

ARANA HILLS VETERINARY CLINIC

18 Nepean Avenue
Arana Hills, QLD 4054

P: (07) 3851 1366

E: arana vet@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

NURSES

Kelly, Tash, Grace, Gemma, Tamara and Amanda

PRACTICE MANAGER

Ash

FERNLANDS VETERINARY PRACTICE

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

P: (07) 3351 0500

E: fernlandsvet@vetkind.com.au

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CONSULTATION TIMES

Consultation by appointment preferred.

Mon to Fri 9.00am – 5.00pm

Sat Closed

VETS

Dr Helen Byrnes BVSc MANZCVS

NURSES

Amanda and Ash

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

Dora and Grace

AFTER HOURS

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

YOUR VET

SPRING 2023

with compliments

In this edition we talk about...



HEALTHY, HAPPY HENS



NAIL CARE FOR CATS & DOGS



WHAT IS FELINE HERPES?



COMMON EYE PROBLEMS

Take these 5 steps to ease your dog's 'itch'

It can be a process of elimination and a balancing act to combat your dog's itchy skin.

Itchy dogs are generally uncomfortable dogs. Itchiness typically only presents as increased skin pinkness, but dogs scratching, licking, and biting at their skin can result in secondary infections with more uncomfortable side effects.

Getting to the source of the problem can be challenging, but you might have success by taking these steps below.

Step 1: Consult your vet

Don't assume that your dog's itching relates to allergies or that you can use at-home remedies to manage the associated symptoms. Many different skin conditions can cause itchiness, and your chosen treatments might not be suitable.

Make an appointment with your vet to get professional advice on what's causing the problem. During this appointment, they can also offer treatment options for secondary infections like scabs, bumps, hair loss and broken skin before recommending any further action.

Step 2: Take care of parasites

Whether or not you see fleas or mites, it doesn't hurt to provide your dog with a parasite-prevention product to take care of any critters possibly contributing to or causing your dog's itchiness. We can recommend a number of effective flea and worm protection products.

Step 3: Bathe your dog

Bathing your dog with vet-approved shampoos and conditioners can be important for removing any irritants and allergens causing your dog to itch uncontrollably. Some of the best pet shampoos are designed to retain the skin's barrier function, so don't be afraid to bathe your dog as much as they need if that's your vet team's recommendation.

Step 4: Discuss medication types

Your vet might suggest certain creams, supplements, tablets, and injections to ease the symptoms associated with itchy skin. Dietary fatty acid supplements, for example, may help improve barrier function, potentially reducing the occurrence of flare-ups.

Don't be afraid to ask us questions about the products we recommend, and follow up if you don't believe they're right for your dog. Remember, taking care of itchy skin is not always a single-step process!

Step 5: Change their diet

In some cases dietary changes may help, like an elimination diet, or specially formulated food to help dogs with itchy skin. Elimination diets involve removing specific foods to observe changes in itchiness, while specially formulated food provides a unique formula to reduce itchiness.

Managing your dog's itching and scratching can be a process of trial and error, with various treatment options explored until you find one that works. If your dog is showing signs of skin irritation, seek veterinary help to ease your pet's itch and find the cause.



Together we can devise a treatment plan to help your dog get relief from their irritated and itchy skin.

Our newsletter is free! You can take a copy with you.

Nail care for cats & dogs

Not all dogs and cats require their nails to be clipped. Therefore, understanding whether your pet needs a nail trim and the potential consequences of not trimming them, are important.

When is the right time?

Many factors can determine when their nails need clipping, such as age, breed, body size, level of exercise, and their usual environment. It's important for elderly and indoor pets, whereas outdoor pets may wear their nails down naturally.

In most cases, a dog's nails should be trimmed before their nails start touching the ground while standing or walking. Once they get past this point, they can start to cause problems.

When nails grow too long, they can get caught and tear, break or bleed, causing pain and infection in your pet's feet. Excessively long nails can make it very painful for your dog to put weight on their feet and even cause toe deformity. Cats' nails can curl around until the sharp tips pierce their pads, causing pain and infection.

What about dew claws?

Dew claws are on their front legs and sit higher than the other nails. Dew claws don't touch the ground, so they don't wear down as well and require more frequent trimming to prevent damage, or a sharp or hooked tip forming.

Veterinary advice

Regular nail inspection, with trimming when needed, should be part of the routine care of your pet. We can let you know whether they need to have their nails trimmed and the best way to do this. It's essential to trim nails safely to avoid injuring your pet.

Overgrown nails can be uncomfortable. The longer the nails, the higher the risk of nail damage and pain. Nail clipping can be daunting, so check with us for a safe nail-clipping experience for your pet.



Dog attacks: what to do

Everyone should be able to enjoy peaceful walks, free from the fear of potential attacks on themselves or their pet. When it's a matter of relying on the responsibility of fellow dog owners, it's not always guaranteed safety.

Why do dogs attack?

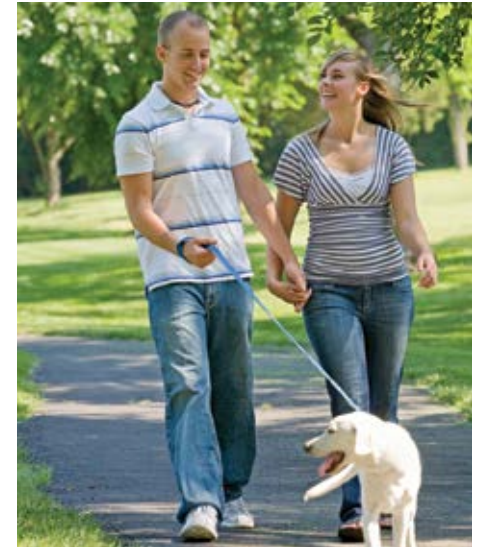
There's generally no single reason why dogs attack other dogs. Some dogs can display aggression out of fear, anxiety, pain, or when they're feeling threatened or unwell.

Others can attack when they haven't been socialised and exposed to new people, dogs, and environments during their critical socialisation period from 8-18 weeks. Early experiences and an overall lack of training can contribute to biting dogs and generally aggressive behaviour.

How to prevent a dog attack

Preventing an attack requires better control and education of dog owners, and we may never see the end of dog attacks. You might be able to reduce the risk by:

- avoiding unknown places when you're walking your dog alone
- walking with other dog walkers, or in popular walking areas
- being aware of your surroundings to avoid potentially dangerous situations
- being aware of signs of aggression in other dogs so you can try to avoid them.



ACROSS

2. A sign of a disease or disorder experienced by a patient
4. Anything that causes an allergic reaction
6. An eye condition where the lens becomes cloudy
7. Dog
9. Feline
10. Relating to breathing, or the system in the body that takes in oxygen
11. Feline Herpes is a
12. Infectious or transmittable disease

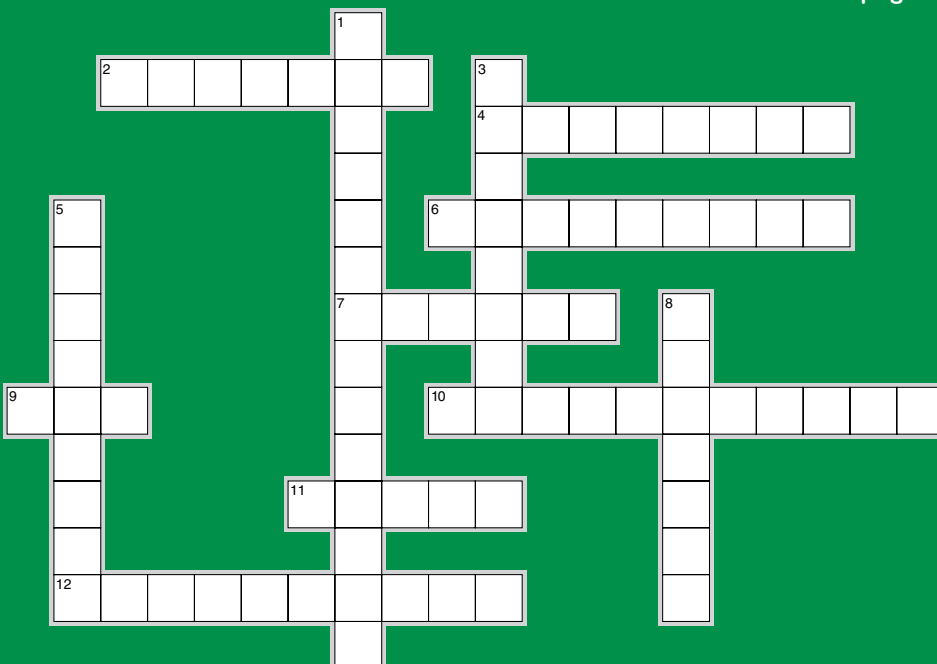
CROSSWORD

Answers can be found in this edition of Your Vet

DOWN

1. An inflammation of the eye, also known as pink eye
3. A harmful pest that can live on or in your pet
5. Tired, slow and sluggish
8. Inactive or sleeping

Solution is on the back page



What to do during a dog attack

It's only natural to panic and be unsure of what to do if your dog is attacked. However, there are some measures you might be able to take:

- throw water over them, it might 'shock' the dogs into separating
- throw a towel or heavy piece of clothing over the aggressor
- distract them with a loud noise like a clap, or a loud clanging noise like rattling metal objects.

It's important that you don't physically try to separate fighting dogs. Shouting could also make the situation worse.

If your dog has been in a fight with another dog – even if you can't see obvious injuries – seek veterinary treatment immediately.

Feline herpes: understanding and managing this common virus

You may have heard about the human herpes virus, but it might surprise you to learn that cats have their own distinct strain of herpes. In this article, we discuss feline herpes and its effects.

Feline herpes virus type 1 (FHV-1) is a common viral infection in cats; it causes upper respiratory infections and eye diseases like conjunctivitis. It's a primary cause of a highly contagious disease called cat flu, although other viruses can also contribute to this condition.

How do cats get FHV-1?

No matter how much love and care we give our cats, they can still be at risk of common diseases. Kittens and cats can contract FHV-1 through direct contact with other infected cats, living in contaminated environments, sharing food containers and litter boxes, and breathing in the droplets of infected cats. Young kittens can also get the feline herpes virus from their mothers.

While any cat can get FHV-1, some are at higher risk, particularly those living in stressful or overcrowded multi-cat environments, and those with weakened immune systems.

Even after cats recover from the initial infection, the virus can lie dormant, only to reactivate later, causing cat flu symptoms and making them contagious to other cats once more.

Symptoms of FHV-1

Any change in your cat's behaviour should be a cause for concern; take your cat to the vet if you notice they have any of the following symptoms:

- runny nose or discharge
- pink eye or eye discharge
- sneezing, coughing
- drooling
- fever
- low energy, lethargy
- loss of appetite.



Treatment and prevention

Unfortunately, there's no cure for FHV-1, therefore, prevention and management of symptoms are crucial for your pet's health. The treatment will depend on the severity of the condition.

The most suitable approach for your pet will be recommended, which may include nursing care, and supportive medication.

Thankfully, it may be possible to prevent FHV-1 and other viruses by ensuring your kittens and cats receive their vaccinations. The F3 vaccination, for instance, offers protection against the most common diseases, such as enteritis and cat flu.

Nobody wants their beloved pet to feel unwell. If you suspect your cat has symptoms of the virus, or if you simply want to ensure your cat has received all the necessary vaccinations, please contact us.

We are happy to provide you with vaccination options based on your cat's health, lifestyle, and exposure risks

The eyes have it: a brief guide to common eye problems in cats and dogs

As devoted pet owners, it's our responsibility to care for every aspect of our pets' health, including their eyesight. Just like humans, cats and dogs are susceptible to various eye problems that can significantly impact their quality of life.

In this article, we explore five common eye conditions that both cats and dogs can develop. By familiarising ourselves with these conditions and their symptoms, we can take proactive steps to safeguard our pets' precious vision.

Conjunctivitis

Conjunctivitis, also known as pink eye, is an inflammation of the conjunctiva—the thin, transparent layer covering the eye and lining the eyelids. This condition can be caused by allergies, infections, tear film deficiencies, and environmental irritants like dust or smoke.

Some pets may be more susceptible to conjunctivitis: old age, compromised immune systems, and those prone to viral infections may be more at risk.

Common symptoms affecting the eyes include redness, swelling, discharge, excessive blinking, and rubbing.

Conjunctivitis is highly contagious, so it is crucial to seek veterinary care promptly to provide appropriate treatment and prevent its spread.

Cataracts

Cataracts occur when the lens of the eye becomes cloudy and blocks light from getting to the retina, which impairs vision. When it grows and covers the whole lens, it can cause blindness.

Although older pets are particularly prone to developing cataracts, they can also be caused by genetics, diabetes, or trauma.

Signs of cataracts in pets include a cloudy or bluish-grey appearance in the eye, difficulty navigating familiar spaces, and reduced visual responsiveness. Early detection and treatment by a veterinarian can help slow the progression of cataracts.

Glaucoma

Glaucoma is a serious eye condition caused by increased pressure within the eye, leading to damage to the optic nerve. This condition can occur due to a problem with fluid drainage, eye injuries, cataracts, eye surgery or other underlying health issues. Less commonly it can be due to due to genetics.

Your pet may experience symptoms in their eyes such as redness, dilated pupils, cloudiness, excessive tearing, squinting, and vision loss. Prompt veterinary intervention is crucial to managing this condition effectively and preserving your pet's eyesight.

Corneal Ulcers

The cornea is the transparent surface that protects the eye and aids vision. Corneal ulcers are common in both cats and dogs and can result from scratches, foreign objects, or infections.

These painful sores on the surface of the eye can cause redness, excessive blinking, discharge, and light sensitivity. Without proper treatment, corneal ulcers can lead to severe complications, including vision loss. Veterinary care early on is vital to prevent further damage and facilitate proper healing.

Eye diseases can be progressive and serious, so if you notice any abnormality in your pet's eyes or vision, contact us as soon as possible. We advise ensuring your pet has regular checkups to pick up any potential problems as early diagnosis can ensure your pet continues to have clear vision and a vibrant and active life.



How to have healthy and happy hens

The price of eggs is driving many Australians to keep chickens, but are you ready for the responsibility?

Hens make great pets and can save you from a trip to the supermarket to buy eggs. However, if you're considering keeping hens it's important to research the regulations and care they need so they can thrive on your property.

Cover all legal bases

Each territory and state in Australia has different legislation regarding chicken ownership. Learn your legal obligations, especially regarding how many chickens you can own and how much space they need.

You can then ensure you're setting up an adequate and safe environment.

Provide appropriate housing

Just as you would provide appropriate housing for your dogs, cats, and other companion animals, you must do the same for your backyard hens. Hens need a clean, dry and secure house with shelter, perches, space to sleep, and nest boxes.

Their outdoor area should also be safe, and offer plenty of room to peck, scratch, explore, flap their wings, and take dust baths.

Ensure a balanced diet

High-quality food, shell grit, and fresh water are important for optimal hen health. Commercial poultry feed should make up the majority of their diet, and you can supplement it with leaves, fruit, and vegetables. Chickens can also eat food scraps, but refrain from feeding them any spoiled, fatty or high salt food.



There are lots of foods and plants that are known to be potentially toxic to chickens, for example, rhubarb, avocado, chocolate, onion, garlic, and citrus fruits. It's advisable to be aware of all of these and any side effects they may cause.

Regular healthcare

Like other companion animals, hens can require veterinary care and health treatments. Worm your chickens regularly and look for signs of illness or disease, such as feather loss, parasites, wounds, or scaly legs.

If you notice that your chickens are lame, lethargic, have no appetite, or have discharge from their eyes or nostrils, consult us immediately.

Hens can make fantastic pets and excellent producers! If you're thinking about welcoming hens into your home, contact us to learn more about how to take care of their health and wellbeing.

CARING FOR YOUR PET'S DENTAL HEALTH



As responsible pet owners, we understand the importance of dental care for our furry friends. Just like humans, your pets can experience dental issues that can lead to discomfort and serious health problems if left untreated. In this article, we will discuss key signs that indicate when it's time to visit our veterinary clinic for a professional examination.

Remember, dental care is essential for dogs and cats of all ages, including young ones. Left untreated, dental disease is painful and often leads to teeth needing to be extracted.

Signs to look for:

- Persistent Bad Breath:** Bad-smelling breath can indicate dental problems like periodontal disease or tooth decay. "Doggy" breath is not normal – it is a sign of early dental disease.
- Difficulty Eating or Reluctance to Chew:** Trouble eating, dropping food, or reluctance to chew can indicate oral discomfort and pain.
- Excessive Drooling:** Increased drooling accompanied by red or swollen gums may indicate gum inflammation or infection.
- Visible Tartar, Discolored Teeth, or Swollen Gums:** Check your pet's teeth and gums for tartar buildup, discoloration, or swelling.
- Behavioral Changes:** Unexplained aggression or irritability, along with aversion to touch around the mouth, can indicate dental pain.

Don't forget about young dogs and cats:

It's important to note that dental care is crucial for young dogs and cats too. Establishing good oral hygiene habits early on can prevent future dental issues and ensure their overall health and well-being.

When to visit us:

If you notice any of these signs, schedule a dental examination for your pet. Ask your vet to check the teeth at every visit. Regular check-ups and cleanings can prevent dental disease and improve your dog and cat's quality of life.

Maintaining your pet's dental health is essential for their well-being. Remember to pay attention to the signs mentioned above and seek veterinary care when needed.

Don't forget that young dogs also require dental care to ensure a lifetime of healthy smiles. At Vetkind, we provide comprehensive dental care services to meet your pet's specific needs.

It's essential that your chooks are kept in good health and seen by a veterinarian if they show any signs of illness

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 |

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 2. SYMPTOM 4. ALLERGEN 6. CATARACTS 7. CANINE 9. CAT 10. RESPIRATORY 11. VIRUS 12. CONTAGIOUS
DOWN: 1. CONJUNCTIVITIS 3. PARASITE 5. LETHARGIC 8. DORMANT

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.