



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

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**Trips With Your Pet.** Travelling around Australia with your pet shouldn't be a big deal, but with changing border restrictions, do check it out before you head off. Travelling by car or camper van gives the most freedom, as other forms of travel can be subject to pet restrictions. When travelling, make sure you stop often for your pet to have a toilet break and stretch their legs. Make sure your cat or dog are on the leash when you stop anywhere as they may head bush if they get a fright. Now that we are into May it is a little cooler to travel. Prepare your pet for the trip by going on smaller trips. Get them used to a crate which can keep them safe in the car. Most pets are happy as long as their owners are with them. Travel can be fun if you prepare in advance for it.



### Topics this Month

- Beware antifreeze—It's a danger to pets.
- Can Cats develop blindness?
- Pets eating foreign stuff like string.
- Is pumpkin good for cats and dogs?
- Polydactyl cats—cute little mittens.
- Another tongue twister or two for you.
- Signs your pet isn't feeling well.

**Welcome to our May 2022 Newsletter** We visited our family recently, after they had just moved into a new home. Their dog Evie was ecstatic to see us, and raced around us yipping and crying with joy to see two very familiar faces. This show of excitement brought home to us all that our pets can find a move to be quite a stressful thing. We naturally made a fuss of her and she finally settled by our side on the couch for some cuddles and reassurance. She had been unsettled all week, watching all the furniture go out the door, and when finally it was time to go, she panicked and clambered into the car in case she was left behind. The new home seemed strange to her, she slipped on the wooden stairs, peed on the floor on arrival, and generally got in the way all day. But everyone felt for her, and we all tried to make her feel at home. It takes time with any pet, they don't understand why home has changed. Be patient if they suddenly start peeing inside again, or follow you everywhere you go. It will wear off but growling won't help—it will only make them more anxious. Be supportive, offer plenty of cuddles, and before you know it they will be back to their normal happy selves!

### Antifreeze Poisoning in pets

Colder weather means in some areas, freezing mornings again. We just like to warn everyone that antifreeze is extremely toxic to animals and can cause fatal kidney failure. Unfortunately cats and dogs find the liquid very tasty and will eagerly lick it up when they find it. Please clean up any spills as soon as they happen. And keep the antifreeze container out of reach of pets and make sure the container is tightly closed. Contact us immediately if you see your pet drinking it. Very small amounts can be fatal eg a cat licking it off their paws. Treatment needs to be started as early as possible after drinking this powerful stuff. Once kidney failure develops, sadly most animals will die. So this coming winter, please be vigilant.

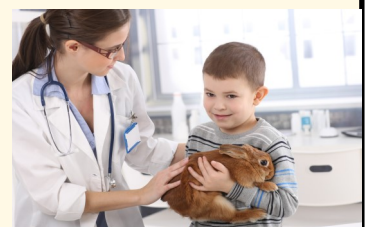
### Pumpkin offers health benefits for cats and dogs.

Canned or plain cooked pumpkin is 90% water so it helps dehydration and helps essential gastrointestinal health. The fibre helps with constipation and can reduce hair balls in cats due to the fibre. Pumpkin helps resolve diarrhea as well and it only takes a teaspoon for smaller pets and a tablespoon for larger dogs. It helps keep your pet feeling full when you are trying to cut their food down and lose weight. Pumpkin contains many vitamins including vitamin A, C, E and iron, folate and may more. Antioxidants in pumpkin help moisturise their coat and provides fatty acids. In short, pumpkin is good for pets. But make sure you don't get the sugary canned pumpkin for pies, opt for pure plain pumpkin and add to their diet or snacks. See [our website](#) for petfood information.

### Keep in touch and follow us here.

Our Facebook Page—click the link below.

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





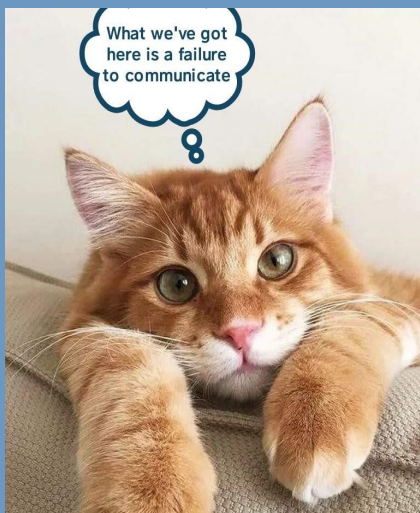
### Polydactyl Cats

While an average cat has 18 toes - five on each forepaw, and four on the back paws, the polydactyl cat have extra toes on either the front or back. They are the cutest cats often known as ‘mittens kittens’ with their big silly paws and cute faces. Any breed of cat can produce the polydactyl cat, they are not a breed as such, more of a sub-breed of every other species of cat. They don’t require extra care, except they have more toes to manicure! But with their cute paws they are often in demand amongst new cat/kitten owners.

### Signs your pet is sick.

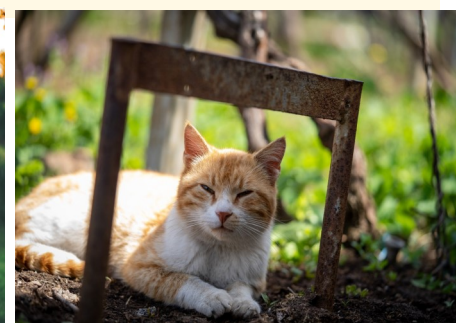
1. Sudden excessive drooling
2. Excessive sudden thirst
3. Heavy panting
4. Sudden change in odor
5. Change in behaviour.

Any changes to their normal behaviour that is sudden and uncharacteristic can be a sign of a medical issue in your pet. Being aware of your pet’s behaviour and noticing changes means you can get your pet the [medical help](#) they need!



### The Danger of Ingesting Foreign Objects to Pets.

Most cats and dogs are guilty of enjoying a good chew with long, thin objects such as string. The problem with that is that one end of the object ie string, may get caught or wadded up in one part of the digestive tract. As the body tries to move the object along, it can create or cause a hole or perforation ie it tears or saws through the intestine. In turn, the contents of the intestines can spill into the abdomen and cause a condition called peritonitis which can be fatal. Dental floss, ribbon, rope and string toys, threads from towels or clothing, tinsel twine and yarn can all be a culprit. If you see the string or cord protruding from their mouth or rear end, don’t pull it for fear of causing yet more damage. Bring [them into us](#) and we will use diagnostic imaging to help us to see what is going on within their internal organs. This applies to pets who have swallowed a large piece of bone, a stone, coins, or whatever, we can track where the object is and safely remove it leaving your cat or dog perhaps a more the wiser (we hope) about what they chew on next. The faster you bring your pet into the clinic, the quicker we can determine how we can help your pet.



### Cat Vision—Can they go blind?

As with humans, cats can suffer from gradual loss of vision. Sometimes cats with glaucoma can have a watery fluid in the front of their eye that can fail to drain properly which creates pressure on the optic nerve. As a result, their vision gets worse and if left untreated they can go partially or totally blind. But that is only one of many things that can cause blindness. Fortunately many cats cope well with blindness, especially if they have lost their sight gradually. They adapt well and can lead a normal life by using their whiskers and hearing to navigated around the house. If the sight loss is sudden, it may take them longer to learn how to get around without hurting themselves. Cloudy eyes, or very wide pupils as well as a change in behaviour are things to note and act upon. If you see your cat starting to bump into the furniture, or if they get lost inside, bring them in for an eye check. The sooner you bring them in, the better.

**Try out our tongue twisters!**

Say these three times quickly and test your skills.

**Imagine an imaginary menagerie manager managing an imaginary menagerie.**

**Six sick hicks nick six slick bricks with picks and sticks!**