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## Vet Nurse Emily

After attending the VNCA conference in February, Emily was inspired to make her commitment to her nursing career official by applying to be a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

The Australian Veterinary Nurse and Technician (AVNAT) registration scheme is a new nationally recognised initiative started by the VNCA (Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia) and endorsed by the AVA (Australian Veterinary Association).

Its purpose is to provide a consistent national standard for veterinary nurses to strive for and a professional code of conduct to be held accountable to.

Being a Registered Nurse is recognition that Emily not only meets the entry level requirement to be a Veterinary Nurse, but that she is committed to continually developing her knowledge & skills.

The whole team at Murray Bridge Vet Clinic congratulate Emily on her recent achievements!



## Puppy Pre School

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

### Class 1

Bobby  
Dora  
Poppy  
Pugsly  
Tilley  
Zara

### Class 2

Arlo  
Bella  
Gabbie Lee  
Hana  
Reggie  
Ronnie

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 August:

Maddi - 13 years old  
Izzi - 12 years old  
Helen - 11 years old  
Monty - 15 years old

MBVC Healthcare plans are available for cats 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.

## Three signs your pet may have dental disease



Dental disease is one of the most common conditions we see in veterinary practice. The problem is, it's an insidious disease and pet owners often don't even realise their pet has an issue until we point it out.

The earlier we detect dental disease, the better. In many cases, we can adjust your pet's diet to encourage better chewing and even get you to brush your pet's teeth to help slow the progression of the disease. Sometimes the disease is too far advanced and a dental procedure under an anaesthetic is the only option to treat the condition.

The sneaky nature of dental disease is another reason why regular (at least yearly) health checks with us are essential, as a lot can change in your pet's mouth in a very short time. We also recommend that you regularly 'flip your pet's lip' and look out for these three signs:

**Bad breath:** the build-up of tartar on the teeth, and subsequent inflammation of the gums (gingivitis) can cause "doggy breath". This isn't normal. If you notice an odour coming from your pet's mouth you should arrange a checkup with us asap.

**Yellowing of the teeth:** this can be an indication of tartar build up or enamel changes. It can indicate your pet is not chewing well enough to clean their teeth, and can also be a sign of an underlying painful area in the mouth.

**Red gums or bleeding around the teeth:** inflammation and infection of the gums can be painful and really affect your pet's quality of life.

**If you think your pet may have a dental problem, or if it's been a while since your pet's last dental checkup please call us and arrange an appointment.**

## Anaesthesia free dentistry hurts



More and more we are hearing of people advertising ‘anaesthesia-free dentistry’ for pets and we would like to fill you in on why this is doing more harm than good to your beloved fur baby.

If your pet is suffering from dental disease, without an anaesthetic, it is impossible to diagnose and treat dental problems correctly - even in the mildest of cases.

Any dental procedure done without an anaesthetic can have a negative impact on your pet as it is likely to cause your pet unnecessary stress and pain.

The scariest thing is, anaesthesia-free dentistry can potentially mask serious underlying disease and lead to complications in the future. Removing only the calculus that is visible on the tooth (as done in anaesthesia-free dentistry) is purely cosmetic. This technique is ineffective because it does not fix the source of the problem or enable healing and reversal of the dental disease.

When we anaesthetise your pet for a dental procedure we are able to look for any hidden problems and potential sources of pain. Radiographs can be taken to detect any issues with the roots, and the teeth can be safely probed with special dental instruments - a critical part of a dental procedure. While your pet is asleep, we thoroughly clean their teeth including the area under the gums. It is essential to understand that this ***cannot be done correctly*** if your pet is awake.

**If you have any questions about your pet's dental health just ask us - we are always here to help.**

## Why cats need to see the vet



Cats are special creatures. They are bold and brave, but they are also experts at hiding pain and keeping to themselves if they feel unwell. This is an innate way of helping them survive in the wild - if they appear weak or sick they are more susceptible to predators.

It is very common for a cat suffering from painful arthritis, insidious dental disease, or chronic kidney disease to just 'sleep a bit more' and maybe be 'a bit picky with their food' - things that are easy to miss in a busy household. Because of this, it is essential that you bring your cat in for regular health checks with us.

In a checkup, we look at things such as your cat's weight (a small amount of weight loss can be very significant for a cat and can indicate an underlying disease). We examine their mouth for signs of dental disease and look for potentially painful teeth, listen to their heart to detect any abnormalities, and have a good feel of their abdomen for any lumps or obvious organ changes.

Blood and urine testing, as well as blood pressure checks, are also important for our feline friends. We can get a lot of information about the health of your cat from these diagnostic procedures.

So next time you think to yourself "oh, it's all a bit too hard to take the cat to the vet," take a moment to re-think. Preventative health care, and early detection of disease is the secret to a happy and healthy feline!

**Call us to arrange a health check-up for your feline friend.**

## Keep your pet safe from these winter hazards



Winter is here, read our top tips to help keep your pet safe:

**Know your pet's limits:** Just like people, pets' tolerance to cold can vary based on their coat, fat stores, age and health. The very young and very old can really suffer in the colder weather. You need to offer your pet warm, protected and safe sleeping options. Ask us for advice to help determine what is suitable for your pet.

**Coats and clothing:** A coat might be helpful for pets that have been clipped, or are old and feel the cold, but most pet clothing is unnecessary and can impede an animal's ability to regulate his own temperature. They can also cause skin problems due to overheating so never leave your pet unattended if they are wearing a coat.

**Frozen water:** In some areas of Australia it gets so cold overnight that your pet's water bowl may freeze over. Sometimes it doesn't get a chance to melt during the day so your pet will have no access to water. We recommend that you check your pet's water twice daily.

**Rodenticide poisoning:** Winter is a more common time for the use of rat and mouse bait so take extra care not to allow your pet access to this potentially deadly poison.

**Check under the bonnet:** Cats and other critters may seek out a warm spot under your car bonnet on a cold night, so it's a good idea to honk the horn or bang on the bonnet before you turn on your car engine just to be sure.

**Anti-freeze:** If you are heading off on holidays to the snowfields and are using anti-freeze in your car, make sure it is out of your pet's reach. Dogs especially like the initial taste of anti-freeze but it is highly poisonous.

**Please contact us if you ever have any concerns about your pet, we are always here to give you advice.**

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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