



**cheltenham**  
VETERINARY CLINIC  
nurturing the human animal bond

Contact us - Ph 03 9584 2511

E: [clinic@cheltenhamvet.com](mailto:clinic@cheltenhamvet.com)

Website: [www.cheltenhamvet.com](http://www.cheltenhamvet.com)

## Preventative Check List.



**Fleas:** They are more active in hot weather and can cause itching & severe allergies to dogs and cats. Preventative monthly treatment is the best solution.

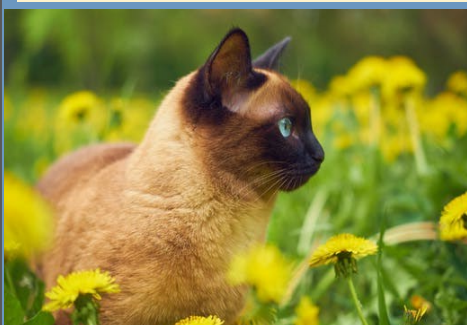
**Ticks:** These parasites are nasty. They attach themselves and feed on the blood of your cat or dog and spread disease. They love humid and bushy areas, so check your dog after a long bush walk. Carefully remove all parts of the tick from your pet especially the mouth area.

**Heartworm Protection.** These parasitic roundworms can affect the lungs, heart and blood vessels of your pets. These worms cause all sorts of disease and are spread via the bite of an infected mosquito. Regular preventative treatment is the only way to go.

Not sure if your pet has the protection they need against the above three nasties affecting pets?

**CALL US NOW!**

**Ph 03 9584 2511**



## October 2022– Welcome to our newsletter.

The 4th of October is World Animal Day, which reminds us to focus on animal health and welfare. From pets to farm animals, wildlife to reptiles, and everything else in between, animals need and deserve our support, help and kindness. Gardening is the spring thing to do, but just keep in mind that young animals tend to chew anything they find, and some fertilisers and flower bulbs can be detrimental to their health. Make sure everything you use is a natural and pet friendly product to prevent a sudden trip to our clinic to help your pet to recover from toxic poisoning in the garden. Other than that, enjoy the spring weather—it's so nice that the days are becoming milder; it fosters a sudden urge to get out in the world and explore our local area.

### Stinky Dog Breath!! This Breath Freshener Treat Can Help!

You only need 1 ½ cups of organic coconut oil, ½ a cup chopped parsley, ¼ of a cup of mint, and a sprinkle of turmeric. Soften your coconut oil, add the parsley and mix well. Add the mint and stir well. Then sprinkle a little turmeric on the top for a dash of anti-inflammatory goodness, and then shape into small moulds or shapes and refrigerate for an hour. Give your dog a mint daily (or more if they have just eaten something stinky). Keep these in the fridge for those killer breath moments. Your cat will like the oil, and it may help their breath too! But if their breath stays bad, give us a ring for an urgent dental check up!

**Common Ailments for Pets.** Pet health problems are a part of life, affecting the young and old alike.

**Cataracts** affects the way your pet sees the world. It causes a cloudiness of the lens in the eye making it hard for them to see.

**Arthritis** is a general term for abnormal changes in the joints which affects older cats and dogs. It can become painful moving about.

**Ear Infections** are a common pet complaint. Often dirt, dust or some other object such as a seed head can irritate the inner ear leading to infection. Your pet will paw their ear and whine a lot.

**Kennel Cough.** Common in dogs and highly contagious, it spreads between animals via droplets in the air or contact with a contaminated surface such as bowls or pet beds.

**Diarrhoea.** These liquid or loose bowl movements are common in dogs and cats and are detrimental if left without treatment.

**Obesity.** A fat pet is far from healthy and it can lead to disease and joint problems. Get our help with designing your pets best diet.

### Keep in touch and follow us here.

Our Facebook Page—click the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/cheltenhamvetclinic/>

Website: [www.cheltenhamvet.com](http://www.cheltenhamvet.com)





### Ease Into Spring Activity.

Before you grab your tent and snap the leash on Fido, stop and think for a moment. Are you and your dog fit for the walk? If it's a stroll along the beach that's fine, but if it's a five hour trek up in the mountains, you may need to work on your fitness (and your dogs) to face the challenge. So plan a couple of weeks (depending on you and your dogs level of fitness) and ease your way up to a longer walk. Rushing a trip before you are physically fit can only lead to injuries, pain and a ruined trip.

### Cats Having a Bad Hair Day.

Older cats can have problems keeping their fur in tip top condition. Joint problems can render them unable to reach around to get at the sides and the back to lick their fur into shape. And if you have ever tried to comb out kitties fur, you will be aware of how crotchety they can quickly become. You may get bitten and scratched for your effort. But there is an easier way. Bring them into our clinic, and we can put them under a light sedation while we work those knots out. While we are at it, we can also do their claws and do a dental check as at the same time.



**Dog Fights Are Frightening!** You can check a dog's face and overall body language as a playful dog has a different stance to a dog who wants a fight. Playful behaviour includes a 'play bow' before a pretend tussle. The dogs often have an open, loose-mouth grin and relaxed ears. Signs of trouble include a dog that's staring intensely at your dog, pulling or lunging towards your dog, or one who is very tense and holding themselves very rigid.

Teach your dog obedience commands so that you can call them away from a potential, dangerous situation. If another dog is charging your dog, yell loudly clapping your hands with all your might. It may halt the other dog. If you have access to a water hose, quickly douse both dogs from a safe distance. Toss a handful of treats to the oncoming dog, it may halt them while you and your dog get away. On larger dogs use a long tree branch in between the dogs to distract them—it needs to long to keep you out of harms way. Pepper spray is handy in a dog fight situation that has gotten nasty. Spray the other dog, then make sure to get you and your dog away quickly or it will end up blowing onto you. When fighting and highly aroused, a dog may naturally redirect their aggression onto anything they view as a threat. If you try to grab your dog they may bite you! Use your legs to kick another dog away rather than lean down to grab them which leaves you open to injury around the neck and hands.

As a last resort you could try the wheelbarrowing manoeuvre to break up the fight. You need to grab both hind legs and lift them upward as if your dog was a wheelbarrow, and pull them back from the fight while keeping their rear end lifted. They will possibly try to bite you so keep them moving so that it is hard for them to reach you. Hopefully the other owner will do the same. Dog fights can be dangerous. Try to avoid them at all costs by being aware of the situation, staying calm, and if in doubt, walk your dog away. [The RSPCA Dog Conflict Toolkit /Tips](#)

### Butt Dragging aka Scooting.

This occurs when your dog has a health issue with their private parts. This is often caused by the anal glands located between the muscle layers of the rectum, they can become clogged with too much fluid. If this is the case, your dog is just trying to relieve their own discomfort by scooting. But if it happens often, bring your dog in and we can relieve the congestion by squeezing out the glands, which only takes a few minutes to do. It sounds awful but your dog will feel a lot better almost immediately!

**Avoid Unplanned Pet Babies.** Its spring and love is in the air. If you have young pets such as a dog or kitten, be aware that they are normally spayed or neutered at approx. 4-6 weeks of age. Speak to us about what is right for your youngster. There are many good reasons to get the operation done, which includes preventing pet overpopulation and encourages better pet health. But act before it is too late ... Call us and book your pet in.

### Try out our tongue twister!

Try saying this one quickly and test your skills.

**I thought a thought. But the thought I thought wasn't the thought I thought I thought. If the thought I thought I thought had been the thought I thought I wouldn't have thought so much.**