

[RETURN TO WEBSITE](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER](#)

Not displaying properly? [Click here.](#)



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

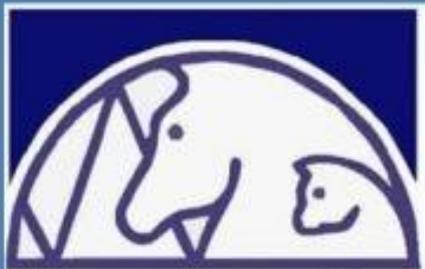
Bushfire crisis - how you can help



We continue to feel devastated for all involved in the bushfire crisis. The effects of this disaster have rocked us all, and we are deeply saddened to see the impact it has had on our wildlife and livestock, as well as the communities and beautiful bushland that makes Australia so unique. It will take many years to rebuild communities and restore crucial habitat for our beautiful fauna. We would like to remind you of ways you can help our wildlife in particular:

[South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management \(SAVEM\) Inc](#)
[Zoos South Australia](#) [WIRES](#)

Every little bit counts, and while this list is small, there are many other organisations worth donating to as well.



Murray Bridge
Vet Clinic



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



Have you tried online booking yet?

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



Puppy Preschool Graduates

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

Diesel
Sonny
Paddy
Riley
Roxy
Lyric
Ernie

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 February:

Nikki - 15 years old

Gypsy - 7 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.



All new healthcare plans!!

There has been no better time to join your pets up to our healthcare plans.

We have made some changes and they now include FREE UNLIMITED Vet and Nurse standard consultations.

There is a special entry plan for Puppies and Kittens, and an adult plan which includes all the preventative healthcare needs such as vaccinations and dental care.

The plans can still be paid via automatic monthly direct deposits at no extra cost (or in full if you would prefer).

Sign up now to start using all the benefits and get your welcome pack full of goodies!

Take a look at the plans on our [website](#) and be sure to ask any questions you may have. View the brochure [here](#). Read the terms and conditions [here](#).

Do pets get heart disease?



Absolutely! Heart disease is not uncommon in dogs and cats, and knowing what to look out for is important as it can really make a difference to your pet's life. Our feline friends are particularly good at hiding signs of heart disease, but the condition can sneak up in all pets. To make things more complicated, heart disease may not always present with obvious clinical signs. This is just another reason why a check up with us at least once a year is vital (we will always listen to your pet's heart and lungs).

Signs of heart disease in dogs:

- Coughing, especially at night
- A reluctance to exercise and tiring more easily on walks
- Weakness or fainting

The signs to look out for in both dogs and cats:

- Laboured or fast breathing
- An enlarged abdomen
- Weight loss or poor appetite

If we have a concern about your pet's heart, we will recommend a series of chest x-rays and possibly an ultrasound of the heart. An ECG, or further examination with a heart specialist may also be required. Thankfully we have a number of medications available to help improve your pet's heart function and advancements in the management of heart disease means if we are able to detect the disease early enough, your pet's quality of life and life expectancy may be very good.

If you think your pet is showing one of the above signs, it is important we check them over. Call us if you are worried about your pet or if they are due for a health check.

Case study: mitral valve disease



Jack the cheeky eight year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel came in for his yearly vaccination and routine health check. During the examination, a heart murmur was detected. After questioning his owners, there was some concern that he may have been a bit slower on his walks lately too.

A heart murmur is simply an abnormal sound produced when blood is pumped through the heart. It can be caused by a diseased heart valve or other abnormality, but can also occur when blood flows very fast across normal structures (especially if a pet is excited).

X-rays of Jack's heart revealed his heart was enlarged but there was no congestion (blood pooling) in his lungs. His owners opted for a more in-depth work up which included an ultrasound of his heart. This looked at all the structures of the heart more closely, and determined that the underlying cause of the heart murmur was mitral valve disease.

This disease is common in small breed dogs and is caused by a 'wearing out' of the mitral valve, which separates the left atrium and left ventricle. It can lead to congestive heart failure and can be fatal.

Jack was started on a medication that helps to improve the pumping mechanism of his heart. This will slow the progression of heart failure, and it reduces the amount of work the heart has to do over time. Studies have shown that this medication can improve a dog's longevity and quality of life if started early enough.

It is likely that early detection means that Jack will live a longer and healthier life. He also has more energy on his walks and is one happy little pooch!

If you have any concerns about your pet, we are always here to help.

Does my dog need heartworm prevention?



Heartworm prevention is one of the most important things you can do for your dog. Wherever there are mosquitoes, there is the risk of heartworm, and why would you take the risk when heartworm infection can be fatal?

Why heartworm can be deadly

When an infected mosquito feeds on your pet, heartworm larvae enter the bloodstream. These nightmarish worms then mature, reaching up to 30cm in length! They can eventually become lodged in your pet's heart, leading to heart failure and death. Treatment of heartworm is complicated and often has a poor outcome.

Heartworm distribution

The prevalence of heartworm in Australia has been mainly in tropical and subtropical coastal regions, but in recent decades it has become increasingly prevalent in more southern areas. Changing weather patterns and subsequent alterations in the distribution of mosquito populations has meant that heartworm disease can be unpredictable. This is why prevention is SO important as we just don't know where it might pop up next.

What's the best prevention?

Prevention of heartworm is far easier than an attempt at treatment but it's also important to realise that not all heartworm prevention is the same. There are topical treatments, oral treatments and a yearly injection for dogs. You should also be aware that many of the intestinal 'all-wormer' tablets do not prevent heartworm infection.

Ask us for the best prevention for your pet and we will make sure your pet is suitably protected against heartworm.

Grain free diets and broken hearts



Grain free diets have become more popular over the last few years, as people inaccurately assume these boutique diets are better for their pets. But there's more to the story...

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the USA is investigating a possible link between dogs fed grain free diets and an increased number of cases of the heart condition known as Dilated Cardiomyopathy (DCM). This disease commonly affects giant breeds such as Great Danes and Boxers and it is suspected to have an underlying genetic component.

More recently, the disease has been seen in other breeds such as Golden Retrievers, Labradors and Miniature Schnauzers. There has been some suggestion that this could be linked to these dogs being fed a grain free diet. Specifically, the FDA stated that 'potatoes or legumes such as peas, lentils, other 'pulses', and their protein, starch and fiber' were the main ingredients of the food in several cases of DCM reported to the agency. It is also not known if these cases of DCM are associated with low taurine levels (an amino acid crucial for heart function), a cause of DCM in cats.

How these 'grain free' ingredients may be linked with DCM (if at all) is currently unknown, and although the media (and social media groups) have been known to report a 'direct' link between 'grain-free' foods and DCM, we cannot say for sure this is the case.

In the meantime, we recommend you discuss your pet's diet with us and ask us for a recommendation. And it's best to avoid feeding your pet a grain free diet until more research has been done in this area.

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 2020
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](#)