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Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic
140 Swanport Road
Murray Bridge, SA, 5253
mbvet@lm.net.au
www.murraybridgevet.com.au
Phone: **08 8531 4000**



**Have you entered
our Easter
Raffle?**

Make a purchase over
\$30 to go into the
draw to win one of
the delicious Easter
Hampers!

 www.murraybridgevet.com.au

Easter Raffle

Do you like chocolate??? ... Be sure to pop in and make a purchase to enter the raffle. Winners will be notified by phone.



Puppy Pre School

Congratulations to the puppies who have graduated from the March Puppy Pre School Class.

Boris
Memphis
Ollie
Suki
Vader

To view all the adorable graduation photos please visit our [website](#).

What will my puppy gain from Puppy Pre School?

Your puppy will gain valuable social skills by simply interacting with other puppies and people. These skills the pup develops it will use for life. Your puppy will learn how to interact with lots of people, loud noises and children and even a visit to the vet will become fun rather than something to shake about. Your puppy will develop into a friendly, educated, confident adult dog.

How will I benefit?

Owning a dog will be enjoyable rather than a chore. Having an obedient, well socialised dog is much more pleasant and stress free. You will also gain knowledge in all areas of pet care from dental, nutrition, solving behavioural problems, toilet training and lots, lots more. Weekly freebies and samples to take home for the puppy. For more information please visit our [website](#).



Hip Hip Hooray!!

A BIG Happy Birthday to our current Healthcare members who will be celebrating in April:

Izzi - 9 years old
AJ - 14 years old
Pago Pago - 13 years old

MBVC Healthcare plans are available for cat and dogs of all ages! If you would like some more info on our Healthcare Plans please [Contact Us](#) or read more on our [website](#). Here you will find how the plan could help you to provide comprehensive preventative healthcare for your pet, spread the cost and take advantage of special offers for Pet Healthcare Members.

What does your cat's personality say about you?



We don't want to open a can of worms here but if your cat is a little temperamental, have you ever considered that it could be mirroring you?

Research undertaken at Nottingham Trent University in the UK has shown that there are similarities between behaviours exhibited by people and the behaviour of their cat. It suggested that a cat might absorb and then mirror certain personality traits from their human carer and there may be parallels with the parent-child relationship.

3,000 cat owners were surveyed, asking a series of questions that assessed people's agreeableness, conscientiousness, extroversion, neuroticism, and openness. They found a number of correlations that not only predicted the cat's own personality but also it's welfare.

Interestingly, a more neurotic human personality was linked with cats that were cited as having a "behavioural problem". This might have been seen as aggression, anxiety or fear, or stress-related behaviours in the cat. Furthermore, the cat owners who were assessed as being more extroverted were more likely to have felines who enjoyed being outside.

Obviously more studies need to be undertaken to investigate a possible link but it's important to be aware that aspects of our personality *could* be impacting our feline friends in both positive and negative ways.

You can read more about the study [here](#).

Keep pets safe this easter



It's not long before the Easter Bunny is set to make some deliveries but when it comes to your pet's safety this Easter, there are a few hazards to watch out for (and they are not all as obvious as you think.)

Chocolate - the most obvious one!

Chocolate contains a derivative of caffeine called theobromine. Dogs have trouble digesting theobromine and ingestion leads to hyperactivity, tremors, panting and a racing heart, vomiting, diarrhoea, and seizures. Theobromine ingestion can be fatal in some dogs. As a general rule, the darker the chocolate, the more toxic it is. Seek veterinary attention immediately if your dog has ingested ANY amount of chocolate. In most cases, if we are able to make your dog vomit we can prevent any nasty side effects.

Hot Cross Buns - the sneaky hazard

The sultanas and raisins in these delicious buns can cause acute kidney failure in dogs due to the possible presence of a toxin on the grapes. Keep these off the menu at all times and watch for any that happen to drop on the floor (a common issue if you have little kids!). Call us for advice if your dog ingests any.

Easter lilies - beautiful but deadly

These beautiful fragrant flowers can cause kidney failure in cats if ingested. The stems, leaves, flowers and stamen are all potentially dangerous, as is the water the flowers are stored in. If you are worried about your cat you should call us and we will advise you on what you to do.

If your pet ingests any of the above over the Easter period call us immediately for advice. It's also a good idea to have emergency numbers on hand if it is out of our normal opening hours, just in case your pet needs to be seen urgently.

Blood tests are magic



Many people cower when we mention the following words: blood test. But did you know that these tests are virtually magic when it comes to getting an insight into your pet's general health?

From a blood test, we can decide if your pet is dehydrated, has underlying kidney disease or liver disease, and assess your pet's red and white blood cells. We can also rule out common diseases (such as hyperthyroidism in the case below). Early detection of diseases via a blood test can allow prompt treatment and greatly improve your pet's quality of life.

The ins and outs of a blood test

- + Most blood samples are taken from the jugular vein in the neck. This vein provides us with a good sample as quickly and painlessly as possible.
- + The majority of pets are more relaxed when blood is taken from their jugular vein. If necessary, a smaller sample can be obtained from a vein in the leg but these veins are generally 'saved' for administering injections or intravenous fluids.
- + Once the blood has been collected we place gentle pressure over the vein to prevent any bruising. We don't tend to apply a bandaid but a liver treat (instead of a lollipop) is essential.
- + Your pet's blood is placed into tubes appropriate for required tests. Some tests can be run on machines in the clinic but there are certain tests that require more extensive equipment and so the blood sample must be sent to an external laboratory.

It's important to realise that blood tests are an essential part of good veterinary medicine and can be critical when diagnosing and managing diseases.

Ask us if you have any questions about your pet's health, we are always here to help.

My cat is so hungry but is still losing weight



It's not an unusual presentation, an elderly cat that is losing weight but is ravenous day and night.

Once we have ruled out diabetes, another common cause of these symptoms may very well be the endocrine (hormonal) disease hyperthyroidism.

This disease is not uncommon in older cats and is caused by an overproduction of thyroid hormone from the thyroid glands. It results in an out-of-control metabolic rate and this upsets the regulation of carbohydrates, fats, and protein as well as the function of the heart. If untreated a cat can become seriously unwell.

Signs of hyperthyroidism

- + Weight loss despite a normal or increased appetite
- + Vomiting
- + Increased thirst and urination
- + Poor coat quality

Fortunately, the vast majority of cats that develop hyperthyroidism can be treated very successfully and most cats will make a complete recovery.

There are different options for the treatment of hyperthyroidism and the treatment of the individual patient depends on how well the kidneys and the heart are functioning. In most cases, it involves life-long daily medication and regular blood, urine and blood pressure tests.

If you think your cat might be showing some of the signs mentioned above you should call us for advice and arrange an appointment for appropriate blood and urine tests.

Check out these posers!



We've got some feel-good pics for you this month. Have a look at these dogs who walk and pose together every day.

We can't quite work out how the dog walker gets them all to sit perfectly still for a photo but we are pretty impressed. Check them out [here](#).

This email contains comments of a general nature only and is not intended to be a substitute for professional veterinary advice. It should not be relied on as the basis for whether you do or don't do anything.

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