

MAY 2020



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### SNEEZING IN CATS.

When your cat sneezes, it could mean several different things. They may just need to discharge matter from their nose, or it could be a seasonal or food allergy that causes frequent sneezing. Sometimes it can be caused through viral substances or it might come from foreign matter getting lodged within the nose. Sneezing is not in itself a problem, but if your cat is showing signs of distress and is having sneezing fits, then your cat needs immediate attention. [Call us](#) if you have any concerns at all about the health of your furry friend.

### UPDATE ON THE Coronavirus (Covid-19)

**NB - Our Clinic is  
Classified as an Essential  
Service and will remain  
OPEN**

[Click here](#) to see what our changes in operations are.

## CHELtenham Veterinary Clinic

Autumn is upon us now, offering cooler weather amid the pandemic lockdown. With so many people now confined to home, pets around Australia are loving the extra time with their human family. Use this time to get in a bit of training especially for a young dog. Longer walks, teaching them new tricks, and brushing up on obedience will be a valuable use of time. Cats will love snoozing on your knee while you try to work on the computer, but they can be taught a few choice tricks too ... if they want to learn that is! Although the country is in lockdown, our clinic is classified as an essential service, so we are open for business as usual. We just ask that you ring us before arrival and abide by our social distancing stance at the clinic. We will get through this if everyone does their part.



### ISOLATING WITH PETS.

The forced isolation to control the Coronavirus is not the end of the world. Yes, we would all like to go out and visit our friends, and who doesn't long for a sit-down meal at a restaurant, but all in good time. People are finding creative ways to fill in their day, and often the recipient of this phenomenon is your pet! Your dog will volunteer to help you during a workout (sitting on your back while you do pushups or licking your face at every opportunity) while your cat will appreciate you staying at home to entertain them (lying on your computer or just curling up for a sleep... on your book)! Facebook is crawling with funny pet memes and stories about the lengths your daft furry friend will go to keep you happy. To keep everyone fit, you can create an indoor training circuit out of boxes, chairs, and tents! If you have a treadmill, teach your cat or dog to walk with you! By the time you come out of isolation, you will have a fit, well-trained animal. Online sources such as Facebook, [Instagram](#), and Pinterest can provide endless ideas of things to do with your best furry friend.

### Diabetes in Pets (Diabetes Mellitus )

This is a common disorder caused by a lack of insulin within the body, or the body's inability to respond to insulin. A lack of insulin causes the glucose levels to increase in the blood. This forces the body to use energy sources other than glucose which leads to a build-up of toxins within the blood. Clinical signs of diabetes in pets is an increasing thirst, depression, vomiting, sweet 'acetone' breath, dehydration, and cataracts in the eyes. The diagnosis of this disease is done via a [blood & urine test](#). Simple diabetics will start on insulin injections and hospital monitoring. These pets need to be fed at certain times to suit their insulin levels. Pets with more severe diabetes may require a period of hospitalisation including intravenous fluids to correct the hydration and electrolyte imbalances. If your pet is tested positive for diabetes, we will discuss your pet's treatment in depth with you to enable your pet to have a happy, healthy life.



### A Little Touch of Humour

Q. What is smarter than a talking cat?

A. A spelling bee!

Q. What do you call a crocodile with GPS?

A. A Navi-gator!

### EAR PROBLEMS

Dogs or cats who spend a lot of time outside often have ear infections caused by dirt, dust, or a foreign object such as grass seeds. You will know if your pet has an ear problem as they will constantly paw their ear and whine. Remain calm to reassure your pet, then examine the ear to see if it is infected or has a foreign object embedded within it which will require our help. We can prescribe antibiotics for an infection or use a special surgical tool to remove the seed head as they can burrow into the skin. It is a good habit to check your pet's ears while you are doing their weekly grooming routine.



### OBESITY AMONGST PETS

With pets and owners confined to home, eating or 'snacking' can occur more than normal. Pets are at risk of the obesity epidemic with some experts saying that almost half of all dogs and one-third of the cats in Australia are overweight or obese! Resisting those pleading looks from your furry friend is difficult, and being stuck at home doesn't help, but a little treat here or a bit more food there adds up into a lot of extra weight. Some health issues experienced by plump pets include stress on the animal's joints, heart disease, liver disease, and skin problems. They also have a higher risk during surgery and general anesthesia and can suffer back problems. If your pet has packed on some weight, bring them in for a health check and we can help you to formulate a weight loss plan involving healthy [dietary choices](#) and exercise options. Recognising that your pet has a weight issue is the first major step to a better life your pet!



*Keep in touch and follow us here.*

**OUR FACEBOOK PAGE - [CLICK HERE](#)**

**OUR WEBSITE – [CLICK HERE](#)**

**INSTAGRAM – [cheltenhamvetclinic](#)**

**SKIN INFECTIONS IN CATS** The most common skin infections in your cat are caused by bacteria and fungi. Parasites can also cause skin infections, but this type of infection is not as common. Skin infections can also be a secondary disease, caused by parasites (fleas, etc) which causes your cat to scratch, opening up the skin to microbes and other foreign bodies. Left untreated, a skin infection can rapidly worsen. They can become contagious and yes, the infection can even be spread to humans. Bacterial skin infections will weaken your cat's immune system and require immediate treatment with antibiotics and special shampoos. Fungal infections which includes the highly contagious ringworm, need treatment that consists of antifungal oral and topical medication. If your cat is driving you mad with its incessant scratching, please bring them in to us [for treatment](#). We can provide immediate relief for your pet and prevent any contagion being passed onto family members.

### BEST PRACTICES FOR THE PET OWNER

***Weekly grooming of your pet is a wonderful opportunity to check them over for fleas, cuts or abrasions, and to examine their eyes, ears, and teeth for health issues.***

Book a regular 6 or 12-month health check at our Veterinary Clinic to keep on top of pet health issues

***Maintain your regular parasite protection plan- fleas, ticks & worms.***

Provide a healthy diet in the correct serving sizes.

***Trim the long hair around your pet's eyes to prevent eye infections.***

Pets need positive attention, mental stimulation (games, training and activities) and a health program designed to meet their unique requirements.

- ***Talk to us about all your pet care requirements; we do phone [consultations](#) for your convenience.***