

ARANA HILLS VETERINARY CLINIC

18 Nepean Avenue
Arana Hills, QLD 4054

P: (07) 3851 1366

E: aranavet@vetkind.com.au

W: vetkind.com.au

CONSULTATION TIMES

Consultation by appointment preferred.

Mon & Thurs 8:00am – 7:00pm

Tues, Wed & Fri 8:00am – 6:00pm

Sat 8:00am – 1:00pm

VETS:

Dr Lauren McConnell BVSc

Dr Michelle Barton BVSc

Dr Katrina Price BVSc

Dr Ema Bowman BVSc(dist) MANZCVS

Dr Katie Knights BVSc

Dr Daniel Swan BVSc (Hons)

NURSES:

**Catherine, Ash, Kelly, Sarah, Tash,
Tamara, Emily and Carmen**

FERNLANDS VETERINARY PRACTICE

5/10 Woodhill Rd, Fernlands Shopping Village, Ferny Hills, QLD 4055

P: (07) 3351 0500

E: fernlandsvet@vetkind.com.au

W: vetkind.com.au

CONSULTATION TIMES

Consultation by appointment preferred.

Mon to Fri 9.00am – 5.00pm

Sat Closed

VETS:

Dr Helen Byrnes BVSc MANZCVS

Dr Corinne Lendon BVSc BVMS PHD

Dr Charlotte Bryant BVSc

Dr Daniel Swan BVSc (Hons)

NURSES:

Leesa and Carmen

EVERTON HILLS VETERINARY SURGERY

Everton Hills Shopping Village
Camelia Avenue, Everton Hills, QLD 4053

P: (07) 3355 6724

E: evertonhillsvet@vetkind.com.au

W: vetkind.com.au

CONSULTATION TIMES

Consultation by appointment preferred.

Mon to Fri 8.00am – 6.00pm

VETS:

Dr Anita Berger BVSc

Dr Michelle Barton BVSc

NURSES:

Dannielle and Carmen

AFTER HOURS

Urgent medical problems contact BVECCS
53 Old Northern Road, Albany Creek
Call 3264 9400

YOUR VET

SUMMER 2022/23

with compliments

In this edition we talk about...



DOG VACCINATIONS



HOW GOOD ARE CAT COLLARS?



WHAT'S THAT ON THE MENU?



DRESSING UP YOUR PET



Treat your dog to a fun activity to tire them out before bath time, such as a long walk or beach trip.

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF BATH TIME

Do you know the right way to keep your pets clean? We're here to answer some of the most commonly asked questions.

Should you bathe your cat/dog?

Cats and dogs have different bathing requirements. Typically, dogs only require baths when they smell unpleasant or have dirt or mud on their coats. If you wash dogs too often, you risk drying out their skin and coats. However, the bathing schedules of dogs with skin problems might differ, and a conversation with your vet may be necessary.

If your dog doesn't smell unpleasant, isn't dirty, and doesn't have a skin condition that requires bathing, they probably don't need a bath. It's also important not to bath your dog during cool weather if there's not enough time for them to dry completely before night falls.

Healthy cats don't usually require baths as they take care of their own grooming requirements. There are some exceptions such as: medical reasons, breed of cat, or if your cat has become too dirty to clean themselves. Keep in mind that most cats find baths distressing... and it probably won't be easy for you as well!

How to choose bathing products

It can be tempting to wash your dog with the same products you use on yourself, but these aren't designed for a dog's sensitive skin. Use mild and gentle hypoallergenic pet shampoo or vet-recommended products if your dog has a skin condition. Always test

first with a small amount of a new product to ensure your dog doesn't experience irritation or a reaction.

How to get your pet to like baths

Getting your pet to like baths can take consistency and patience. Before introducing water, start by teaching them to be comfortable with you touching the areas of their body you would need to wash.

When you introduce them to the bath, remain calm and use positive reinforcement. Use a non-skid surface to make them feel safe. Introduce water slowly and let them get used to it before beginning to wash them. Use slow, calm motions and take great care not to get any product in their eyes, ears, nose or mouth.

Be aware of your pet's behaviour; forcing them to do something they really dislike or that makes them frightened can cause stress and injury – to you and them.

What about bathing before a vet visit?

Unless your dog is caked in mud and couldn't receive appropriate vet care in their current condition, bathing before a vet appointment isn't necessary. Vets can gather a lot of information about a dog's health from their coat, smell, and skin, which might not be immediately apparent after bath time.

Bath time for a pet looks much different than it does for us. Ask our vets for advice if you have any questions or concerns about keeping your pets clean.

CAT COLLARS – DO THEY NEED THEM?

What's the purpose of cat collars, and are they more dangerous than helpful?

Many cat owners want collars with a name tag to ensure they'll be contacted if their pet goes missing. However microchipping is now a permanent and safe way of identifying your pet, so what's the reason for collars?

Perhaps you want to show that your lost cat isn't a stray, but a much-loved pet; or you want your cat to wear a collar with bells and bright colours to stop them from hunting wildlife. Whatever the reason, it's important to choose the safest type of collar.

The dangers of collars

Cats love exploring, climbing trees and fences. However, the circular shape of collars makes it easy for cats to become entangled in branches, hooked on obstacles, and even trapped by their neck and mouth.

Rather than purchasing collars with fixed buckles, consider quick-release breakaway collars. Some owners choose stretch collars, but if it has a fixed buckle your cat could still get a limb stuck.

Quick-release breakaway collars have buckles that pull open when force is

applied. If your cat becomes entangled or caught, their collar will release, setting them free.

What about flea collars?

Flea collars vary greatly in safety and quality, and many also have fixed buckles so they present the same safety issues. Look for safe vet-recommended flea treatment options.

If you're unsure whether a collar for your cat is in their best interest, contact us for advice. You can then make an informed decision that takes your cat's health and lifestyle into account.



If you do decide on a collar for your cat, it's important to fit it correctly for their safety and comfort. Check that it's secure but not too tight, and that it doesn't irritate their skin.

COULD MAGGOTS BE ON THE MENU?

We all want the healthiest dietary options for our pets, but what if that meant swapping meat for maggots?

Pet food manufacturers eager to help the environment are turning their attention to maggots – specifically, the larvae (grubs) of commercially grown black soldier flies (BSF). While the idea of feeding maggots to your pet might be enough to turn your stomach, there's value in considering it for both dietary and environmental benefits.

It's vital to feed your pet a nutritious and balanced diet to ensure they have a fit, active and healthy lifestyle.

How is it made and is it healthy?

Larvae from BSF are dried, heat treated, and made into a powder or oil that can then be added to other ingredients to make the pet food.

According to studies on the digestibility of BSF in diets for dogs, it's easily digested and nutritious. It contains good levels of the ten essential amino acids (the building

blocks of proteins) that dogs need, and is a good source of unsaturated fat, vitamins and minerals.

Environmentally friendly

A study exploring insects as an alternative protein source also determined that they are an environmentally-friendly choice as well as nutritional. Compared to traditional meat farming, insect farming requires less water, land and energy, while producing less waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Do pets like it?

If you accept that insects can be pet food, you might still wonder whether your four-legged friend would eagerly devour a bowl of black soldier fly larvae formed into biscuits. According to feeding trials, there's a high likelihood they would. In these trials, cats and dogs were fed insect-based pet foods over a period of time, and these pets readily accepted the new food.

Consult your local vet for advice if you're interested in weighing up the pros and cons of alternative pet food options. A slow transition can be crucial to limit digestive upset and ensure a particular food is suitable for your pet's overall nutritional needs.

THE VET'S VOICE ON DOG VACCINATIONS

Most people want to keep their dogs healthy and happy, and vaccinations are just as important as a good home.

When you're caught up in the whirlwind of being a new dog owner, it's easy to let vet visits fall by the wayside. You can be so busy working on toilet training and basic commands that you forget about possible illnesses and diseases that could threaten your pet's life.

However, vaccinations should be first on your to-do list when you bring your new puppy home, and they should continue to be a priority throughout your dog's life.

Why are vaccinations necessary?

As naturally healthy as our puppies and dogs seem, their immune systems can't fight off every disease they're exposed to throughout their lives.

Diseases can have devastating consequences for your pet, but many can be avoided with vaccination programmes.

Our puppies and dogs can be at risk of catching a wide variety of diseases in Australia, such as parvovirus, distemper, hepatitis, kennel cough, and Bordetella bronchiseptica. Dogs can experience a range of severe symptoms, like fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, breathing difficulties, weakness, lethargy, and even convulsions.

Vaccinations are not only essential to protect your pet against illness, but they can also be helpful for other people's pets. By vaccinating against the most common diseases and viruses, you're actively stopping the spread.

How do vaccinations work?

Vaccines provide temporary or permanent immunity from infectious diseases that could impact the health of your dog and even your family. They're not a cure but a way to prevent diseases.

Vaccines contain infectious agents that mimic disease-causing microorganisms and stimulate your dog's immune system when injected into their body. Their immune system sees the infectious agents as a threat and attacks them. If your pet is exposed to the real disease in the future their body will then 'remember' the disease and fight it off.

If you're about to welcome a new puppy into the family, or it has been some time since your dog has had a check-up, it's the right time to see us. Learning about vaccinations is more straightforward than you might think, and setting up a vaccination programme will make it easier for you.

WORD SEARCH

B O A D H T G K J D S N M A O A Y G B H J L N Y E
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ANXIETY
 BEHAVIOUR
 CALM
 CANINE
 COLLARS
 COSTUME
 DIARRHOEA
 DIGESTION
 DISTEMPER
 DISTRESS
 FELINE
 FLEAS
 FREEDOM
 GASTROINTESTINAL
 GROOMING
 HAZARD
 HEPATITIS
 IMMUNITY
 KITTEN
 LARVAE
 LITTER
 MAGGOTS
 MINERALS
 PARVOVIRUS
 POSITIVE
 PROTEIN
 PUPPY
 SMELL
 VACCINATIONS
 VITAMINS

A GUIDE TO CREATING YOUR KITTEN'S KINGDOM

Adopting a kitten can be exciting, but don't forget to tick these tasks off your to-do list before welcoming them into their new home.

Choosing a new kitten from a litter can seem like the hardest decision you'll make, but it's the first of many in those early days of kitten ownership. Alongside choosing a breed and colour, you'll also need to decide how to transport them home, where they'll sleep, what they'll eat, and what health care they'll need.

Transporting your kitten

First, you'll need an appropriate carrier to get them home. While a cardboard box might seem satisfactory, your kitten might be more comfortable in a soft, collapsible cat carrier that can suit their needs as a kitten and as they grow into an adult.

Adding soft blankets might also make them feel warm and comforted after leaving the safety of their mother for the first time.

Setting up a litter area

Both cats and kittens need an easily-accessible area to do their toileting. Set up a litter box with non-dusty, small-grained litter. If you have more than one cat, provide one litter box for each. As a rule, litter boxes should be at least one and a half times the length of your cat.

Creating a sleeping space

A warm, draught-free sleeping space is crucial for a new kitten. Purchase a cat-friendly bed and place it in a cosy and private location. Consider adding bedding that can be easily cleaned and dried.

Feeding your new kitten

Kittens naturally wean from their mothers at eight to twelve weeks old and start eating food on their own. Start feeding your new kitten wet food and introduce dry food as they grow. Make sure your pet's food is vet-approved and complies with Australian Pet Food Standards.

Feed your kitten four times daily and ensure they always have access



Regular health checks are important for your pet's health and also a great opportunity for you to ask us any questions about your pet's care.



to fresh drinking water. Refrain from providing milk or cream, as this can cause gastrointestinal upsets.

Schedule regular vet checks

To ensure your kitten has the best start to life, book them in for their first vet checkup as soon as you bring them home, or at six to eight weeks. A checkup at this time is important to help us identify any potential health problems, administer their first vaccinations, and set up a wellness/vaccination plan for them.

DRESSING UP YOUR PET – ENTERTAINING OR UPSETTING?

Dressing up is a fun way to celebrate holidays like Halloween and Christmas, but are your pets having as much fun as you?

Some pets tolerate being dressed up, while others immediately show their displeasure. However, the signs of distress are not always easily identifiable, and costumes can be unsafe.

Is it okay to dress up your pet?

There is no blanket rule for whether or not you should dress up your dog. Some don't notice they're wearing anything different, but others will experience significant anxiety. However, in almost all situations, cats will not tolerate or enjoy any dress-up clothing.

The best thing you can do for your pet is observe their reactions when you try to dress them up for an event, competition, or special occasion. If they struggle to remove the costume, appear to have difficulty moving, or start panting as a sign of anxiety, remove the outfit immediately.

What costumes should we avoid?

If your pet doesn't mind wearing costumes, it's still essential to ensure their outfit doesn't present health hazards.

Avoid anything that covers their mouth or head and restricts their breathing, eating, or drinking. Make sure nothing covers their eyes, obscures their vision, or stops them from performing natural activities like walking, toileting and wagging their tails.

Other dangerous features include sharp items, or anything that can peel off and be swallowed or choked on. Ensure the outfit is not tight or loose, as ill-fitting costumes can cause distress, overheating, and trip hazards.

Dressed isn't always best. If your pet experiences distress while being dressed up, give them the freedom to wear their natural coat. You can then enjoy peace of mind knowing they're comfortable, relaxed, and happy.



APPOINTMENT REMINDER

Ask our receptionist to record details of your next visit. Take this newsletter home and keep it somewhere handy as a reminder. Help us to help you keep your pets happy and healthy.

PET NAME	DATE	TIME

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual check up | <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up examination | <input type="checkbox"/> Worming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flea/tick treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Disclaimer: The information in this newsletter is not intended to be a substitute for professional advice, diagnosis or treatment. Decisions relating to your pet's health should always be made in consultation with your veterinarian.

Our newsletter is free! Take a copy with you.

ALERT! PARALYSIS TICKS

It's that time of the year again. Paralysis ticks are about in great numbers.

HOW CAN I PREVENT MY PET GETTING A TICK?

Use a tick or flea treatment to protect your pet from the risk of ticks.

In our clinics we sell a range of products for both CATS and dogs.

– Products available such as Bravecto chews and spot-ons, Simparica & Simparica TRIO monthly chews, Seresto tick collars and shampoos and rinses that prevent ticks.

– Keeping your dogs and cats coat shorter during summer will help when doing daily tick checks.

When checking, feel for small lumps and make sure you look in hidden places such as under the collar, between toes, their paws, gumline and inside their ears.

PARALYSIS TICKS

- Vomiting and/or gagging
- A slight wobbliness of the hindquarters which worsens to paralysis and inability to stand
- Difficulty breathing (slow and laboured, often with a grunting noise on expiration)
- Refusing food

Scale: 1 cm, 2 cm

FUN FACT!

Did you know that pups at 12-14 weeks are about 40% of their adult body weight?! Check out the table below to see a guide for your pup!

HOW BIG WILL MY PUP GROW TO BE?

Weight at 12-14 weeks (kg)	Adult weight (kg)
2	5
3	7.5
4	10
5	12.5
6	15
7	17.5
8	20
9	22.5
10	25
11	27.5
12	30
13	32.5
14	35

CHECK THE TABLE TO SEE HOW BIG YOU CAN EXPECT YOUR PUP TO GROW TO AS AN ADULT