



**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)



Autumn is fun . Bright golden leaves to chase and bunches to dive into. But don't forget those nasty ticks, they will be looking for a warm blooded pooch or cat to cosy up to. If your pet loves playing in the piles of leaves, check them thoroughly after the game to ensure they haven't picked up a hitch-hiker! Continue to use tick control and repellent products, especially if your dog or cat loves to be outside playing with the leaves in the autumn breezes.



Cats and dogs need to have their ears checked often, especially if they go outside a lot. Grass seeds can get trapped in the ear channel, parasites can cause infections. Be very careful when you clean their ears, or bring them into us and we can check them for you. We'd love to help out.



**Welcome to our MAY 2021 Newsletter** The changes in the seasons are now very obvious. The mornings and evenings are very cool compared to the hot summer we enjoyed. Pets will be feeling it also, especially our senior pets. They require a warmer bed for the winter, one they can hunker down and snuggle into. The bed needs to be off the cold tiles, or thick enough for the coolness not to seep through. A heating pad would be a welcome respite for an older dog or cat. Dietary changes may be required as in cooler weather the appetite seems to increase, and pets will eat anything that they can find. Their increased appetite may get them into trouble as they will sample whatever they find, and some poisons have a sweet taste. Keep all your garden sprays, pellets and any other chemical based product locked in a cupboard. For a pet who is feeling the cold in their bones, a dietary supplement may be helpful for the autumn and winter. These supplement's take time to take effect, so bring your pet in and we can recommend the right product for your dog.

### Are Your Pet's Vaccinations Up-to-date?

Getting your pet vaccinated is vital if you are going to travel with them or need to leave them in a boarding kennel at any time. If you want them to join in a doggie group outing at the park they will need to be vaccinated to join the group. The vaccination injection helps to prevent serious disease in your pet and are for the reducing of the spread of disease in the animal community.

We stock a full range of vaccines for cats, dogs and rabbits. We realise that it can be confusing with the variety of vaccines available, but we are happy to discuss the different vaccines available and help you build a specific vaccination program designed for your dog and the lifestyle that you both have. A vaccination is done every twelve months.

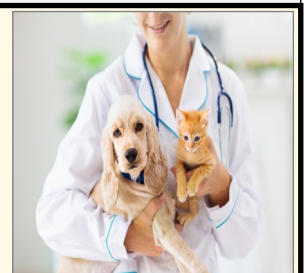
Puppies are often vaccinated at six to eight weeks old, but check with us as each pup is different. Prevention of disease is always preferable.

Every pet is unique and the goal is to find the best diet for the individual pet. We stock many products including pet food, treats for dental health, toys ,and we have a range of preventative medicines including a range for parasite control. Call in and view our wide range.

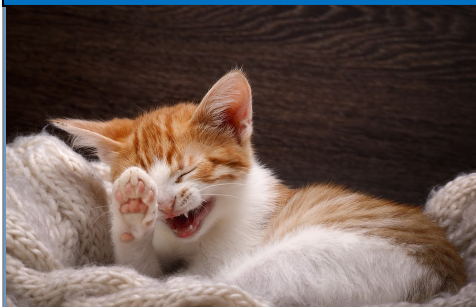
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## At Touch of Humour.

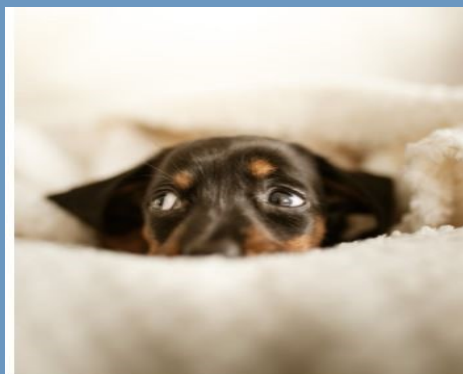


**Q. Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?**

A. Because their kids have to play inside!

**Q. What do you call an elephant that can't stop cleaning?**

A. Cinderelphant!



**COLDER NIGHTS**—remember an extra blanket for your pet as autumn nights can get pretty cold. Pets with short hair feel it more than those with thick dense fur. A cosy bed, a blanket or two and your pet will be set. Older pets may need a heated pad.



### Front Leg Injury in Dogs are Common.

The cause may be as simple as sprained leg or an injury to the muscles after jumping at play. Torn ligaments, dislocated joints, bone infection after being bitten by another dog, bruised or degenerated muscles, arthritis and of course, an injury due to being hit by a car.

Waiting to see if your dog heals itself is not an option, as they can suffer considerable pain. Quick and proper diagnose will involve one or more of the following procedures. Examination by a vet, X-ray to show bone fractures, dislocation etc, and MRI or a Fluoroscopy which is like an X-ray but shows the injury while having the leg demonstrate a range of motion.

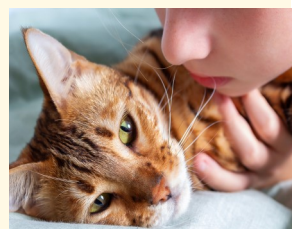
Some injuries may just need bandages or wraps for a period of time. A broken bone may require a splint. Antibiotics and pain killers may be required. Osteoarthritis is a degenerative disease that may be helped with a change in diet, exercise and medication. But a dog who is suffering should not be left to naturally heal. At best it will heal in an abnormal position and still cause pain. Bring your dog in and we can find the cause of the problem and help your dog return to normal life.

### Is Your Cat Sick??

Cats tend to hide their illness, and by the time you catch on they can be very sick indeed. Look for these signs of a sick cat.

Are they eating, drinking, urinating or defecating less or more than normal? Do they vomit repeatedly after food? It could indicate a blockage or poisoning.

Do they have diarrhea or constipation? Is your cat coughing? Check their gums—are they pale? Blue gums or tongue is serious as it indicates a lack of oxygen! Does your cat have a fever? All these symptoms indicate a serious condition that needs veterinary attention. Pets tend to hide their illness, as in the wild, being sick is a disadvantage. So it is up to you to notice any changes and act on behalf of your cat.



### Are You Considering Getting A Pet?? Ask yourself this.

Are you ready for the day to day responsibilities for a pet —feeding, walking, and being home to care for them.

What would you do with your pet if you went on holiday?

Do you have spare cash to pay for petfood and potential vet bills.

Are you prepared for 10 –15 years or more looking after your pet? A pet is a serious commitment.

They do bring joy, fun, and companionship. But they are a lot of responsibility. They are at home waiting for you so you cannot just stay out at night.

To your pet—they only have you and you are their everything.

You are responsible for their health, and for training so that they grow up to be a well behaved pet. Think long and hard before you decide.

**Do you have a new puppy who cries at night?** Or perhaps your dog suffers anxiety when they are left alone. Crate training is important so that they have a 'safe' place to go to in those times. Leave the door open for them, and encourage them to go in by themselves with a treat trail into the crate. Have a super plush bed in there, a few toys, and a treat or two. There is a plush toy dog that you can get for you pup, it even has a heart that beats, and a heat pad that you can tuck inside it which provides warmth and the comfort of a realistic buddy that they can snuggle with. It has had great success with new puppies and anxious pets. Any thing the helps is worth it. Training your pet to be self reliant is vital if you want peace in the home, and for their peace of mind.