



Ralph's Lucky Break!

X-ray of Ralph's Femur

Many of you may have seen Ralph, the big shaggy black terrier with a beard being taken on his walks. Ralph was hit by a car about 3 months ago and was adopted from death row by one of our nurse's; Sarah. Ralph had a badly broken back leg and when we x-rayed him, we found that his femur (thigh bone) was fractured. There are many ways to fix broken bones in animals, just like they can be repaired in humans. Some of the possible ways to fix them include: bone plates and screws, pins and casts. In Ralph's case, we decided to stabilise the bone with a

bone pin and wire. After anaesthetising Ralph, we went through the side of his leg to get to the bone. We then put a pin into the marrow cavity and secured it at either end of the bone. Finally we placed wire around the bone fragments to stop them moving.

4 weeks later the pin was removed as the bone had healed. The wire will be left in place unless it causes any problems, which is unlikely. Sarah often brings Ralph in for visits and he loves going around and saying hello to all the animals in the hospital.



Over the last 2 weeks we have had a number of echidnas bought in by the public uninjured. If you happen to come across one in your yard they are most likely to leave the same way that they arrived if they are uninjured. Please lock up your dogs and if left alone they will find their own way to safety. Please do not hesitate to bring them in if they are injured so that we can assist in their return back to the wild.

Should My Pet See the Vet?

A common question asked by pet owners is whether their pet is in need of medical attention. This is a difficult question to answer over the phone and the rule of thumb is that if YOU are concerned you should bring your pet in for a consultation.

Your pet should see the vet if any of the following signs occur:

- If your pet has been hit by a car or involved in a fight with another animal.
- If your pet has refused food for more than 24 hours.
- Inability to urinate or defecate.
- Bleeding from any area.
- Vomiting or diarrhea.
- Coughing or sneezing.
- An injury to the eye.
- A body area that is swollen or painful.
- Limping or lameness.
- Weakness or general change in activity.

Flies are on the Attack Again...

With the warmer weather approaching, the flies are back and looking for a feed. Many dogs can be bitten by flies. Some short-hair dogs can be bitten all over the body and other dogs are just bitten on the ears. Fly bites cause a crusting der-

matitis on the tips of the ear, if the ears are upright or on the top surface of the ears in floppy-ear dogs. Over the counter medications are available which will help repel the flies. Dogs who are bitten all over can be sprayed or treated

monthly with Advantix. If your dog is only bitten on the ears then you may wish to use a repellent cream on the area. If the dermatitis doesn't clear up after repelling the flies, the skin may be infected, so please make an appointment to see George, Matt or Kevin.

Taking a Break Over the Christmas Period?

Don't forget to book your best friends in for a holiday as well.

Give us a call on 42283777 and ask us about our Cat and Dog Boarding Facilities!

Bookings are essential

Thomas' Tails

Hello my dog and cat friends. Lots of things have happened since our last chat. Spring is in the air and that means getting into shape for the summer season. It also means the start of tick season and as we know, ticks are not our best friends. It is a good idea to get the hired help to check us every day for signs of tick paralysis which include a change in our bark or meow, laboured breathing and signs of weakness in our back legs. Preventative measures like the spot-ons (such as advantix) for dogs and sprays for cats are also good.

Spring also heralds the start of the stormy season. Now I like nothing better than to sit and watch a bolt of lightning dart across the sky, then counting how long it takes for the clap of thunder to arrive. Some of our friends



feel intimidated and anxious over the noise of thunder and other large noises. Now, try as we might to convince them that storms or fireworks are

nothing to fear, many of our furry counterparts get so worked up that they can become quite destructive to themselves and the environment around them. In these cases enlisting professional help is recommended, and the team at Crown Street Vet Hospital can help.

Worming is also an issue close to my heart, as I did not get the proper worming care when I was growing up. A complete worming program is so important for us, and our 2 legged companions. Particularly when small children are around, using a worm tablet that does intestinal worms is important, as children tend to play with

our animals as well as placing their hands or other objects into their mouth. The larval stage of hook and round worm can enter the body via ingestion and can migrate within internal organs and the skin. Hydatid tapeworms are also a potential problem particularly in rural areas causing large cysts to develop within the body if tapeworm eggs are ingested. Washing hands after playing with our pets as well as a complete worming program will reduce the risk. There are many wormers on the market and some are better than others. A new chewable tablet "Drontal chews" can make worming a little easier for our less cooperative friends. Well that's it from me.

Meow for now.



FOR DOGS. ZAPS TICKS & FLEAS

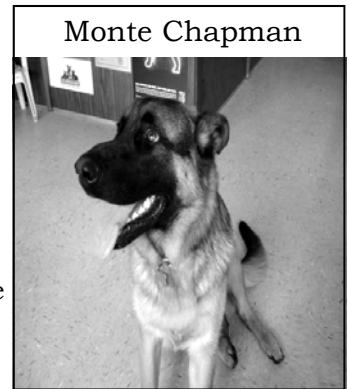
THE TASTY TREAT^{ment} FOR DOGS

Staff Pets!

Our first staff pet profile is on Monte a 9 month old German Shepherd who owns Lauren—one of our vet nurses. Monte is a 42kg "monster" who is extremely friendly. His favourite pastimes include, chasing waves and seagulls at the beach and playing with his two very flat soccer balls! He loves going to training on Saturdays at Hanrob and will often come along to Puppy

Preschool Classes with Lauren and plays with all the puppies.

Monte recently had surgery for a twisted stomach—or Gastric Dilatation Volvulus—which can occur in large breed dogs if they exercise after a meal. Fortunately treatment was received quickly and Monte was back to his usual boisterous self in just a few days.



Monte Chapman

Our second staff pet profile introduces Nero, an 11 month old German Wirehaired Pointer who belongs to Dr Kevin Calleja. Kevin has always had a passion for gundogs, particularly German Pointers, and so when an ad was found in the local paper with a German Wirehaired Pointer for sale, Kevin could not resist, and Nero was welcomed into the Calleja family which includes 2 cats, 5 chickens and a horse.



Nero Calleja

Nero has adjusted well to his surroundings and loves nothing more than running on the beach and rummaging through long grass. Its not uncommon to see Nero living up to his breed name by pointing at the cats or the chickens. Gun dogs by nature are very athletic and have high exercise demands. Daily walks are essential as well as environmental stimulation. Nero has his favourite soccer ball with which he prances around with in the yard and loves to chew big beefy bones.