



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

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At Cheltenham Veterinary Clinic our focus is to maintain the health of your pet through prevention and healthy lifestyles. We offer a [range of services](#) for smaller pets such as cats, dogs, birds, rabbits and pocket pets. In 2011 our vets were selected by the Seeing Eye Dogs Australia (SEDA) to look after the health and medical needs of the Seda puppies in training. A task we will gladly continue today. Our team are devoted to making people and their pets happier and healthier.



Keeping pets warm in winter is a challenge. A mature dog will feel the chill seeping into their bones. But what can you do? Check out our pet tips for winter [BY CLICKING HERE](#). From heat packs to comfy beds with additional blankets. A slight increase of food may be needed to cater for the effort to keep your pet's body at an even temperature. And don't forget about exercise. Lying in front of the heater won't keep anyone fit, it takes daily effort to remain healthy.

## Welcome to our July 2021 Newsletter

As winter settles in and the wind, rain and in some parts of Australia, the snow, sets in remember that pets too can feel the chill despite their fur coats. Many a pet will appreciate an extra blanket or two, and perhaps a heating pad that will make the winter chills disappear. Your pet will be drawn to any heaters that you have on, but just make sure they aren't sitting too close as they may doze off and wake up with serious burns. Nutrition is the name of the game in winter diets. You want your pets to enjoy solid nutrition but don't overdo treats or they may pile on the weight. And keep up with exercise over the cold months. We are all tempted to stay inside where it's warm, but come spring, the excess weight becomes a burden to shed, both for pets and owners alike! There are so many pet 'clothing' options, that no pet needs to freeze. Dress them up warmly then go for an invigorating walk—and enjoy winter!

**Rabbits and the Calicivirus.** This disease is highly infectious that sadly doesn't have a cure. Prevention is therefore an essential aspect in the management of this condition. This swift acting disease starts with depression and loss of appetite, followed rapidly by a fever, seizures, and coma, leading to their demise within 12–36 hours of the symptoms. An annual vaccination will protect your rabbit from this horrible virus. Other steps you can take include quarantining a new rabbit from others for at least 5 days, provide regular flea treatment to reduce the chance of infection spread from parasites, and keep your rabbits separated from other rabbits that are not within your family. Rabbit calicivirus, is also known as viral haemorrhagic disease. The virus is shed through the urine, faeces, and respiratory secretions and is often spread between rabbits by carriers such as fleas, flies, mosquitoes and other rabbits. Talk to us about getting your rabbit vaccinated—prevention is the only option.

### A Little Bit of Humor.

**Why do dogs love smartphones?** Because they have collar ID's.

**Why do cats hate laptops?** They don't have a mouse.

**What do you call a dog that can't bark?** A hushpuppy

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## A Fractured Femur (hind leg)

These kind of injuries are the most common fracture of the bone seen in dogs or cats. They are often caused by a major trauma such as being hit by a car. The animal is usually unable to use the limb, and the bone may even be exposed through the skin. It depends on the extent of the injury, as to the treatment of the wound. A thorough physical examination is important. Based on the results, additional tests may be recommended. Depending on the fracture type, pins, pins and wires, bone plates and screws, and external fixators to prevent movement can be used to help your dog or cat heal. X-rays will also be required. As the animal recovers, painkiller medication will be required, and it takes time to heal from such a traumatic experience. All of these things cost money. Costs can run into the thousands (\$5000 plus) which can be another stressful item the owner has to wear. You may want to consider a type of pet insurance that covers pets for those most serious of accidents or disease. It takes away the stress of an expensive medical operation for your pet. Some people put aside each week an amount into a savings account to help pay for pet health care. We hope you never have to touch the funds but it is a relief to know you have something aside for emergencies. And we believe that you should know these costs and plan ahead ... just in case you need it.

**Ear irritations** can drive a pet nuts. There is often discharge from the ear, a smelly odour, and there may be debris in the ears. Your pet will often shake their heads, and paw at their ears. Ear infections can be itchy or painful for your pet. Left alone, an ear infection can cause serious damage. If you try to clean the ear yourself, be very gentle and don't go too far into the ear. If the ear is too painful and your pet gets upset when you try to clean it, [please bring them into us.](#) Sometimes an ear infection can be related to a skin allergy. But an ear infection should never be ignored.



Did you know that owning a pet can positively impact on your health? The benefits of having a pet include lower blood pressure, feeling less stressed and pet owner are more outgoing!

**I distinctly heard**



**All Pets Need Mental Stimulation.** When a pet is bored, they often get into trouble. They wreck the new roll of toilet paper and spread the tissue throughout the house. Potted plants become a target to either toss off the table (usually a cat trick) or 'repot' the plant leaving dirt in a pile on your carpet. Every pet needs an outlet for their energy and if there is nothing on offer, they will invent games for themselves. Shoes will be chewed, dogs become incessant barkers, net curtains destroyed, and if your pet finds the medications left in their reach, it could result in serious consequences as they scoff them down.

Training is an ideal way to tire out those energetic pets. Chewy toys, tennis balls, sturdy ropes, and food dispensing toys all help. Hide some items for your pet to seek and find. Make up an indoor or outdoor obstacle course to challenge your pet. Obedience training for cats and dogs will be worth it although cats are notorious for only doing what benefits them so have some tasty treats on hand. A walk for an energetic dog in the morning and at night will help wear off that tiresome energy from your pet. Even rabbits and birds appreciate a game or two. It helps their mental clarity and happiness. Boredom is often the cause behind bad behavioural habits. Solve the boredom and you will solve other problems solve

### Small Pet Checkcare List.

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| Wash & dry food containers             | Offer a variety of food             |
| Empty, rinse & refill water containers | Social hour—snuggle & play time     |
| Offer fresh hay, food, and water       | Check toys for breakages            |
| Spot clean the enclosure               | Monitor general well-being          |
| Freshen bedding for your pet           | Deep cleaning their pen— weekly     |
| Spot clean the enclosure               | Provide new toys to prevent boredom |
| Appropriate grooming.                  | Administer daily supplements        |