

# CHELTENHAM VETERINARY CLINIC

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## The History of EASTER BUNNY

According to some sources the Easter bunny first appeared in America in the 100s. The German immigrants who arrived in Pennsylvania brought their tradition of the egg laying hare they called the Osterhase with them to the new land. The Osterhase brought gifts and treats to children at Easter as a reward for good behaviour. Fast forward to today, and the cute Easter Bunny has inherited the role of Osterhase and proudly carries the basket full of colourful chocolate eggs that we all know and love.



## WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE

If you are out and about over the long Easter break, be aware of our wildlife. Koala's, birds, and Kangaroos can end up being a casualty during the high volume of people moving around. Dawn and dusk are often times wildlife are out and active so drive carefully. If you find an animal or bird in distress contact contact **Wildlife Emergencies on 136 186**. See our website for contact details [here](#) for emergencies.

## Welcome to our April 2021 newsletter.

April brings with it the promise of a long weekend and cooler weather! As the weather cools, it means outdoor activities are more pleasant now with cooler pavements and beach sands that do not cook your feet. The cooler days encourage longer walks around your neighbourhood, or special trips to the beaches if they are handy. Younger pets seem to get a boost of energy while the older pets may feel their aches and pains kick in. A change in plans may be needed for your senior pets who suffer from arthritis. Joint supplements should be administered as soon as possible, as they take a bit of time to kick in and be affective. If you want help to review [your pets' diet](#) and exercise for the autumn and winter months, bring them into our clinic for a quick health check. And while we are talking diets, remember – no chocolate for pets. I know its Easter and chocolate treats are the norm for us, but they are not good for our pets. A good dose of chocolate can do them serious harm or cause a fatality. Let us keep Easter fun, give healthy 'animal' treats to your pet and we can all enjoy the long weekend. See [here](#) for a pet poison list.

**CATS & MENTAL HEALTH.** Mental health in your cat can often be overlooked. Cats can be susceptible to disorders that affect their mood, thinking & behavior. Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) is where your cat engages in a certain activity but constantly repeats it in an exaggerate manner. Examples include over-grooming to the point where bald tender patches develop, pacing, vocalizing, overeating and chewing. Anxiety and stress can also affect your cat. Triggers that may set your cat's anxiety off and raise their stress levels include lack of physical play, changes to their daily routine, the addition of another cat and boredom. The stress will show up in their behavior. You may notice them vocalizing more, hiding, aggression, restlessness, and lethargy. Changes to their eating habits are a clue as well. It is important to make your cats environment interesting. An inside cat needs to have some stimulating activity and attention and have a variety of challenges available to keep their life interesting. Although cats do like to sleep a lot during the day, they also like to have a bit of fun to break the monotony. Perhaps you can provide cat trees that they can climb and look out into the garden from a high perch? A box or a solid paper bag is a cheap and fun toy to a cat. A range of toys that are rotated on a weekly basis adds a bit of variety. Toys where they must work to get a treat are always fun. You can train your cat and they can learn great tricks, but the learning must be fun, and the reward must be special to get them to want to get involved. Make life fun for your cat. But if [your cat has a problem](#), bring them into us to ensure there is not a health issue



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## A Touch of Humour.



Q - If there is H2O on the inside of a fire hydrant, what is on the outside?

Answer - K9P



### WHIMZEES - The dental chew that makes the difference – On Sale Now in Our Clinic.

Stinky doggie breath, plaque and tarter – they are not a good combination and if left unchecked can cause [many dental and health issues](#). Try giving your dog a Whimzee's dental chew and they will enjoy a munch which will clean their teeth at the same time! Dental disease by far is the greatest health issue for dogs of all ages. This chew product fights bacteria and reduces plaque effectively. There is a choice of Whimzee for your pet - the alligator or hedgehog shape are cute, then of course there the bone shaped Whimzees or even a veggie sausage. Good for the teeth, good for the tummy. We have tested these with the staff's dogs, and they have been very well received. They are highly recommended for effective cleaning and a longer more satisfying chew!



### DOG DEMENTIA.

To help recognise the onset of canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD) in your senior dog, it is important to recognize the early warning signs. These include disorientation, altered interactions with family members or other pets, a change in their sleeping patterns, house soiling (loss of bladder control) and activity level changes. Other symptoms include having trouble finding their food or water bowl, trouble eating, and repetitive or restless movements. If you notice these signs, bring your dog in for a checkup. It may not be a cognitive issue, so we will want to rule out any other medical causes such as diabetes or a brain tumor. You dog may even be in pain such as from arthritis. [We can help rule out potential health issues and help you to learn how you can support your dog's evolving needs.](#)



### ECO FRIENDLY PET CARE PRODUCT MANAGEMENT.

With over 60% of Australian households having at least one pet, that fact alone equates to a lot of pet product waste that is produced. Cleaning up products such as plastic poo bags and chewed up cheap toys means looking for more eco-friendly products. Try swapping out your pets' cheap toys for durable rubber and rope. These will survive much longer than those plush toys that tend to get ripped to pieces quickly. Try out some of the new natural based grooming products which are devoid of harsh chemicals – they are better for everyone. Products that are biodegradable impacts less on our environment and waterways. Look for recycled packaging. Swap out the strip-mined clay litter for natural biodegradable litter. Some new and innovative businesses have even produced litter from sustainable corn crops. Rather than blame cats for destroying our wildlife, try attaching a bell to kitty so birds get a warning, or keep kitty indoors from dusk till dawn and feed them well with their favourite food before you allow them outdoors. There are a lot of things we can all do to minimize the waste from pet products – or to save the birds from cats of prey. You just must be a bit creative and think outside of the box.

### DIGESTIVE ISSUES IN PETS

Vomiting and diarrhoea are very common in pets – especially dogs. If you are walking your pet, you will be aware of the 'treats' that they can find. Chewing gum smooched onto the footpaths, left over pizza crusts, and fish and chips scraps!!

Some dogs such as the food obsessed Labrador will Hoover up anything they find! They are always on the lookout for tasty treats. Your cat will also be on the lookout for extra titbits, but they tend to be a little more restrained in what they eat. These foraging trips can lead to upsets within the digestive system. If you pet samples newly flowering plants, they can get a toxic kickback as well. Animals look miserable when they have a belly ache. Vomiting can become severe, especially if they have eaten something solid that can cause blockages. Trembling and difficulty walking are signs of something serious that **needs immediate veterinary help**. Your dog or cat could be poisoned or may have a blockage, both which are serious issues. Bring them in immediately so we can prevent the issue from becoming worse. Digestive issues can escalate into something deadly very quickly! [Check out the list](#) of most common animal poisons.

