

Hall Veterinary Surgery

A PASSION FOR PETS AND PEOPLE



SPRING 2013

www.hallvet.com.au



ALLERGY SEASON

Have you ever had an allergic reaction? You might recognise some of the symptoms like really, really itchy skin, localised swelling, runny eyes and nose, coughing, sneezing, stomach upsets or respiratory problems. Our pets suffer from an array of allergies also but most often present with skin allergies. Inflammation of the skin, known as *allergic dermatitis* is a very common response to allergy in our pets. As with humans, causes of the allergies are many and varied.

CAUSES OF SKIN ALLERGY INCLUDE:

- ▶ flea bites
- ▶ food allergies
- ▶ inhaled substances such as pollens, mould or house dust.

SKIN ALLERGY SIGNS

The most common signs seen with skin allergies include:

- ▶ itching, scratching, licking
- ▶ hair loss
- ▶ reddened, inflamed skin
- ▶ scabs
- ▶ open sores on the skin.

If your pet has any of these signs talk to your vet who will advise you on the best treatment.

Dogs and cats with allergic dermatitis become itchy and scratch to excess. They lick, bite and/or chew at their skin in various areas of their body. They may rub against objects or lie down and try to rub themselves on the ground. As the itchiness worsens, the skin becomes red and sore. Bacterial or yeast infections of the skin develop and the animal's coat may begin to smell and become greasy. Flaky skin is also common.

Cats with allergies will often develop a thin, patchy coat and have small scabs around their necks and in other parts of their coats. They lick or pull tufts of hair from their coats while grooming.

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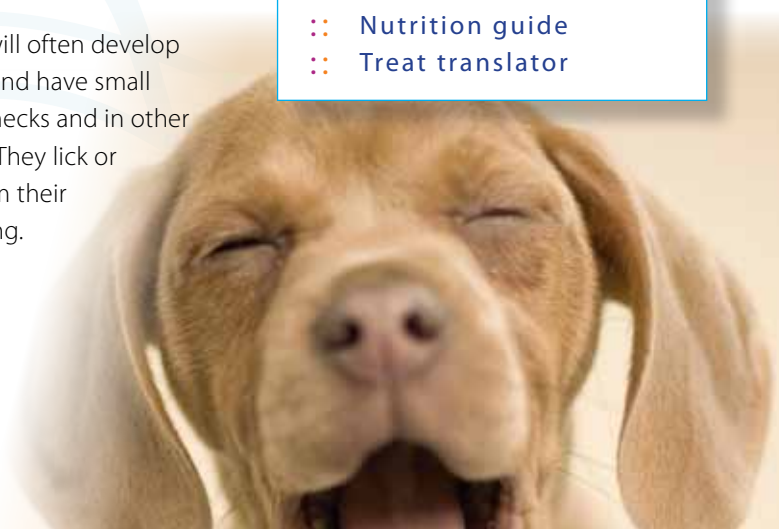
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Our new cat hospital

Hall Veterinary Surgery has opened a cats-only hospital called **Canberra Cat Vet**. It is a haven for cats and their carers—calm, quiet, dog-free—and staffed by vets and nurses who understand cats and love working with them.

Canberra Cat Vet is located between Purdue Street and Gillot Street below the bus depot in Belconnen. Drive in from Gillot Street and park right next to our front door.

Canberra Cat Vet can be contacted on **6251 1444** or call Hall Veterinary Surgery on 6230 2223 for more information. You can join the Canberra Cat Vet blog: www.canberracatvet.com.au or like us on facebook.



Newsletter



AMRRIC update

Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC) is a not-for-profit charity led by veterinarians, academics, health and animal management professionals. Programs to improve the health of dogs are undertaken in Indigenous communities in NT, WA, NSW and Queensland.

As part of this organisation the 'Canberra Mob Indigenous Dog Health' (known as *The Canberra Mob*) travel twice a year to the region called Utopia in the Northern Territory. Here they work to improve the health and welfare of companion animals in remote Indigenous communities. By improving the health of the animals within the communities the flow-on health of the people improves. Staff from Hall Veterinary Surgery have participated with this group as well as other indigenous communities in

the Northern Territory helping with desexing dogs, parasite control and education programs on animal health and care.

Some of the benefits of these programs include:

- ▶ Parasite control has resulted in the reduction of transmission of parasites between animals and people. There has been a 76% (Urapuntja Health Clinic study) decrease in the rate of skin infections amongst the people of these communities in the three years the program has been operating.
- ▶ Desexing clinics and education programs have lowered the rates of dog aggression and bite wounds. Education programs also address the issues of problem noise and scavenging attacks.

A full list of the benefits of the program can be found at:

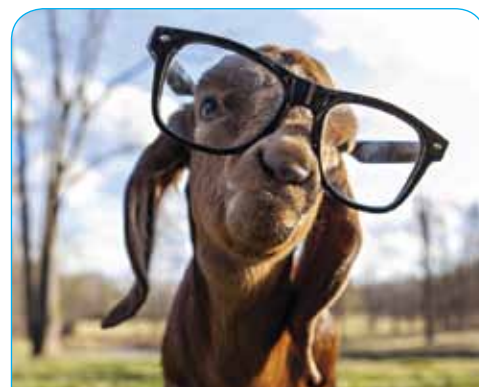
www.amrric.org/our-work

This project is funded by donations and sponsorship. For more information on how you can be involved:

www.amrric.org

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:

<http://canberravet.epractice.provet.com.au/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=fuP92abTwdA%3D&tabid=276&mid=810> www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/86/4/07-043034/en/ www.onehealthinitiative.com/publications/OneHealth%20Suppl%20Abstracts.pdf



Gordon's column

Gordon the Goat is our instrument investigator, this edition he explores the *Endoscope*.

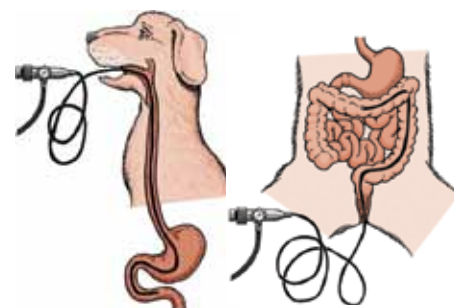


What's THAT used for?

An endoscope is a device with a light attached that is used to look inside a body cavity or organ. The scope is inserted through a body opening, such as the mouth to look at the lungs and stomach or the rectum for a colonoscopy. It consists of a long, flexible tube which has a light and viewing device. The tube has channels through which water and air are squirted and instruments are passed. The handle has control knobs for these functions so the operator can direct the tip of the tube up, down or from side to side. Endoscopy allows sampling of tissues as well as possible foreign body retrieval. All endoscopy procedures require general anesthesia.

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.vmsg.com/clients/client-handouts/endoscopy-pets
www.histovet.com/PDFs/HIS_Gastrointestinal.pdf
www.petplace.com/dogs/endoscopy-in-dogs/page1.aspx



NEW PRODUCT



Hills Science Diet **VETESSENTIALS**® is an advanced nutrition food for dogs and cats. The ingredients have been formulated to promote weight control; keep your pet's teeth clean; maintain their joint health and vitality. All this plus clinically proven antioxidants to boost immunity.

Treat Translation

It is really easy to overfeed your pet just by those 'little' treats that slip their way to the pet between meals. The well meaning aunt who slips the dog an anzac biscuit doesn't realise she has just fed your beagle the equivalent (to a human) of one hamburger!

Make treats account for part of the daily calorie intake and be aware of the value in those 'tidbits'. Overweight animals risk health problems and with a high fat diet, could develop painful pancreatitis.

For a comprehensive guide on the equivalence of treats visit the Hills® Science Diet website www.hillspet.com.au/weight-management/human-food-translator.html



1 anzac biscuit for a medium sized dog is the equivalent to a hamburger for a human (av. size female)



1 glass of full cream milk for a cat is equivalent to 3 hamburgers for a human (av. size female)

NUTRITION – WHAT FOOD?

The food that is best for your pet is whatever is **most nutritious** for THAT animal. A nutrient is any constituent of food that is ingested to support life.

There is so much choice, how do you know what is best for your pet? It's a tricky question and difficult to give a definitive answer to. What works best is impossible to generalise across pet age, breed, health status. No matter what 'life stage' your pet is at, a balanced good quality diet containing proteins, fats, carbohydrates, water, vitamins and minerals is essential for optimal health.

If whatever you are feeding your pet results in:

- No dandruff
- No itchiness
- Well formed solid stools and no more than two stools per day
- No excessive stool odour
- No excessive skin odour
- No mucus on the stool
- No excessive flatulence
- No behavioural oddities that may be linked to diet.
- Strong bones
- Healthy teeth.

Other points to keep in mind

- Feeding 'more' of a nutrition poor, cheap diet will result in an over-caloried but under-nourished animal.
- Dogs are omnivores, cats are carnivores. Cats do poorly on dog diets.
- Frequent changes in a dog's diet may encourage fussy eaters and precipitate some digestive disorders. It is safest to consistently feed a **measured** amount of a diet formulated to meet the animal's needs.
- It is essential that your pet has access to clean, fresh water at all times.
- Feeding amounts vary with life stage and activity. Measure out your pet's daily ration. Feeding a controlled measure prevents overfeeding by well-meaning family members if all the day's rations come from one container.
- Wet and semi-moist foods leave more plaque on the teeth and so more attention should be paid to their dental hygiene.

- If feeding dry kibble biscuits make sure the size of the kibble is suitable for the size of the animal.
- Animals with compromised health may benefit from the special formulations available for: allergy, joint health, dental care, weight management, hip and joint, performance, sensitive stomach, skin and coat, as well as kidney.
- Never give cooked bones to pets.

The old adage of you get what you pay for holds true for dog food too. If you are unsure about what to feed your dog or pup, just ask us.

Can I feed my puppy Weet-Bix for breakfast?

This question is often asked in puppy classes. Many dogs are lactose intolerant and get diarrhoea on milk. Weetbix has no nutritional value for puppies. A premium wet or dry puppy food is a more nutritious option.

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:

For a range of products and prices www.pawsforlife.com.au/dog-food
www.whole-dog-journal.com/issues/15_02/features/Ingredients-Of-Quality-Dog-Food_20459-1.html
www.dogfoodproject.com/?page=betterproducts
www.wikihow.com/Choose-Healthy-Dog-Food
www.petmd.com/dog/nutrition/evr_dg_the_best_food_for_dogs#.UfyiTBuJbV



Multi-pet households

Rabbits can attract fleas. Fortunately there are some excellent, easy to use flea control products available (but do not use Frontline® because of severe and potentially fatal reactions).

Rabbits can also be infected with either fur mites or ear mites. Fur mites usually cause a dandruff type skin condition over the shoulders of the rabbit. It is not usually itchy.

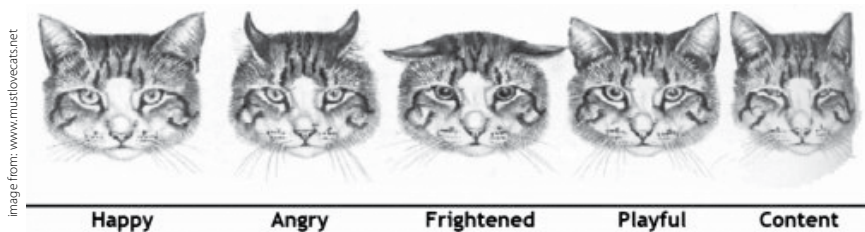
Animal body language

Understanding an animal's body language helps keep you safe. Dog and cat tails and ears give us many clues as to their state of mind. This edition we will look at dog tails and cat ears. Use these illustrations to learn about your pet.

DOG TAIL POSITIONS



CAT EAR POSITIONS



FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:

Great web resource for more information www.tailsfromthelab.com/2012/08/29/learning-to-speak-dog-part-4-reading-a-dogs-body www.doggiedrawings.net/post/842176625 www.mustlovecats.net/Cat-Communication.html

HOUSEHOLD POISONS

Many human foods and drinks are toxic to dogs and cats. Here are a few of the more common ones. Detailed information is available at www.vetlearn.com

- Onions, Garlic, Leeks, Chives, Shallots.
- Grapes, Raisins.
- Avocado (persin).
- Foods with artificial sweetener (Xylitol) added.
- Chocolate (Theobromine) Coffee, Tea, Carbonated soft drinks (Caffeine) (Methylxanthines).
- Macadamia nuts or Macadamia butter (dogs only).
- Nuts in general have a high phosphorous content which may lead to bladder stones.
- Bread dough – yeast (Ethanol) unbaked bread dough, rotting apples.
- Stones/seeds of fruits such as Peaches, Pears, Plums, Apples (the seed pit contains

cyanogenic glycosides which can cause cyanide poisoning).

- Alcohol (Ethanol).

Vomiting, twitching, salivating, fitting, hyperactivity, breathing difficulties, diarrhoea, lethargy are signs that something is not right. If you are unsure call your vet.

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.vetlearn.com/_preview?_cms.fe.previewId=88ca0770-ed59-11e2-8f1a-005056ad4734&ArticleURL=https://www.vetlearn.com/compendium/hidden-dangers-in-the-kitchen-common-foods-toxic-to-dogs-and-cats www.petalia.com.au/www.deltacommunityanimalshelter.ca/EN/main/learning/dogs_poisonousfood.html www.caninejournal.com/foods-not-to-feed-dog www.entirelypets.com/toxicfoods.html

FROST DOTTA – Puppy Class June 2013



EDUCATION NEWS

Hall Veterinary Surgery is committed to providing our clients with the best possible care. To ensure this we support continuing education for our staff. Here's a list of our current vocational study programs.

- Dr Helen Purdam** – 12 month Animal Behaviour Medicine course
- Dr Lesa Potten** – 6 month Pathology course
- Eliza Russell** – BA in Animal Science
- Janet Mathewson** – Certificate IV in Practice Management
- Robyn Murray** – Certificate IV in Vet Nursing
- Maddy Withers** – Certificate IV in Vet Nursing
- Pauline Murphy** – Certificate IV in Vet Nursing

SUPER DANGER TO CATS



Lilies are **deadly** to cats. All parts of the lily are extremely toxic to cats and they can be poisoned just by getting the pollen on their hair or whiskers.

In some cases of lily toxicity there are no signs other than kidney failure. In other cases there will be vomiting which may then settle but leads to kidney failure over the following 24–72 hours after contact or ingestion.

So while lilies look pretty, members of the lily family such as Easter Lily, Day Lily, Asian Lily, Tiger Lily and Stargazer Lily to name just a few are deadly to cats. So if you own a cat, ban lilies from your house and watch out for those bunches of flowers that arrive from the florist. Lilies are a showy flower and are often included in florists designs.

FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:

www.advancedvetcare.com.au/pet-emergency/24hr-emergency-and-critical-www.cve.edu.au/files/lily-intoxication-in-cats-poster.pdf