



Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic

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Pet Care Newsletter



Puppy Pre School Graduates

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

Gus
Luna
Cub
Kita
Luna
Lomu

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 really BIG Happy 1st Birthday to our current Healthcare members who will be celebrating in August

Marvel & Riley

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](#). There 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.

Find out more

In the last couple of months we've had some changes to our staff here at MBVC.

We sadly said goodbye to our nurse Robyn who had her last day with us in July. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Robyn for being a great member of our team for the past 2 years- you will be missed by us all!

We'd like to introduce you all to our new trainee nurse Toni & experienced nurse Amanda 😊☐ We thought we'd ask them both a few questions so you can all get to know them!



Toni

What is your favourite animal breed?

My favourite animal breed is Labradors because they are such loving and cuddly animals.

What do you love most about your job?

I love how every day is different and that there is so much to learn. It is also that I get to work with a great team here at MBVC.

What is your favourite thing/hobby to do after work?

I enjoy hanging out with my dogs and my family and watch a true crime show or documentary on Netflix. During summer I enjoy spending time on the river wake-boarding and knee-boarding.

What pets do you have at home?

I have 2 Labradors called Basil and Sammy, who are litter mates.

What's the naughtiest/cheekiest thing your pet has done?

Basil hasn't had a tail since he was a puppy, so whenever we would play fetch with them, Basil would always grab Sammy's tail so he could get to the ball first.

Welcome to the MBVC Team Toni! 💎💎

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Amanda

What is your favourite animal breed?

I love Rough Collies, which I hope to own one, one day! I am a sucker for pocket pets though, so I love animals like Guinea Pigs, Rabbits etc.

What do you love most about your job?

Being able to be a support network for owners and their pets, and for my team. My pets are prone to sickness so I understand first hand that stressful situations need people that can support you. This is what my goal is as a nurse, as well as being an advocate for our industry.

What is your favourite thing/hobby to do after work?

I love baking, in particular sweets & treats! I also enjoy gaming (playing Nintendo Switch, PS4) and relaxing and watching movies.

What pets do you have at home?

I have 2 Netherland Dwarf rabbits named Pam Pam (named from the character from the T.V. Show 'The Office' U.S.) and Wade Wilson (named from a character from 'Deadpool'). I also have a cat named Lynx.

What is the naughtiest/cheekiest thing your pet has done?

Lynx likes to lick my hair and bite my head in the mornings. If I nap on the couch, and my hair is in a bun, he will come along and have a nibble!

Welcome to the MBVC Team Amanda! 💎💎

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Springtime itchy skin

As the warmth of spring arrives, our pets can become itchy due to skin allergies caused by grasses, pollens and other allergens, such as dust mites, mould, certain types of food, and some insects. Some pets can also have irritated skin as a result of flea infestations.

Signs of allergies

Both dogs and cats can suffer from skin allergies. Dogs may itch, scratch or lick certain areas such as their paws, ears or belly. Cats often over-groom certain areas of their coat causing hair loss.

When the pet itches, scratches or over-grooms, the skin can become traumatised and inflamed, which can then result in secondary skin infections – or dermatitis. Areas of allergic inflammation and dermatitis are not only irritating to the pet, but are painful too – leading to an uncomfortable and unhappy pet.

What to do if you have an itchy pet

If you notice your pet is itching, scratching or has areas of hair-loss, inflammation or irritated skin, it's important to book them in for a veterinary health check. We'll examine your pet and discuss what treatment and management options are available to help relieve their itchiness and manage any underlying allergies or skin infection. The sooner we can examine and treat your pet, the sooner their itchiness will be relieved!

It's also important to ensure your pet is up to date with flea prevention treatment. Speak to one of our friendly team for further advice on which flea product may be best for your pet. We can also provide advice on pet shampoos, low allergy diets and other products which may be of benefit to your pet.

Treating and managing skin allergies early will ensure your pet stays comfortable and happy.



Animal News In Brief

Image source: [ABC News](#)

This match-making mutt is on a mission

In the wild Australian bushland, many of our precious inhabitants are at risk of extinction. But one extra special pooch is helping Tasmanian devils, koalas, desert tortoises and other endangered animals to meet their mate and hopefully continue their species. Moss is a wildlife detection dog, one of the first of his kind to help endangered species breed in captivity. This sprightly labrador uses his super-smell powers to sniff out the odours that his human team cannot. By keeping a nose out for the Tasmanian devil's scat samples (feaces), Moss can help identify when females are in their receptive periods, or even when they are lactating. With the help of his trusty handler, Moss is off to save Australian wildlife, one sniff at a time.

Find out more about the Moss's mission [here](#).

Arthritic pooch on a roll thanks to dedicated dog dad

Do you have a senior pet? With arthritis being a common condition in older pets, it is up to pet owners to make their furry friend as comfortable as possible in their day-to-day life. Kaylee is one pooch whose arthritis has taken a toll on her regular activity. Kaylee's dad just couldn't bear to see his beloved pup miss out on family adventures due to pain. So the thirteen-year-old pup's owner put together a dogmobile utilising four wheels, a plank of wood, a blanket and some rope - and Kaylee couldn't be happier. Now freely wheelable, the senior pooch can roll like royalty, pain-free.

See Kaylee's smooth set of wheels [here](#).

As pets get older they require more regular check-ups, if we haven't seen your senior pet in the past six months, please call us to make a booking.

Rest insured, these claims are atypically amusing

We know that pets can get themselves into mischief, but how about enough mischief to require emergency surgery to remove a swallowed sock? Beyond the usual cases of allergies and illnesses, there are some pets who take an insurance claim to a whole new level. If you have a labrador and have been sitting on the fence about pet insurance, it may be time to reconsider as a new report shows these beautiful woofers are the most likely breed to swallow socks and other kinds of no-no objects. Here are a few other curious claims some pet owners around Australia have brought to their insurer:

- An owner's hearing-aid lost down the hatch of an inquisitive Cavoodle
- A trip to the hospital for one cake-loving cat after sneaking some orange icing
- A nasty bee sting costing one kitty an allergic reaction

- One rubbish-eating Labrador self-inducing a gastrointestinal upset
- Surgery required for a French Bulldog who experimented in a new snack: tampons.

Read more about bizarre pet insurance claims [here](#).

Accidents can be expensive, so we recommend pet owners consider pet insurance.



Bee stings

The onset of warmer spring weather also brings a burst of flowering plants and trees, which means there are more bees buzzing around. Pets, especially dogs, can come into contact with bees that have fallen to the ground, or from exploring in and amongst the flowering plants in the garden or in bushland.

Signs of a bee sting

Bee stings are not only painful, they can also cause a rapid onset allergic reaction with pain, swelling, and potential lameness or breathing difficulties. Pets will often lick at the site of the bee sting.

There may also be some swelling and tenderness at the sting site, so if the pet allows you to check for it, removing the sting can be useful. A cold compress or ice pack can also help on the sting site, but this can often be difficult to apply if the pet is in pain.

Get your pet to the vet

If your pet becomes lethargic or shows any signs of swelling, especially if the swelling is around their head or face, which may impact their breathing, then it is important to seek veterinary attention as soon as possible.

We often treat bee stings with an antihistamine and anti-inflammatory or pain relief injections. Some pets can have severe anaphylactic reactions to bee stings, so it's vital to always get your pet seen by a vet as soon as you can.

To help prevent bee stings, try to keep your pet away from flowering trees and plants, and discourage them from playing with or chasing bees.

For further advice on bee stings in pets, please contact our friendly team.



Arthritic pets still need help this spring

Spring might have sprung, but the onset of warmer weather doesn't necessarily mean that pets suffering from arthritis will be more comfortable than during the cold of winter. Pets with arthritis still need to be carefully managed year-round to ensure they remain comfortable, happy and healthy all of the time.

Signs of arthritis

Both dogs and cats can suffer from arthritis, which refers to a painful inflammation and stiffness of the joints. In dogs, you might notice them having trouble getting up in the morning after lying down, with stiffness in the limbs or not being able to easily jump up into the car. Some dogs can also show signs of muscle loss around the hips and hind limbs, and may growl when sore joints are touched. After exercise, dogs can also be especially stiff and sore if they are arthritic.

Cats may display signs of being reluctant to climb up or off furniture, or develop a scruffy or matted coat if they're less able to turn around and groom themselves as easily.

If you've noticed your pet displaying any of the signs of arthritis, a health check-up is strongly advised so that we can examine the animal. X-rays are often worthwhile to diagnose and determine the extent of any arthritic changes.

What can be done?

We'll discuss the best arthritis treatment and management options for your pet, taking into account their age, lifestyle and any other health concerns.

There are a variety of treatment options available for arthritis, including daily medications, regular injections, food supplements and special diets that help joint health. We will also advise on the level of exercise your pet should be doing, weight management and, if appropriate, other treatment options including massage, acupuncture and hydrotherapy.

Once we have an arthritis management plan in place, together we can ensure your pet stays happy and healthy year-round.



Snake season

Snakes usually hibernate during the cooler months of the year, so the arrival of the spring warmth also means snakes may start to be more active in the area, and could be a potential risk to your pet.

Prevention

Make sure to cut long grass around your property, especially if you live near areas of bushland or waterways. It can also be useful to do an outdoor spring clean and reduce any potential hiding places for snakes near your property, such as wood piles or junk heaps.

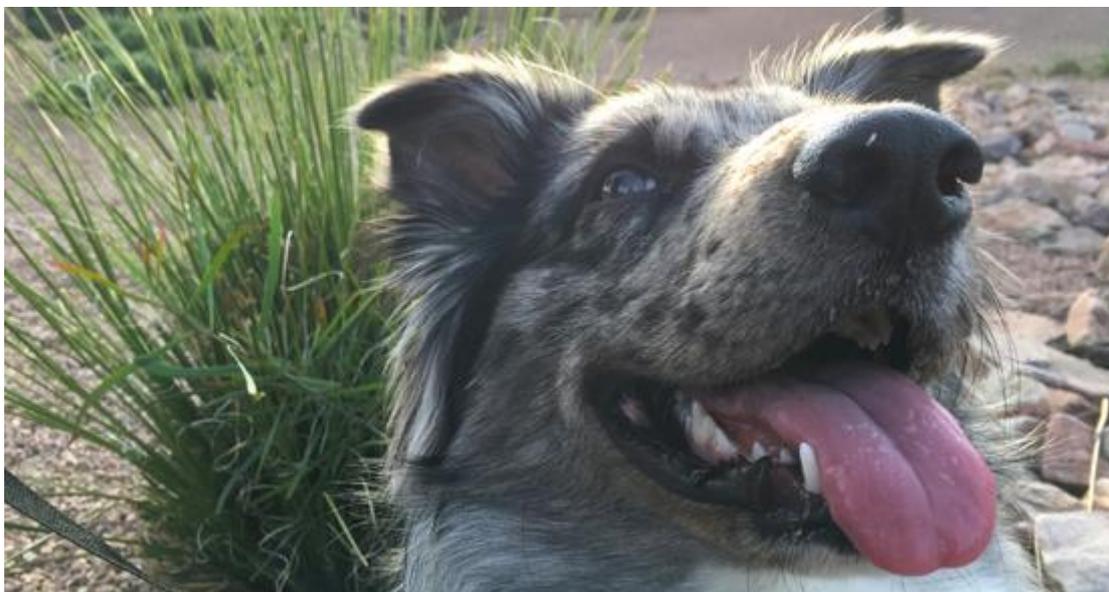
Snakes are more likely to bite pets when they are disturbed. So keep your pet on a leash when walking near areas of bushland, long grass and waterways. Cats and dogs can often be bitten on the face or limbs if they disturb a snake or are trying to catch it.

Signs of snake bite:

- Salivation
- Dilated pupils
- Rapid breathing
- Vomiting
- Hind limb weakness
- Lethargy or collapse

If you notice your pet acting strangely, or displaying any of these signs, it is crucial to seek veterinary attention immediately – snake bites in pets are an emergency, and require urgent treatment and care. If possible, take a photo of the snake or note its colour if you see it. Keep your pet calm and phone ahead to alert the clinic that you are on your way.

We will examine your pet and may suggest a range of diagnostic tests and treatments, including the use of snake antivenom to treat the snake bite in your pet. Snake bites can be fatal, which is why being careful about where your pets explore during snake season is so important.



Healthy skin, healthy pet

The health and shine of your pet's coat can closely correlate with their general, overall health – so if a pet's coat looks dull, scruffy or unkempt it can often be an indication of underlying health problems.

Some pets start to shed more hair as the weather warms up, losing their winter coat. The warmer weather can also bring increased incidence of skin allergies and irritation.

Whether it's areas of hair-loss, a duller coat or skin irritation, if you've noticed that your cat or dog's hair-coat is different to what it may previously have been like, it is worthwhile to have your pet examined by us.

When examining your pet's skin and coat, we are able to assess whether there may be anything of concern. Skin allergies, hot-spots and other superficial areas of irritation can be treated and managed to ensure your pet's coat is as healthy as possible.

Sometimes skin problems can develop from the pet over-grooming or under-grooming, so there may be other issues at play. Arthritic cats may be less able to groom their coat well. Anxious dogs may repeatedly lick certain parts of their body. These conditions can often be treated and the vet will explain the options available.

Pets can also suffer from a range of internal metabolic and hormonal conditions, which can impact on the health of their skin and coat. For example, cats with overactive thyroid glands can often have a poor and unkempt hair coat, along with other signs such as weight-loss, despite being hungry.

If we are concerned that a metabolic or hormonal condition may be affecting your pet's health, we will discuss any diagnostic investigations, such as blood tests, which would be worthwhile to help diagnose any illness.

Keeping a close eye on your pet's skin and coat is key, as with any changes there may be an indication that your pet is suffering from a skin disease or other internal disease. Book your pet in today for a check-up to find out more.

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