



cheltenham
VETERINARY CLINIC
nurturing the human animal bond

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Start Puppy Training Early.

When you start puppy training early you to gain control of your puppy, prevent a wide variety of problems, and promote desirable behaviour. Puppies soak up attention and praise and can learn simple commands such as sit, stay, etc. Training based on gentle and positive reinforcement will motivate your pup. Short training sessions are best—15 minutes will not tire them or allow their attention to wander. Remember that puppies forget things quickly which is why repetition of the lesson is vital. They can also get distracted easily so patience is required. But training should always be fun and gentle.



A Touch of Humour.

- Stinky pet breath—what's the reason?
- Young puppies can be trained.
- Hip problems need to be checked.
- Why cats looove catnip!
- Easter bunny— think twice before adopting.
- Why pets don't like you handling their paws.

April 2022 Happy Easter

As we sink further into autumn, there are two immediate concerns we need to address. The first is regarding maintaining parasite control in our pets, the second issue is Easter with all those yummy chocolate treats. First up—parasites! It is a myth that the cold weather kills them all, they still continue to thrive even in the colder weather. And they are seeking a nice warm host to spend the winter with such as your pet. Parasites are easier to prevent than to cure. So keep up with your pets flea, tick, worm protection even over the bleak days ahead. Secondly, we have Easter. Sadly your pet's body is not designed to process chocolate. There is a compound (Theobromine) that is a dangerous component of chocolate. It causes heart palpitations, hyper sensitivity, tremors, vomiting, and even death. Keep all your chocolate treats out of your pets reach and avoid their begging looks. Better to give them a special treat such as a little cooked chicken, a special cat/dog biscuit, or whatever that is more natural for them to eat. Keep your pet safe and enjoy Easter.

Is Stinky Pet Breath Knocking You Out?

That 'knock out' smell is the result of [plaque and tartar](#) build up on your cat or dogs teeth. This build up can lead to the development of the bacteria that causes the pong! If left to fester, the condition can rapidly develop into a serious dental issue for your beloved pet. Internal disease could also be the culprit such as kidney or liver issues can cause bad breath that has a fishy smell. Pets are often reluctant to let you look in their mouth, so bring them into our clinic and we can do a full oral dental check under a mild sedation. Early prevention can save you a lot of heart-ache and expense as the problem will not go away, it will only get worse.

Hip Problems Should Be Investigated!

Your cat or dog can develop problems with their hips which usually shows up as limping, inability to jump up or down, avoiding physical activity, pain, and licking or chewing of the hip area. This can develop further into painful arthritis. It can make life difficult for your pet to get around but there are many things that we can do to provide some relief before having to resort to surgery. Including Omega 3 fatty acid supplements into their diet can help by decreasing the inflammation. Heat on the area can bring some relief. Provide ramps in areas of stairs so your pet can avoid jumping. If your pet is exhibiting any signs of hip problems bring them in and we can check on the extent of the condition. Once we know the condition of the hip, we can then design a course of action to alleviate your cat or dog's pain.

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Why Cats Cant Resist Catnip

Catnip is a fragrant plant from the mint family. The leaves and stems of the plant contain an oil that is called nepetalactone. When cats smell this oil, it stimulates special receptors that sense chemicals called pheromones. The result is a kind of chemical reaction that gives your cat a sense of euphoria or overwhelming happiness. Your cat may go a little crazy and roll in it, growl, purr or drool and just act a bit nutty for a few minutes, before they regain their regal sense of décor and wander off with their usual haughty expression.

Why dogs tilt their head when we talk to them?

A dogs range of hearing is wider than ours, but it is not as accurate. By perking their ears up while tilting their head helps them to pinpoint where the noise is coming from and enables them to interpret the tone of our voice and pick up familiar words such as 'walkies'.



Easter Bunny Adoption – Think before you act!

Rabbits are cute and look cuddly, and it may be tempting to think about adopting a bunny for the kids at Easter. But before you do, think about it carefully as rabbits require just as much care as the family cat or dog. Rabbits live for 12 years or more, so are your family prepared to commit for that length of time? Rabbits require specific housing to protect them from predators. They must be handled and socialised daily to integrate them into your family. A rabbit needs hay each day which helps to wear those teeth down . To remain healthy, they will need a regular vet check-up to check for parasites, and dental care if required. Fresh water is required daily, they overheat in the hot midday sun, and they need daily grooming to be at their best. There is no doubt at all that a rabbit can be an ideal pet, but don't be fooled into thinking that they are low care. Like any animal, they have their needs. They require commitment. If you are not up to the care requirement of a real rabbit, then you are better to opt for a cute stuffed toy rabbit. In that way no bunnies get hurt or abandoned after the excitement of a new pet wears off. Rabbits are cute, they can be a great pet, but they are not low care animals. So think about it carefully before you commit.



Why Cats n Dogs Don't Like You Handling Their Paws.

Your cat or dog doesn't like their paws being handled as it makes them feel very vulnerable or awkward. While they have leathery bottoms that are padded to withstand the terrain and temperatures, the tops of the feet are the most sensitive part of their feet due to a concentration of nerve endings in that area. Both dogs and cats can get defensive when you handle their feet, mainly because they rely on there feet to give them feedback about the ground they are walking over. They are essentials tools to your pet. They dig with their feet, they test the water with their feet, and it is an instinctive reaction to withdraw their paw from your hand. If they have been nipped during a nail trim they may also remember that pain and be reluctant to trust their feet to your care. They may even have an injury on their foot which can cause them to respond negatively. To your cat or dog, their feet are important and they can feel at a disadvantage when you handle their paws. Always be gentle and careful if you are handling their precious feet.

Try out our tongue twisters

Say these three times quickly and test your skills.

Jumping jungle jaguars juggled jeeps and jewelry.

Fifty-five farting frogs followed funky farmer Fred for a fortnight.



Happy Easter!

Cat Treats for Easter.

Cats actually don't have the receptors to taste sweets, so there's no point offering them anything sweet! Instead, give them meaty treats intended for cats who are obligate carnivores—(they prefer meat).

Why not give kitty his very own special Easter feast, like a can of high quality cat food that is the same flavour as the meal you're having so that you can pretend that you are both eating the same! You can even serve it on a fancy dish if you want. Perhaps a little flaked cooked chicken meat. Or spoil them with a catnip stuffed toy.

Cats are a little bit finicky when it comes to food, but **chocolate is definitely off the list**, as they cannot process it and they can quickly become critically ill if they do ingest it. Dogs react in the same way as cats to chocolate so **AVOID CHOCOLATE for all pets**, and have a happy Easter.

Dog Biscuit Treat for Easter.

For the dough

2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour

1 egg

1 cup peanut butter

2 tablespoons honey

For the frosting

1/3 cup corn-starch

2 tablespoons peanut butter

1 tablespoon honey

3-4 tablespoons hot water



Instructions

Preheat the oven to 165C

In a large bowl combine flour and the egg, add peanut butter, water, honey and stir until you have a stiff dough. The dough becomes very firm and sticky which is normal. You may need to use your hands or the paddle attachment on your mixer.

On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough about 1/2 thick and use a cookie cutter to make fun shapes. The mix barely rises—just so you know.

Bake for 18-20 minutes till golden then let mix cool.

Frosting

Combine peanut butter and honey and microwave for 15 seconds.

Add the melted mix to the corn-starch and stir until just combined.

Slowly add in water a little at a time to mix. Add frosting to piping bag and pipe over the biscuits.

Dogs will love this treat.