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Murray Bridge  
**Vet Clinic**



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Healthy mouth, happy pet

August 2017

Fight animal cruelty with Cupcakes!!!

We are hosting the RSPCA Cupcake Day again this year!

Be sure to visit us on **Monday 21 August** to grab a cupcake or two!

All money raised will go to the RSPCA to support their shelters, vet hospitals, programs, education services and inspectors.

We have our staff practising already to create some very yummy cakes!



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## 01 August is Dental Month @ MBVC

There are some great articles in this newsletter on dental disease and how it affects our four legged family. Be sure to read our [blog](#) which is all about dental care as well.

As a special for the month of August, all dental procedures performed here at the clinic will receive a \$20 voucher to use within the clinic to purchase dental care products or food. Be sure to get in quick! Places are limited.

## 02 Puppy Pre School



Congratulations to the following puppies for graduating from the July Puppy Preschool class at Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic

Toby  
Noodles  
Meeko  
Wilson  
Kami  
Penelope

To view the adorable graduation photos please visit our [webpage](#) or Facebook [album](#)

### 03 Senior Pet Club



Happy Birthday to our current Senior Pet Club members who will be celebrating in August:

Izzi  
Banjo  
Helen  
Monty  
Tippee

Do you want to know if your pet is eligible to join our Senior Pet Club? [Contact Us](#)

### 04 A healthy mouth equals a healthy pet



There's no getting around this one. **If you want your pet to live a healthy life, they need to have a healthy mouth!**

There is now plenty of evidence to prove that dental disease is linked to other problems such as heart disease, so it is absolutely essential we keep an eye on your pet's oral health.

Dental disease strikes when plaque and tartar accumulate on the teeth and lead to infection of the gums. Bacteria from this infection can travel in the blood stream around the body and can impact the heart as well other organs such as the lungs and kidneys.

**The good news** is that many of these problems can be reversed if dental hygiene is improved - and that's where we come in!

If we detect dental disease we will recommend a dental procedure to help remove the plaque and tartar and resolve any infection. We will also remove any diseased teeth that might be causing your pet significant pain.



#### Here are our top tips for preventing dental disease:

**Get your pet's mouth checked by us.** We will be able to spot problems early - this is essential to good dental care. A check at least once a year is vital.

**Get your pet eating the correct food.** A premium quality dry diet is essential for good oral health. There are excellent dental diets available and they really work so ask us for the best recommendation.

**Brush your pet's teeth.** This is considered gold standard - just make sure you use a pet-safe toothpaste.

We recommend a dental check up at least once a year. Regular checks will help to protect your pet's overall health and might just save their life!

**When it comes to your pet's oral health, you should always turn to us for advice.**

## 05 Can you clean my pet's teeth without an anaesthetic?



Without an anaesthetic we cannot perform a thorough examination of your pet's mouth, and there is simply no way we can diagnose or treat dental problems while your pet is awake. When it comes to gold standard dental care, we can't just ask your pet to sit back and 'open wide.'

You may have seen anaesthesia-free dentistry advertised but it is often performed by people who **lack appropriate training** and qualifications.

It can also have a **negative psychological impact** on your pet and might cause your pet **unnecessary pain** (plus it also puts us in danger of being bitten).



It's also important to realise that a thorough dental examination requires a patient to be **completely motionless** for procedures such as radiographs and probing.

An anaesthetised patient allows us to look for any root problems and potential sources of pain. We can clean under the gums, which cannot be done correctly if your pet is awake. Removing only the calculus that is visible on the tooth is ineffective because it does not fix the source of the problem or enable healing and reversal of the dental disease.

Anaesthesia-free dentistry can potentially mask serious underlying disease and can cause your pet unnecessary pain. You can read more about this on the [Australian Veterinary Association website](#).

***If it's been more than a year since your pet's last dental check, please give us a call.***

## 06 It's never too late for dental care



It's not uncommon for us to see an older pet with dental disease but many people are worried about their senior pet having to undergo a dental procedure.

In fact, as our pets get older, their immune system becomes less effective at fighting off bacterial and viral diseases so **good dental health is more important than ever!**

Senior pets may be missing or have worn down teeth and this can affect their ability to chew and digest their food. They are also very good at hiding dental pain and soldiering on, so many owners put changes down to 'getting old.'

**The fact is, your senior friend may be in considerable pain and could have issues such as an oral mass or a broken tooth.**

Prior to an anaesthetic, we may recommend blood and urine testing to check the overall health of your senior pet and tailor the anaesthetic protocol accordingly.

It's important to realise that veterinary anaesthetics are on par with human anaesthetics and are very safe. This means your pet will be able to undergo necessary treatment to ensure a pain-free mouth and will be able to live a happier and longer life.

Regular dental checks along with a thorough whole body examination at least yearly will help minimise the risk of oral disease in your senior pet.

**Please ask us for more information if you are worried about your pet.**

## 07 Flea prevention reminder



Spring is just around the corner and as the days are getting longer, **now's the time to ensure your pet is up to date with flea prevention.**

Eggs that were previously laid by fleas may have been lying dormant over the cooler winter months but as soon as we get some warmer days these eggs will hatch. This will lead to an emergence of fleas and lots of itchy pets!

Treat now to prevent these little pesky little creatures from bothering your pet. The saliva from their bites can set off a nasty reaction in your pet's skin leading to *flea allergy dermatitis* weeks after the bite. This often requires antibiotics and medication to break the itch cycle. This can be costly and time consuming and prevention is easier than the treatment!

**The good news is there are plenty of excellent flea products available for your pet. We will be able to recommend the most suitable and effective treatment.**

## 08 Mastiff takes a mud bath

This video will have you laughing and gasping all at once! [Check out this crazy dog](#) taking a mud bath.



## The Fine Print

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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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