



KIPPAX Vet HOSPITAL

NEWSLETTER

September

*Dr Cameron Eye Specialist
in ACT Wed 19th Sept:
AM - Western Creek
PM - Canberra Vet Hosp*

Dental Month

*Call one of our wonderful
receptionists today and make
an appointment to come in for
a Dental Check.*

Utopia Trip

*Dr Louise Nicholls is leaving
25th September. We are still
accepting your most generous
donations. Thank you so much!*

Just because

*Thought for the day -
"Nature is not a place to visit,
it is home" Gary Snyder*

DENTAL MONTH

Are you feeling a little queasy when your pet tries to come in too close for a cuddle because of their bad breath. It can be quite 'breath-taking' actually can't it?

Unfortunately the problem with the bad breath and ugly staining which you may see on the teeth, can actually be quite serious and causing more problems than you think.



What's News?

Dental Month - So What?

Utopia Cocktail Party was a success. But just how successful was it?

10 things that drive any Vet crazy...

What's news with us?

Midnight...where do I go?



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Dental Month - Yeah...So What?

So what if my dog's breath smells bad?

Does it really matter?

I've never brushed my pet's teeth. I just give the dog a bone and the cat will be right, won't it?

Had dogs all my life, just give em a bone every day, that'll do...

Any of those sound familiar? Well actually, it does matter.

Imagine never brushing your teeth. Not exactly an appetising or even hygienic thought is it?

The most common form of dental disease encountered in pets is periodontal disease, which affects 75% of dogs and cats over the age of 3 years. It occurs when tartar (yellow-brown mineralised bacterial film) accumulates on the teeth, leading to a range of serious health consequences unless intervention is taken. Signs of periodontal disease may be noticed at home or during your pets general health check up at the vet – they may include bad breath, gum inflammation, oral pain, loss of gum attachment and bleeding, and wobbly teeth.

In its advanced stages, periodontal disease can cause tooth loss, tooth root abscesses, oral ulcers, facial bone loss, nasal cavity and bone infections, jaw fractures, and infections in other parts of the body (e.g. kidneys, liver, heart) as bacteria from the teeth are constantly shed into the bloodstream. Refusal to eat properly is usually only seen in the very late stages of the disease when oral pain reaches an excruciating level.

The aim of routine dental care is to prevent the progression of periodontal disease, so that these terrible health consequences can be avoided.

Dr Clare Hibberson



Regular visits to the Vet for Dental checks is just as important as vaccinations. You will find that when you come in for a consultation, the Vets will check your pet's teeth. Not the just the teeth that are easy to see at the front, but the whole mouth.

As you can see from the 'before and after' model on the photo here, there can be some nasty surprises hiding inside those mouths. Calculus builds up and sore inflamed gums are just the beginning of what could be going on. Imagine the discomfort not to mention pain your pet could be suffering. Hmmm, give our lovely receptionists a call and book an appointment today...



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Utopia Fundraiser Cocktail Party Wrap Up...

On a chilly evening at the end of July, 107 enthusiastic supporters rolled into Siren Bar and Restaurant for our inaugural Utopia Cocktail Party. Despite being the middle of winter, the heaters were roaring and with most people congregating in the warmth, with the cold was kept at bay.

A fantastic evening was had by all with conversation and drinks flowing freely. Dr Alison welcomed us all to the event, acknowledging the Ngunnawal people, the traditional landowners of the Gungahlin area. A short presentation followed, explaining the typical work of the Canberra Mob group in the Utopia region and the contribution we can make to the dog health and community wellbeing in these regions. We were lucky enough to be joined by Dr Peter Gibson, a medical practitioner heavily involved in indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. His recognition of the impact that dog health programs can make to indigenous health, especially amongst the children of these communities, was confirmation of the validity of our program.

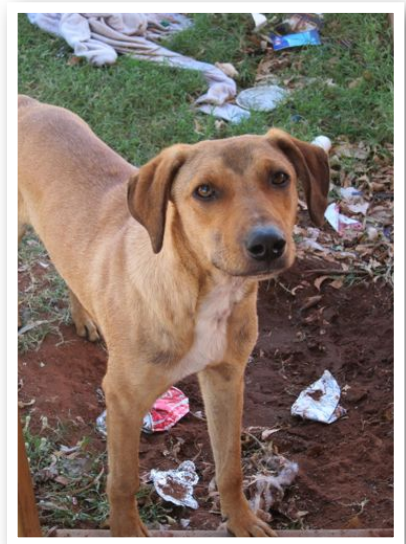
The night flew by with the wine lucky dip selling out very quickly - it seems people cannot get enough of the local boutique wines produced through the Canberra region. The 'cheeky dog tags' also proved popular, a tangible message of what \$5 can contribute to an individual dog's health. Much competition was had in the silent auction, the desire to 'win' one of the various hampers, vouchers,

electronic items and pictures available was highly amusing at times! Several lucky winners took home their items to be enjoyed, knowing their purchase was going to a good cause.

Thanks to the massive amount of goods donated from industry, pharmaceutical companies, private businesses and local wineries, we were able to raise over **\$11,500** for the Canberra Mob Indigenous Dog Health Program. This amount will fully cover the upcoming trip in September and the remainder will be put towards equipment and teaching supplies to be used to benefit the program long-term.

We would like to thank all those that attended or contributed towards the success of the evening and the many people who, unable to attend, donated to the fund anyway. We truly appreciate the interest and support so far and we look forward to being able to keep you all updated on the happenings in Utopia!

Dr Louise Nicholls



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10 Pet Legends That Drive Vets Crazy

If anything, the Web is fueled by the kind of rumour mill sensibility that leads to even more misinformation on the subject of pet health and pet care. Case in point: the widespread willingness to believe that someone actually microwaved a pet to dry it off!

To that end, here's my list of urban myths that drive me crazy!

1. A Cold, Wet, Dry or Warm Nose Tells Us Something

Although some pets' noses might be capable of offering us some useful information (like a fingerprint), most of them do not — which is why veterinarians do not rely on this information at all when taking stock of a pet's history and physical exam.

2. "Happy Pet" Behaviour

People have a thing about assuming that pets are really happy when they exhibit certain behaviours, which can lead to all kinds of poor decision-making. A tail wag doesn't always mean that a dog is pleased to see you. A stiff tail wag, in fact, is a sure sign that you should watch your step.

A purring cat is not always a content cat. After the owner of a new patient swore that her cat was a "purring angel," I reached to pet her and got a [sharp set of claws](#) in response to my advance. She was purring though.

3. Bad Bloat Advice

Is there any large-breed dog disease that concerns owners more than gastric-dilatation volvulus (a.k.a. bloat)? This is probably why there's so much misinformation about the disease all over the Web and in casual conversations. Does drinking cold water give a dog bloat? No. Does using a raised feeder decrease bloat? No.

If you are concerned about bloat at all, just talk with your vet.

4. Pet Mouths Are Cleaner Than Yours or Mine

Nope, but there are some caveats. After all, I'd rather be nipped by a dog than lightly bitten by a human. A study was even done on whether a dog's mouth was cleaner than a dishwasher!

5. Purebreds Are Healthier Than Mutts

There's been a lot of talk about this lately. Purebreds are not necessarily healthier, because they are prone to more genetic diseases.

6. People Food Isn't for Pets

In my opinion, this myth would have you believe [any pet food that doesn't come canned or kibbled](#) is toxic, will make your [pet fat](#) or will automatically put you in the category of "bad pet parent." The unspoken corollary to this message: You need a Ph.D. in nutrition to know how to feed your pets a balanced diet — unless you offer commercial food alone.

7. Pregnant Women Can't Scoop Litter - Toxoplasmosis

Cats are actually a very low risk in transmission of toxoplasmosis to pregnant women. Instead, it is probably a better precaution to avoid undercooked meat and raw foods and gardening. But it is best to keep the litter scooped daily. And even better if someone can do it for you! If you're considering pregnancy and have a cat, talk to your doctor.

8. Pets Need to Lick Their Wounds

Wound licking is great for pets if they're simply getting debris off a fresh injury, but continuing to [lick](#) only exacerbates inflammation and

infection. That's why e-collars exist, and any licking of a surgical site is not a good thing — regardless of what you may have heard about the healing properties of dog saliva.

9. Cats Always Land Feet First

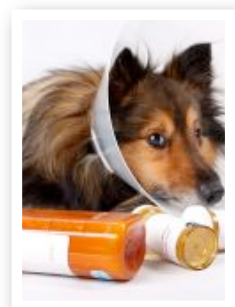
Cats will not always land on their feet if they don't have enough time to relax and make a complete revolution in the air before landing, or if the surface they land on is irregular. There is even a "High-rise Syndrome" where cats sustain worse injuries if they fall from lower heights of buildings.

It should also be inferred from this myth-busting statement that cats do not have 9 lives.

10. Mothers Reject Animal Babies Who've Been Held by Humans

Some mothers will take issue with your human aroma, but the vast majority of domesticated pets probably won't if the kitten or puppy is handled with great care. Wild animals might, but birds, for instance, have little way of knowing whether you've messed with their younglings, since their sense of smell is sorely lacking.

Takeaway points: Feel free to play with newborn puppies and kittens. Downed nests (or babies) should be replaced because they have a better chance of survival that way.



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What's News at KVH?

The Utopia Cocktail Party was so successful. We want to thank Dr Louise for all her hard work and organising for such a great event. Amongst all the little and big things Louise did, she also spent *hours* cutting out the “cheeky dog” tickets. Yvette also put a lot of time and effort into the success of the evening. Not to mention the one and only Dr Alison for her commitment, passion and genuine love for this ongoing project. Of course there are many people involved with putting on an event like this, thank you everyone for all you help and support.

African Experience

Dr Alison took the staff to the Ethiopian Restaurant in Pearce for lunch the other weekend. It was a lot of fun. We learnt some African drumming and some African Dancing and not to mention a little singing...The food wasn't bad either. A lot of fun and bruised fingers to boot!



Some of our great supporters.



**Dr Karina - doing the African Dancing!
This is the girl with the moves!**



Fear Free Philosophy

Fear Free Practice...Yes really...

Calm, contented veterinary visits for dogs and cats!
We believe that visits to the vet should be fun and relaxed for our patients!
A trip to our practice should not involve fear or anxiety.
We call this our “FEAR FREE PHILOSOPHY”. How can we help?

- Treats
- Calming scents
- Music
- Calming medications
- What can you do to help?
- Visiting the practice for fun and treats
- Puppy pre-school
- Pheromones
- Examinations in the car for dogs (or at home)
- Calming medications prior to the visit

So, please chat to us about our fear free philosophy and how we can make sure your dog or cat's visit to the vet is calm and contented. Pick up a brochure next time you're in!

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It's midnight and you need a vet, where do you go?

The Animal Emergency Centre Canberra (AECC) was established in 2003 and initially operated in Braddon. In 2009 the AECC relocated to brand new hospital facilities at 2 Yallourn Street, in Fyshwick.

The AECC is owned and operated by Canberra veterinarians representing most of the veterinary hospitals and clinics in Canberra and surrounding region. The majority of veterinary hospitals and clinics in Canberra refer their after hours emergency patients to AECC.

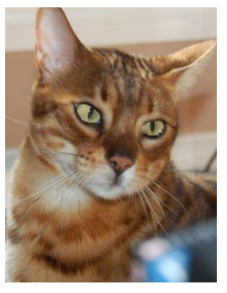
All of the patients seen at the AECC are referred back to their usual veterinarian during the daytime.

The AECC is open every night from 6:30pm to 8am, and all day weekends and public holidays.

If you have an emergency when your usual vet is closed, phone the Centre first (62806344) and bring your pet to 2 Yallourn Street, Fyshwick.



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Just ask Mohahn:

Dear Mohahn, how long must I endure a belly rub before I can attack? I'm finding my patience for this irritating practice is wearing quite thin, not to mention, I'm not getting any younger.

- from Calm before the Storm

Dear Calm before the Storm, I'm a fan of "if it feels right, go with it". So if you're not enjoying the moment, give them 3 seconds and let her rip!

Dear Mohahn, why does my "person" get so upset when I have my bath in the lounge room while the family is watching television?

- from Fastidious but Frustrated

Dear Fastidious but Frustrated, don't take it too personally. I have the same issues, but I've learnt to live with it. I have come to the conclusion, that they are just jealous. Don't stop what comes naturally. Embrace it!

In ancient Egypt, cats were revered as gods and often buried alongside their beloved kings and queens. Today we continue to revere our household cats, yet sometimes, it can feel as if they are treating us more like servants than royalty. Truth is, if your cat gives you the cold shoulder, you should probably consider it a compliment. Sometimes, domesticated felines just look like they're ignoring you, when what they're really trying to do is prove just how worthy you are of their inattention.

It all comes down to how cats communicate: The same traits that make felines so endearing – intelligence, independence, individuality, and a healthy dose of aloofness – also come into play when cats express their wants, needs, and desires. Unlike dogs, who tend to lavish attention on their owners at any given moment, cats prefer to show their love and admiration in their own way – at their own pace.

There's a little psychology behind the behavior, too. Clever cats know that if they ignore you long enough, it will actually get them attention. So the next time your tabby turns her back on you, it might actually be a sign that you're the center of her universe.



<http://www.vetstreet.com/cats/why-does-my-cat-ignore-me>

Does your cat or dog have a question for Mohahn? Mohahn does confer with his close friends of both the canine and feline species.

So if your pet has a burning question, leave your computer logged on during the day and let them send their questions, queries or even observations to "Just Ask Mohahn" care of:

claudiab@kippaxvet.com.au

Until next time...meow me...

