

[RETURN TO WEBSITE](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER](#)



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



Christmas & New Years TRADING HOURS 2018

Monday 24th December 8.00am - 6.00pm
Tuesday 25th December **CLOSED**
Wednesday 26th December **CLOSED**
Thursday 27th December 8.00am - 7.00pm
Friday 28th December 8.00am - 6.00pm
Saturday 29th December 8.00am - 12.00 noon
Sunday 30th December **CLOSED**
Monday 31st December 8.00am - 6.00pm
Tuesday 1st January 2019 **CLOSED**
Wednesday 2nd January Normal hrs resume

**FOR ALL EMERGENCIES
AFTERHOURS PLEASE CALL**

08 8531 4000



Merry Christmas

James and the staff at Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic wish all of our clients and patients a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!
Please take note of the public holidays when the clinic will be closed.



The twelve pet hazards of Christmas

We'd like to make sure your pet stays happy and healthy this silly season so here's a list of twelve potential pet hazards you need to watch out for this Christmas:

- 1. Christmas dinner and leftovers** are too rich for our pets and can cause nasty tummy upsets and even pancreatitis. Stick to 'pet approved' treats.
- 2. Macadamia nuts** are popular at Christmas and can be toxic for dogs leading to muscle weakness, vomiting and tremors.
- 3. Sultanas and raisins** can cause kidney failure in dogs.
- 4. BBQ skewers** can be catastrophic for pets so take care to ensure your pet doesn't accidentally ingest a skewer (which falls on the ground for example) and never feed your pet cooked bones - both can lead to the need for emergency intestinal surgery.
- 5. Chocolate** - dogs can't metabolise the theobromine in chocolate and ingestion can lead to an increased heart rate, tremors, seizures and even death. The darker the chocolate the more toxic and the size of the dog and amount ingested also plays a part in the severity of the symptoms.
- 6. Decorations** such as tinsel and fairy lights are very attractive to pets but can lead to a gastric obstruction if eaten.
- 7. Ribbons** from presents are super attractive to cats and if ingested can lead to a nasty gastric obstruction requiring emergency surgery.
- 8. The Christmas tree** might be an attractive indoor 'pee tree' but can also be a falling hazard.
- 9. Lots of guests** can cause your pet to become stressed and even lead to them trying to escape - make sure they have a safe and quiet place to retreat to.
- 10. Christmas lilies** can cause kidney failure in cats. The stamen, leaves and stems are all potentially toxic as is the water they are stored in so it's best not to have them in the first place.
- 11. Snakes** are out and about and will be all summer so take care in long grass, around water or areas where there are rodents (grain sheds and chicken pens are common places.)
- 12. Heatstroke** - never leave your pet in the car during the warmer weather, even on a mild day the temperature inside a car can reach dangerous levels in minutes. Leaving a window down will not help either so don't risk it!

If you have any questions about the health and safety of your pet, we are always here to put your mind at ease. Please ask us if you need any advice or information.




Hip Hip Hooray!!

A BIG Happy Birthday to our current Senior Pet Club and Healthcare members who will be celebrating in December:

Gracie - 1 year old
Lucy - 12 years old
Tramp - 11 years old
Chevy - 11 years old
Cleo - 11 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.



Murray Bridge
Vet Clinic

Did you know
you can now
make your pet's
appointments
online?



Have you tried online booking yet?

Its really simple. Visit us online at murraybridgevet.com.au or follow the link from your reminder email or SMS.



Pets are for life - a good reminder at Christmas

Christmas is always a good time to discuss pet ownership and remember that pets are for life and not just a cute Christmas present. The Christmas period can be a suitable time to think about getting a new pet, as you and your family may be around the house more to bond with a new furry family member and help them settle in. But it's also a good time to think about where you should get a pet from and adopting a rescue pet is ALWAYS a good idea.

Rescue animals make great pets and some people believe that these animals secretly know they have been given a second chance! Adult rescues make extra special companions - they are generally toilet trained and can be a bit calmer and wiser than a new puppy or kitten!

Whatever you chose, remember that a pet is for life and you need to ask yourself if you have the ability to take on the responsibility for potentially 15 plus years. Who will care for the pet when you go away? Are you able to provide appropriate health care for the pet and is the pet suitable for your lifestyle? We can help you make an informed decision so ask us if you have any questions.

You might want to also [click here](#) to see a funny video of a Christmas surprise that didn't exactly go to plan!



Travelling with your pet this summer?

If you are travelling with your pet these summer holidays there are a few things you need to think about to help keep your pet happy, healthy and safe.

+ A good place to start is by asking the question: Is my pet healthy? You don't want to take your pet on a road trip if they are unwell. Arrange a checkup with us before you go for peace of mind.

+ If your pet is on medication do you have enough for the trip? And if your pet is on a specific diet, do you have enough to last while you are away?

+ Are your pet's vaccinations and parasite prevention up to date? This is extremely important if you are visiting a paralysis tick area as these ticks can be fatal (particularly east coast of Australia.) And is your pet protected against heartworm, fleas and biting flies? We can advise you on the most effective parasite prevention for your pet.

+ Pets can become lost in an unfamiliar area so you should confirm your pet is microchipped and all the details (appropriate phone numbers) attached to the chip up to date. It's a good idea to put a collar on your pet with your contact details on an identification tag, this allows you to be reunited ASAP if your pet becomes lost.

+ Are you travelling to an area where there might be snakes? If your pet is usually a 'city slicker' you might not have ever had to worry about snakes. Make sure you know where the local vet is and who to call after-hours if there is an emergency, it's a good idea to put their phone number in your mobile contacts.

+ And finally, if your pet gets car sick, you should ask us about the medication we have available to help reduce motion sickness. We also have a pheromone spray available for both cats and dogs that can help reduce anxiety on car trips. Ask us for all the details.

Happy travels furry friends!



Does my pet need sunscreen?

Summer is in full swing and it's time to think about sun protection for your pets but does your pet actually need to need to slip, slop, slap? The answer to this question is not so simple and it depends on many factors.

You should think about applying sunscreen to your pet if:

+ they have a thin coat or a light coloured coat,

+ they like to lie in the sun for extended periods of time, or;

+ if they have exposed or pink skin around areas such as the nose and/or tips of the ears and the belly,

The most important take-home message is to make sure you *only ever apply a pet approved sunscreen* to your canine or feline friend. Any sunscreen that contains zinc oxide can be potentially harmful to dogs if ingested. Products containing salicylates can also cause problems in cats so it's always important to read the ingredient list.

There are UV rash vests available for dogs who spend extended periods outside or at the beach but these products aren't perfect as they don't cover areas of exposed skin under the belly which is no good if your dog is partial to a bit of sunbaking on their back.

The best bit of advice is to always provide ample shade for your pet and remember that the best protection is avoidance so try to keep your pet out of the direct sun especially between the period of peak UV rays (between 10am - 2pm.)

We can recommend a suitable sunscreen for your pet, ask us for more information.



Don't fear the fireworks

As the festive season is in full swing and New Year's Eve approaches, you can bet there will be fireworks going off somewhere. You might enjoy the show but your dog may find fireworks excruciatingly loud and absolutely terrifying.

Here are our top tips to help keep your dog safe and calm during the event:

1. Bring your dog indoors during fireworks or if you know they are scheduled
2. Try to arrange a family member or friend to stay with your dog during the fireworks if you can't be home
3. Make sure you keep all windows and doors closed and all gates secure
4. Provide a small, dark and safe place for your dog to retreat to - a blanket over a table can help
5. It's a good idea to put your dog in a room with a television or radio turned up

You should also make sure your dog is wearing an identification tag and is microchipped (and that the details are up to date), just in case there is an escape.

If your dog suffers from severe firework phobia speak to us as we may be able to prescribe a mild sedative to help your dog. This medication needs to be given well before the fireworks get going so it's always a good idea to check with your local council as to when fireworks are scheduled in your area.

Speak to one of our staff for more information or if you are concerned about your pet.

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.

[View this newsletter online](#)

All content © Pet Pack 2018

You received this email because you're subscribed to our newsletter or are a client of Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic

This email was sent to: (MemberEmail)

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)