



## THOMAS' TAILS: Supersized Pets



I love my food and it has become apparent to me that many of you dogs and cats love your food as well. Unfortunately just as our owner's lives have become more sedentary, so have ours. Many of us cats don't get to go outside and roam the neighbourhood anymore. This is good for the native wildlife but not so good for our waistlines. You dogs aren't much better either. You just sit around inside, or in your yard (and yards are getting much smaller these days) not getting out and wandering the streets. Sure, this means you don't get run over but you're not using up any of that energy you're eating either.

It's quite simple really, too much energy goes in (in our food), and not enough goes out (exercise). The excess energy gets stored as fat and we become thick-boned, big-framed, podgy or any other synonym you can think of to deny the fact that you're overweight or obese. But this is really quite a serious matter. As well as making us lazy,

being overweight can lead to health problems including osteoarthritis and diabetes.

So what is the solution? You need to change your lifestyle. You need to take less energy in and put more energy out. If we are prone to becoming overweight our owner's need to learn how to judge the condition of our bodies so they can know whether they are feeding us too much or too little according to our needs.

If you are already overweight why not join our pet slimmer's club. Our nurses will help to develop a plan including lifestyle changes and dietary modification to get your weight down. This program will also benefit your human family giving them the opportunity to get more active and maybe even shed a few kilo's themselves.

You can also enter the pet slimmer of the year competition. To do this you get a photo taken of you now and one when you have lost weight. This year Hill's® have teamed up with WeightWatchers® to have a new category for the competition- the owner and pet category. WeightWatchers® have a special magazine subscription offer to encourage the benefits of a healthy lifestyle for all the family. Every pet who reaches their target weight on the program gets a free bag of Hill's® pet food and the national winner gets \$1000 in travel vouchers and a \$150 pet shopping spree. The state winner gets free Hill's® pet food for a whole year. So, what are you waiting for? If you're overweight or obese get your owner's to book you in for a weigh-in and free session with one of vet nurses who will work out a weight-loss program for you.

Visit our website for more details on the Hill's pet slimmer program: [www.crownvet.com.au/petslimmer](http://www.crownvet.com.au/petslimmer)

## What you need to know about purchasing a new puppy or kitten



Purchasing a new puppy or kitten is one of life's great pleasures. Seeing all those cute faces in the litter can bring a smile to even the grumpiest person. Puppies and kittens can be purchased from breeders, animal shelters or pet shops. Doing your

homework is very important to lessen the chances of things going pear shaped. Let's look at a few things that you should know when purchasing your new furry friend.

### **Know what breed you want and whether you can satisfy the animal's requirements.**

Different breeds need different exercise, diet and grooming needs. For example, there's no point buying a kelpie if you do not intend to exercise much, and a Persian cat might not be the one if brushing cats is not your thing. Doing a

little homework about the breed you like and it's needs will make the experience of owning a pet a pleasing one.

### **What are mum and dad like?**

Genes and good parenting make a big difference. If possible, view the parents of your new pet. Offspring of aggressive or fearful parents are best avoided. Also take a look at the environment the animal is in. Unsanitary conditions and poor hygiene increase the likelihood of disease.

### **Make sure your pet is vaccinated and microchipped.**

All pets in NSW require a microchip. Forms are usually signed and these forms are sent away to the relevant government body. Puppies and kittens should be vaccinated at around 6 weeks of age and should stay with their parents until 8 weeks of age. View with suspicion any animal that is claimed to be vaccinated and microchipped but does not have any supporting documentation.



## The Magical Healing Powers of the Omentum (Matt Young)

Bella is a 9 year old cattle dog that was presented to me in January and had been a bit off-colour, quiet and lethargic for a couple of weeks. Several visitors to the house had commented on how quiet she was and that she didn't seem to be herself. Just before she became off colour there was another dog that was visiting who was also a young dog and had chewed up a lot of things in the yard. The day before Bella came in she had shown signs of pain when a lump on her side was being felt. She did possibly have some arthritis.

When I examined Bella I found that the mass was not the cause of the pain. The lump that she had was in fact a benign lipoma or fatty tumour. She did however feel a little uncomfortable in her belly. Bella also had an aural haematoma (a blood blister on her ear). As she needed an anaesthetic to fix the haematoma I decided to xray her belly while she was under the anaesthetic, although at that stage I felt it was possible that her ill health was just caused by arthritis after the vigorous exercise while playing with the young dog. She just didn't feel right in the front half of her belly and my gut feeling (excuse the pun) was that something just wasn't right in there.

When I xrayed her belly I was very surprised to see a piece of metal in the abdomen. The piece of metal appeared to be near the spleen but I thought that it was most likely the piece was in the gut and it was overlying the spleen. I decided to open her up and have a look inside and find that piece of metal.

When I opened her belly there were no signs of any inflammation at all. All of the gut appeared normal and I could not locate a piece of metal anywhere in the gut. I was tracing through the gut from front to back when I noticed there were adhesions around the junction between the small and large intestine. While I was examining this piece of intestine one of our veterinary nurses, Kylie, who was assisting, asked what was sitting under my hand.



There, wrapped in the omentum (a membrane formed from the lining membrane in the abdomen) was a piece of wire. There was no inflammation, signs of infection or any fluid around it.

Bella must have eaten the piece of wire (suspected to be a light globe filament) and it must have penetrated the gut wall near the junction between the small and large intestine. When it penetrated the wall the omentum would have grabbed hold of the wire and sealed it off from the rest of the abdomen. The omentum is a wonderful membrane with special healing powers. It can be used to drain and patch holes on the intestine, act as a drain in abdominal abscesses, and can even be taken out of the abdomen to help repair skin wounds. Thanks to the magical properties of the omentum Bella had not succumbed to infection and was being protected from the wire.

I removed the wire and Bella made an uneventful recovery and was back to her normal self in a couple of days. I also repaired the aural haematoma, which as it turned out was the least of her worries.

## HEARTWORMS IN CATS (Kevin Calleja)

Heartworm infection is often a forgotten disease amongst our furry felines. Cats have the same exposure to mosquitoes as dogs do, so the chances of your cat coming into contact with heartworm infection is similar to that of our canine friends.

In the past, tests used to detect heartworm parasites in cats were not so accurate and coupled with the limited treatment options available for prevention, this disease was often overlooked. Heartworms are long thin parasites that live within the chambers of the heart and blood vessels in the lungs. They are spread via mosquito bites and can cause irreversible damage to the heart which can lead to heart failure.

Recent research conducted overseas has also looked at the effect of heartworm on the respiratory system in cats.

Heartworm parasites can have a significant effect on the lung causing bronchitis, asthma and in some cases respiratory collapse. With the potential for such disease it is good to know that there are preventative measures to stop cats contracting heartworm. Various top spot applications such as Revolution® if used monthly can prevent this disease. The added advantage of Revolution® is that it also takes care of fleas, hookworms, roundworms and ear mites.

Feel free to talk to our staff about heartworm prevention in both your cats and dogs.



## IT'S A BOY!

We are proud to announce the newest addition to Belinda and Aaron's family, **Kaleb Leon Rutledge** born on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 10.36am weighing in at 8lb 2oz  
Congratulations to both Mum and Dad

## EASTER TRADING HOURS

Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	March	8.00am to 7.00pm
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	March	<b>CLOSED</b>
Saturday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	March	<b>CLOSED</b>
Sunday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	March	9.00am to 1.00pm
Monday	24 <sup>th</sup>	March	<b>CLOSED</b>
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	March	8.00am to 7.00pm