



Murray Bridge
Vet Clinic



Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic

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Meet our new vet Aislinn!

July 2017

I grew up in Sydney and studied Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney, graduating at the end of 2016. While at university, I worked as a receptionist and nurse at a small animal veterinary clinic in Sydney. After finally getting sick of the traffic and expense of living in Sydney, I decided to move a bit further afield and ended up in Murray Bridge. I started working at MBVC in April 2017 and I'm really enjoying living in a smaller town and exploring the area.

I have left my family dog behind in Sydney. His name is Iggy and he's a Miniature Schnauzer. Without having a pet of my own in Murray Bridge, I enjoy getting to meet and care for our client's pets.

I love the variety encountered working in mixed practice; no two days are the same. My interests include small animal surgery and dermatology and I like getting out of the clinic and working with cattle and horses too. I'm also interested in exotic animals and wildlife and I have spent some time volunteering and working at Taronga Zoo in Sydney

In my spare time, I play netball and I enjoy hiking, reading and spending time with family and friends.



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01 Puppy Pre School



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

Frankie
Presley
Inka
Harry
Scoobie

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

02 Senior Pet Club



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

Deafy
Delta
Pebbles
Ella

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

03 Yes that's right, Pets can have physical therapy too!



With this cold weather here, you may start to notice your older pets becoming stiff and sore as the signs of set in. Just like us, as we get older (and the dreaded cooler weather hits), [arthritis](#) can sneak up on our pets. You may not have realised – just like with us, pets can have physical therapy to help relieve the pain and prevent the progression of arthritis.

One of our lovely nurses [Amy](#) has studied physical therapy and has come up with some simple exercises you can do with your pet at home to help prevent the progression of arthritis. And with the help of Amy's beautiful Labrador Zara, we have created some videos to help demonstrate these easy techniques.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6qd1OctEQc>

(To read more about the causes, symptoms and treatment of arthritis see our [clinic handout](#) or this month's [clinic blog](#).)

04 Vomiting and diarrhoea and when to see us



Vomiting and **diarrhoea** are two words most people don't want to talk about, let alone have to deal with when it comes to their pet. Thankfully, we have a summary of what you need to know so you don't have to dwell on these words for too long!

Most dogs and cats suffer from either (or both) of these at some point in their life. A common cause is 'dietary indiscretion' which is just our way of saying your pet ate something he shouldn't.

If your pet has a vomit or a bout of diarrhoea you should withhold food for a few hours (gastric rest), offer fluids for rehydration and feed a bland diet for a few days. After this, your pet will most likely recover without a problem.

Unfortunately there are times when vomiting and diarrhoea become a little more serious and that's when you need to call on us.

You should seek advice if your pet:

Vomits more than once
Has multiple bouts of diarrhoea
Seems lethargic or is off his food
Might have ingested something he shouldn't
Has been losing weight recently



If you have a puppy or a kitten with diarrhoea or vomiting we recommend you get them checked with us no matter what as their little bodies don't have much reserve and they can go downhill very quickly.

It's best to ask us for advice if you are concerned about your pet. We might not be able to clean your carpet but we can help put your mind to rest!

05 What you need to know about pancreatitis



Pancreatitis is a painful and potentially life threatening condition and requires veterinary attention as soon as possible.

The pancreas releases enzymes to help digestion. These enzymes usually don't start to work until they reach the small intestine but if a dog has pancreatitis, these enzymes become active as soon as they are released. This causes inflammation to the surrounding tissue and organs. In severe cases, the enzymes start to digest the pancreas itself causing extreme pain.

Knowing the signs can enable us to start treatment quickly and effectively and help reduce the severity of the condition.

Watch out for:

- Hunched back
- Vomiting
- Lethargy
- Appears uncomfortable or bloated in abdomen
- Diarrhoea
- Not wanting to eat

A high-fat diet is a major cause of pancreatitis, especially for a dog who gets a large helping of fatty food in one sitting (such as human left overs or a rich marrow bone).

Obesity, hypothyroidism, diabetes and certain medications or other toxins can also predispose a dog to pancreatitis. Some breeds such as miniature schnauzers are also more susceptible indicating there may be a genetic component.

Treatment involves intensive fluid therapy, anti vomiting drugs, gastric rest and then reintroduction of a low fat food, often for life. A dog that has had a bout of pancreatitis is much more susceptible to repeat attacks in the future so diet management is essential.

We are always happy to answer any question you have about your pet's health. Ask us today.

06 Can my dog eat that?



Are you aware of some of the potential doggy dangers out there? We've compiled a quick list for you below.

This list is not complete and these are just a few of the hazards we find people forget about or are not aware of.

Grapes, sultanas and raisins: induce kidney failure in some dogs

Macadamia nuts: cause weakness, vomiting and diarrhoea

Avocados: lead to a stomach upset and the pip can also cause an obstruction if ingested

Onions, leeks, garlic and chives: ingestion leads to destruction of red blood cells

Chewing gum: contains Xylitol and this can cause weakness and seizures

Apricot, cherry and peach pips and apple seeds: contain cyanide and may cause poisoning

Corn on the cob: the corn might be digested, but the cob may lodge in the small intestine causing a blockage

Chocolate: you've probably heard this before, but remember chocolate is toxic to dogs and ingestion of just a small amount can be fatal - cooking chocolate and dark chocolate are the most dangerous

Rodent bait: can lead to blood clotting problems 3-14 days after ingestion

Snail bait: can cause seizures and even death

Stockings, undies, socks: are all attractive to dogs and can cause a nasty intestinal obstruction

If you think your dog might have ingested something that's on this list you should seek veterinary advice immediately.

07 Things your cat shouldn't eat



Cats can be a bit fussier when it comes to what they will and won't eat but they can of course get themselves into trouble too.

Again, this list is also not complete and if you are worried about your cat you should always ask us for advice.

Watch out for:

Household products: chicken bones, dental floss, yarn, string, lights and tinsel can lead to intestinal blockages

Certain chemicals: taste especially good to cats. Keep these locked away: antifreeze, bleach, detergents, fertilisers, herbicides, insect spray (e.g. ant rid) and rodent bait

Common houseplants: can be hazardous to your cat's health: lilies can cause kidney failure, and poinsettias and tulips can also

cause problems

Human medicines: medicines such as paracetamol and antidepressants pose a serious threat to your cat, so keep them in a place they can't get into

Dog flea and tick medication: a cat that shares a house with a dog that has had supermarket pyrethrin flea treatment is at risk. These can KILL your cat. Ask us for the safest flea prevention for ALL of your pets

If you think your cat might have ingested something toxic you should phone us for advice.

08 Cones of fame



Have you heard the term **cone of shame**?

Also known as the **Elizabethan collar**, **buster collar** or **bucket**, we commonly dress your pet up in one of these after surgery to prevent your pet getting to his wound or pulling out his sutures.

Unfortunately for shelter pets looking for a new home, those wearing cones are less likely to be adopted. That was until a clever lady came up with the idea to decorate the cones and call them **cones of fame**. This resulted in these dogs finding new forever homes!

[Read more here.](#)

The Fine Print

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