinary education collaboration for Butterfly Network, which expanded into Australia and New Zealand last year. Butterfly Network has ongoing partnerships with a number of U.S.-based veterinary colleges, including Texas Tech University and Purdue University.

"Empowered with the clinical insights and valuable information obtained using iQ+ Vet, the University of Melbourne's veterinary classes will be equipped with an advanced assessment tool to deliver more informed decision-making," said Darius Shahida, Butterfly Network's Chief Strategy & Business Development Officer. "Students graduating with in-depth knowledge of the benefits of handheld ultrasound will immediately deliver results for their patients, clients, and practices." Butterfly iQ+ Vet is the world's only single probe, whole-body, multi-species imaging solution.

The Bz Vet is the second-generation of Butterfly's veterinary ultrasound device and brings sharper imaging, a new procedural guidance tool, and hardware improvements that make the solution more powerful, versatile, and easy-to-use. "The University of Melbourne has world-class teaching facilities and diagnostic imaging equipment. With the **Butterfly iQ+** Vet, our students will



get hands-on experience with the latest in hand-held diagnostics. This will help prepare them for careers in modern veterinary practices," said Professor Josh Slater, Acting Head of School and Head of Department Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Melbourne Veterinary School, University of Melbourne. Veterinarians and educators can request more information about **Butterfly iQ+** Vet at: vet.butterflynetwork.com.

About Butterfly Network

Founded by Dr. Jonathan Rothberg in 2011 and listed on the NYSE through a merger with Longview Acquisition Corp (NYSE: BFLY), Butterfly Network is the creator of the world's most advanced handheld, single-probe, whole-body veterinary ultrasound system, Butterfly iQ+ Vet. Butterfly's mission is to enable universal access to superior medical imaging, and part of that mission is to enable the scanning of every animal at each veterinary visit. Through its proprietary Ultrasound-on-ChipTM technology, Butterfly is paving the way for earlier detection and remote management of health conditions around the world. The Butterfly iQ+ Vet can be purchased online by veterinary practitioners in approved countries at the store or by contacting sales.

About University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne is a global leader in higher education. Across our campuses we convene brilliant minds from different disciplines and sectors to come together to address important questions and tackle grand challenges. In a disrupted world, that capacity has never been more important.

Our vision is to equip our students with a distinctive, future-facing education personalised around their ambitions and needs, enriched by global perspectives and embedded in a richly collaborative research culture. As active citizens and future leaders, our students represent our greatest contribution to the world, and are at the heart of everything we do.

We serve society by engaging with our communities and ensuring education and research are inspired from the outset by need and for the benefit of society, while remaining committed to allowing academic freedom to flourish. In this, we remain true to our purpose and fulfill our mission as a public-spirited organisation, dedicated to the principles of fairness, equality and excellence in everything we do.

We strive for an environment that is inclusive and celebrates diversity.

Beyond our campuses we imagine an Australia that is ambitious, forward thinking and increasing its reputation and influence globally. We are committed to playing a part in achieving this — building on our advantageous location in one of the world's most exciting cities and across the state of Victoria, in a region rapidly becoming a hub for innovative education, research and collaboration.



HOW FLATBACK TURTLE SKELETONS CAN HELP SAVE THE LIVING

Researchers from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and partners have been working to discover how flatback turtle skeletons can reveal more about the lives of Australia's iconic turtle species.

The study, a joint project led from the USA by The Ocean Foundation and US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries with support from local groups across northern Australia, is shedding new light on the growth rates and age at maturity for flatback turtles.

This information helps researchers and managers better understand the population status and trends, in turn focusing management efforts to conserve this threatened species.

Flatback turtles are the least understood of the seven sea turtle species and the only one to be labelled 'Data Deficient' on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) 'Red List'. In Western Australia, flatback turtles are threatened fauna, classified as 'Vulnerable'.

DBCA Senior Research Scientist Dr Tony Tucker said the study was integral for managing and conserving flatback turtle populations.

"While this provides data on the size of mature female turtles, we haven't had a good handle on their age at sexual maturity and how that corresponds to size until now."

"The insightful outcomes of this project will be combined with field data, and then used to model the function of the flatback turtle populations and try to predict the impacts of changing climate and other threats," Dr Tucker said.

Researchers compiled age and length data by studying the bones of deceased flatback turtles that had washed ashore or been caught in fishing nets.

"Just like tree rings, sea turtle bones have been demonstrated to have concentric rings of growth throughout their life," Dr Tucker said.

"We've applied this technique for the first time on flatback turtles using specimens that have washed ashore and even from museum collections."

Scientists recorded the carapace (shell) length, then identified and measured growth rings inside the humerus (arm) bones to create a multi-year record of size and age for individual turtles. Some flatback turtles had previously been marked by researchers at nesting sites, providing supporting information on known growth rates.

The more than 70 specimens collected from across northern Australia have revealed flatbacks grow rapidly as juveniles and reach sexual maturity at an estimated 16 years of age. The oldest flatback turtle recorded as part of this study was around 48 years old.

"This research suggests juvenile flatback turtles grow faster than any other sea turtle species," Dr Tucker said.

"Unlike other sea turtles, juvenile flatbacks don't head for the deep ocean for protection but instead remain in relatively shallow waters to feed. This rapid growth may aid their protection from predators such as sharks, fish and birds of prey."

Project lead Dr Cali Turner Tomaszewicz from The Ocean

Foundation and NOAA Fisheries said the study is a crucial first step in understanding how breeding groups differ across northern Australia

"We know nesting flatbacks in eastern Australia tend to be larger than those nesting in Western Australia, so we would like to continue collecting samples to see if those size difference also mean differences in age to maturity," Dr Turner

Tomaszewicz said. "We also plan to look at the chemical signatures in the bone growth layers to see if we can detect differences in diet between different groups of flatbacks, or between juvenile and adult turtles. It's an exciting project to be a part of."

This new information will inform ongoing monitoring and research within the only identified and accessible flatback turtle foraging ground located at Roebuck Bay, Western Australia, which will be undertaken by Yawuru Country Managers and DBCA scientists.

The study was published in the journal PLOS ONE on the 20 July 2022 (https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0271048

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0271048)) and was a joint project involving The Ocean Foundation, US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Queensland Department of Environment and Science, Charles Darwin University and Pendoley Environmental.

Researchers from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and partners have been working to discover how flatback turtle skeletons can reveal more about the lives of Australia's iconic turtle species.

THE PAWS ROOM CRATES BRING LASTING HARMONY TO HOME AND HOUND

Anxiety in pets has increased since the pandemic* and dog trainers are advocating crates as a comforting and safe space for training puppies into adulthood so they can develop a lasting ability (and associated place) to self-soothe.

But not everyone feels comfortable putting their furry friend in a cage, nor wants to have an ugly wire container in their living space. Introducing The Paws Room!

Influenced by a dog trainer who advocates crate training for calmer, happier dogs and collaborating with local industrial designers, The Paws Room founder Eliza Kennedy is helping Aussie dogs to feel happy and safe at home in style. The Paws Room pet furniture collection is beautifully crafted, locally manufactured and eco-friendly designed to be loved equally by dogs and their owners alike.

"I wanted a crate that looked like it belonged in my living room and could be equally used as a table or bench," said Eliza. "The goal was an easily assembled, durable crate solution that could help with calming a puppy, as well as provide a lasting sanctuary for them into maturity. For me, it's about the value of investing in our dogs' happiness."

With social responsibility also key to the business, The Paws Room has partnered with national charity Happy Paws Happy Hearts, which rehabilitates animals and people through programs in animal shelters and wildlife sanctuaries nationwide. The Paws Room donates a percentage of profits and pet furniture to support HPHH programs and help educate pet owners about crate training.

BENEFITS OF CRATE TRAINING, WHEN DONE PROPERLY

A dog trainer with Happy Paws Happy Hearts, Justin Palazzo-Orr has been an advocate of crates for the past 14 years of working with dogs.

"There are many benefits to crate training a dog, may it be a puppy or recently adopted dog. It helps them establish a safe space they can go to, somewhere familiar or to get away from other people or animals while they are still getting used to them," he explained.

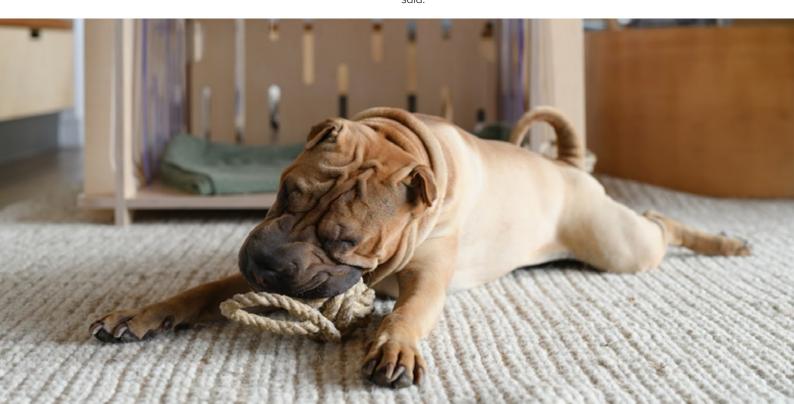
"Crates are also beneficial when traveling with dogs. Just like people travel with a caravan to take a piece of home with them, a crate can be a little piece of your dog's home when they travel. Be it pet friendly camping, accommodation or visiting family for the holidays."

But some people are unsure about using crates because of the stigma attached to 'sticking your dog in a cage', he said.

"Also, I've seen some horrible footage online of people using crates in very inappropriate ways. Like with anything, it's important to know how to use crates in a way that is safe and that the dog loves. Each dog is an individual and the key is to make the crate the best place in the world for them," he said.

Justin advised starting training with a sturdy crate that is big enough for your dog to stand, sit, lie down, and turn around in as well as a bit of space on either side of them.

"We use Paws Room crates in our facilities because they are functional, really sturdy, have great ventilation, are very easy to clean and maintain, and unlike most crates, they look the part!" he





WHO'S TEDDY, COCO AND JACK?

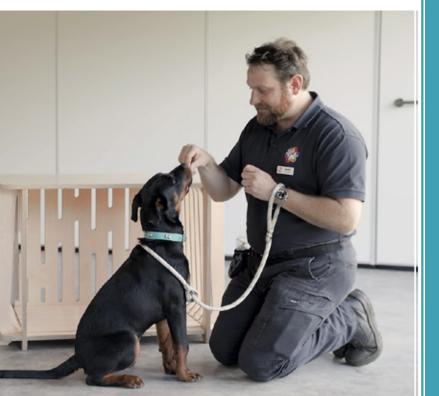
With a focus on local design and production, sustainable materials, and a minimalist aesthetic, Eliza partnered with industrial designers *Charles Wentworth* and *Carl Behrendorff*.

Together they created *Teddy*, the stand-alone crate, *Coco* the couch companion and *Jack*, the cladding solution for those wishing to transform an existing crate into a stylish and multipurpose piece, available in a variety of sizes.

"We are lucky enough to live in an Arcke-designed house and love the architect's signature use of birch plywood. It seemed the perfect material to blend a stylish home for our dogs with our home. We use a premium birch plywood with a clear laminate for easy cleaning," said Eliza.

Having experienced the frustration of dog-chewed timber furniture in the past, Eliza worked with the designers to protect Teddy's plywood fins and intended visibility with the use of perspex stiders and lockable doors. A new design is also coming that incorporates powder-coated metal rods with the birch plywood top

"We believe that dog and human decor can be seamlessly integrated, and The Paws Room's furniture aspires to enhance feelings of connection and create a sense of belonging for all the family," she said.



WHAT TO CONSIDER IF YOU'RE USING A CRATE ...

- Do not leave your dog in a crate for a long period of time as it can become distressing for them.
- Never use the crate as a form of punishment – remember, it's a safe place for your dog.
- The crate should be big enough for your dog to stand, sit, lie down and turn around in as well as a bit of space on either side of them.
- Beware, if some crates are not assembled properly, they can collapse and cause the dog physical harm.
- A crate with bars that are extremely close together can restrict the air allowed to circulate within and cause extreme discomfort.
- Don't put your dog in with a collar or leash as it can get caught on the bars and cause strangulation.

Take a closer look at The Paws Room showroom in Brisbane





Biscuit and his human Jordi Busenshut

Australia's most comprehensive pet population survey has revealed the boom in pet ownership seen during the COVID-19 pandemic has levelled-out to a "new normal" of strong pet ownership in Australia, with 69% of households across metropolitan, regional and remote Australia now home to one or more pets.

Animal Medicines Australia's latest Pets in Australia study found an estimated 28.7 million pets are now calling home to around 6.9 million households across Australia. Many of these people are first time pet owners, having brought their pet into their home during the pandemic.

"This data paints a portrait of some people who are stretched thin and stressed out, dealing with increased living costs and having to give up their pets.

Ben Stapley

Dogs and cats have led this sustained growth in pet ownership, with almost half of all households having at least one dog1 and a third of all households housing at least one cat2. While the numbers of other pets have remained largely steady since 20193.

For many pet owners, typical reasons for getting a pet include companionship, rescuing animals, relaxation and mental health, with 85% saying their pet had a positive impact on their physical and mental wellbeing.

"The research identified four distinct segments of pet owners. The

largest cohort (30%) are driven by affordability and convenience, meaning they are less likely to spend money on non-essential items. Others (25%) - many of whom are retirees and empty nesters - are looking for simplicity & reliability to maintain a happy and well cared animal companion," AMA CEO, Ben Stapley said.

"For 27% of pet owners - who are typically middle to higher income families - 'care and quality' is a key driver in their approach to pet care, with them willing and able to spend money across all pet products and services, including preventative care. Interestingly the least experienced cohort - but arguably the ones more likely to have more pets - are driven to care and share experiences with their pets, even if it means stretching the budget."

Despite the growth in ownership, housing constraints and costs are key barriers holding back would-be owners and current owners hoping to grow their 'pack'. Current non-owners — particularly renters and apartment dwellers — are especially likely to point to unsuitable homes or issues with landlords, body corporates and strata laws as a reason not to bring a pet into their lives.

"In some circumstances, these challenges can lead to difficult decisions to find alternate care arrangements for a beloved pet," Ben Stapley said.

While a family member or friend remains the most popular choice for rehoming a pet if they can no longer care for it, more people are now likely to take their pet to a shelter (20%, up from 15% in 2019).

SEC Newgate's Mood of the Nation August 2022, a nationally representative online survey of n=1,804 adults indicates that as Australia emerged from its pandemic-driven pet acquisition boom,

there was also a surge in pet surrendering occurring in parallel – in part driven by difficult circumstances and amongst pet owners with greater financial and social vulnerabilities.

"This data paints a portrait of some people who are stretched thin and stressed out, dealing with increased living costs and having to give up their pets. It suggests a need for supporting services to help keep pet owners with their animals through difficult times, particularly given the findings regarding the mental health benefits of companion animals," Ben Stapley said.

"To ensure that as many Australians as possible can access the myriad benefits associated with pet ownership, we seek a policy environment that facilitates responsible pet ownership practices," AMA CEO, Ben Stapley said.

"This could be achieved by improving strata laws, providing support for vulnerable pet owners, or through greater national consistency in companion animal policy settings.

"We need to encourage informed and thoughtful decision-making by governments, policymakers and others when considering issues that impact Australia's estimated 28.7 million pets in 6.9 million households," Ben Stapley concluded.

Animal Medicines Australia is a peak body representing leading animal health companies in Australia, and we provide up-to-date, authoritative data on pets and pet ownership in Australia to help deliver better animal health and industry outcomes across

The study was conducted by Newgate Research, one of Australia's most sought-after market and social research firms. The study included deep focus group conversations with dog and cat owners from around the country, validated through a nationally representative online survey of more than 2,000 adults – resulting in a robust maximum error margin of +/- 2% at the 95% confidence level.

Newgate is a founding member of the Australian Polling Council, with a full methodology disclosure statement for this study available on its website.



A copy of the Pets in Australia study can be found at https://animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au





- 69% of households across metropolitan, regional and remote Australia are now home to one or more pets.
- An estimated 28.7 million pets are now calling home to ground 6.9 million households across Australia.
- 85% pet owners say their pet has a positive impact on their life, noting mental and physical health as key positives.
- Australians are estimated to be spending over \$33 billion annually to keep our pets fed, healthy and wellaccessorised.
- 68% say they had considered not going to the vet when they needed to, driven partly by cost considerations.
- Despite the increase, housing constraints and costs are key barriers holding back would-be owners, particularly renters and apartment dwellers experiencing issues with landlords, body corporates and strata laws.

SAYING GOODBYE

How do you bid farewell to your best friend? Sunset Vets pioneering improved experience in palliative and end-of-life care for pets. Many pet owners are mentally and emotionally unprepared when it's time to bid farewell to their best friend, and need care, compassion and guidance from their veterinarian.

Dr Jackie Campbell is Australia's first Internationally Certified Palliative Care Veterinarian (CHPV) and founded Sunset Home Veterinary Care, a pioneering veterinary service that delivers palliative care options and compassionate end-of-life care to older and terminally unwell pets in the comfort of their own home. Palliative care is a rapidly emerging field in veterinary medicine," said Dr Campbell."We believe all families should have access to this type of compassionate care, leading a movement to improve care in the final weeks of life. We aim to support families through what they know are some of the most difficult of days."Sunset Vets provides at-home specialised veterinary consultations, senior pet health care and advice, palliative care services, compassionate in-home pet euthanasia and grief counselling and support.

The Queensland-born company is one of only a handful of dedicated veterinary palliative care services in Australia, now expanding to Sydney due to increasing demand from pet owners who want the very best for their four-legged loved ones and connect with world class support."We are focused on improving and maintaining quality-of-life in the face of age or illness, supporting owners through the difficulties of end-of-life medical decision making and encouraging families to celebrate and treasure, rather than fear, the golden years with their pets," said Dr Campbell."We allow families to be able to say a gentle goodbye at home and facilitate all care including cremation and counselling support." Supporting young pets with terminal illnessWhile most of their pet patients are seniors, Sunset Vets'

palliative care team also works with people with young pets who are facing a terminal diagnosis. "Often, it's a heartbreaking scenario where families may need a little extra care. Their vets assist with the medical management of the pet, but so often it's the emotional care they deliver to the owners and families that makes the biggest difference," said Dr Campbell. "Because pets at the end-of-life stage often have more complicated needs, we allocate much longer for an appointment than in a traditional hospital setting. As well as assessing the patient, we help owners understand what to expect from their pet's disease journey, what to look for in times of crisis, and show them how to keep their loved ones as comfortable as possible."Sunset Vets' palliative care team work closely with the pet's GP (primary care) veterinarian and act to further support that vet hospital and client bond. Where appropriate, they also assist with referrals to other health professionals, including specialists and allied health professionals, such as animal physiotherapists. "With an experienced support team available by phone 7 days a week, we offer care and expert guidance for clients trying to work through difficult decisions around quality-of-life and euthanasia," said Dr Campbell. When the time for goodbye comes, we work with families to ensure their pet is comfortable and that their final moments are spent with everyone feeling supported and at ease."

The team is also able to help with aftercare arrangements and offer pet owners access to professional grief support, having developed a unique partnership with universities across Australia to deliver a complimentary pet-loss specific grief counselling program."As we launch in Sydney with more vets joining the team, we hope to be able to provide more and more pet owners across Australia with the option of in-home care in the future, and access to an extra gentle way to say goodbye to their much-loved pets," said Dr Campbell. For more information or pet owner resources, please visit www.sunsetvets.com.au









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AS TWO MILLION HOUSEHOLDS* PLAN A HOLIDAY WITH THEIR DOG THIS YEAR

Beach locations Rye and Cowes in VIC, plus Culburra Beach in NSW rate as the top three spots in Australia to find a petfriendly holiday rental

Stayz®, Australia's original holiday home website, has installed a collection of custom-built dog play houses at homes in VIC, NSW and QLD as new research* conducted by Longeron on behalf of Stayz predicts Aussie pooches will travel more than ever with their humans in 2022.

More than half (55%) of Aussie dog owners are already planning travel trips with their four-legged friends this year and are most excited to visit a beach location (51%) and to form a stronger bond with their dog (33%).

Stayz travel expert and dog mum Simone Scoppa says: "Let's face it – the pandemic hasn't only been tough on Aussies, it's been *ruff* on pets too, especially as dog owners head back to work and school. We wanted to give the lockdown dogs a holiday to remember this year with the launch of Stayz' custombuilt doggy play houses at some of our most stunning pet-friendly holiday homes across the country." "We know that many Aussie households have also added a furry friend to their family during



AUSTRALIA'S TOP SPOTS TO FIND A PET-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY RENTAL:

- 1. Rue, Morning Peninsula, VIC
- 2. Cowes, Phillip Island, VIC
- 3. Culburra Beach, South Coast, NSW
- 4. Apollo Bay, Great Ocean Road, VIC
- 5. Sorrento, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

the pandemic, so making your dog's first holiday away with the family should be in a place that everyone will love. Our latest data shows that one in ten searches on the Stayz website is a petfriendly one, so let's make 2022 the year when Aussie doggos have the best holiday of their life."

The three stulish paw-approved holiday dog houses, available to book from today and in place til the end of the year, reflect the states they now call home. In Victoria's Rye on the Mornington Peninsula, the Canterbury Jetty Luxury Escape has a puppuccinoinspired outdoor pad leaning into Victorians cafe culture with 1 in 10 (11%) Victorians choosing to explore local cafes over other activities with their hounds on holiday.

The three stylish paw-approved holiday dog houses, available to book from today and in place til the end of the year, reflect the states they now call home. In Victoria's Rye on the Mornington Peninsula, the Canterbury Jetty Luxury Escape has a puppuccinoinspired outdoor pad leaning into Victorians cafe culture with 1 in 10 (11%) Victorians choosing to explore local cafes over other activities with their hounds on holiday.

A Paws-itive Holiday Experience For All

Holidays are not only good for your own wellbeing but there are benefits also for your dog. Two in five dog owners (41%) say that the holiday becomes more enjoyable for them when they take their pets away with them. Just like their owners, dogs also get the same benefits from holidays. Two in five dog owners say that their dogs appear happier (40%) and better behaved (39%). At least half of dog owners say they can tell their dog/s are happy as they become more playful (55%), excited to meet new people and explore new things (51%) and wag their tail more (48%) on holidays.

Dog Psychology Expert and Behaviour Specialist Nathan Williams says:

"We're a nation of dog lovers, but owners can often forget that our four-legged friends are more like us in many ways. With Aussies returning to physical offices and schools this year, our doggy friends will be craving quality time with their family.

Separation anxiety is the most common problem affecting domestic dogs today. They get confused and anxious when apart

- Australian dogs are set to travel more than ever in 2022, with two million Aussie households* planning a holiday with their dog
- 2 in 5 dog owners say their dog is better behaved (39%), happier (40%), more playful (55%) and wags their tail more (48%) on holidaus*
- More than half of Aussie dog owners prefer beach holidays (51%) with their pets, followed by country escapes (26%)*

from their owners, but by taking them away with you, everyone can enjoy a holiday with your loved ones. With these pet play houses, Stayz has made it even easier, and more fun, to take your fur family away with you. "

Aussie beachside destinations catering for doggos and their families Stayz travel expert Simone Scoppa adds:

"With 2022 set to be the year of doggy-friendly holiday travel, our research shows that pet-friendly homes are the most important factor (70%) when thinking of travelling domestically with dogs. We're proud to say that as at today one in five Australian Stayz listings are pet-friendly, making our site a great option for dog owners looking for lots of choice for a short domestic trip this year."

"NSW takes out the top spot for most pet-friendly holiday homes by a whisker, followed by VIC, QLD, SA and WA. Interestingly though, VIC had the most destinations with more than 90 homes in each with Rye on the Mornington Peninsula taking out the top spot with more than 180 dog-friendly holiday homes to book."

For holiday inspiration and to book your next pet-friendly holiday home in Australia, go to www.stayz.com.au/petholiday. - In New South Wales, active travellers and lovers of ball sports can unite with their doggos as they're most likely to take their furry pals for a run/long walk (34%) while on holiday, and will find a fun hideout made up of one of dogs' favourite things – fetch.





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