



New addition due soon.



On behalf of all of my staff I would like to wish Belinda all the best for her maternity leave as we all anxiously await the arrival of her little bundle of joy in January. Belinda is taking maternity leave from December and we look forward to welcoming her back with a new addition to her family. I am sure she will make a great mum and us animals (and my staff) will miss her nursing skills and care around here while she is gone.

Christmas and New Year Trading Hours.



Me and my staff would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2008. Thankyou all for your support of the practice in 2007 and we hope that 2008 brings good health to both you and your pets. If you require emergency attention on the public holidays please call the hospital to get a mobile number to call the on-duty vet.

Monday 24th December 8am to 7pm
Tuesday 25th December closed
Wednesday 26th December closed
27th-28th December 8am to 7pm
Saturday 29th December 8am to 6pm
Sunday 30th December 9am to 1pm
Monday 31st December 8am to 7pm
Tuesday 1st January closed
Wednesday 2nd January 8am to 7pm

No christmas pudding you dogs!



Summer may be the season for fresh fruit but beware you dogs- fruit is not always good for you! Grapes are delicious but if you are a dog they can be toxic. Grapes and their derivatives such as sultanas can cause acute kidney failure in dogs. So unfortunately no Christmas pudding for you. If you do get poisoned by grapes you will be vomiting, with a poor appetite and be generally unwell. Your

owner's should seek treatment which will be supportive treatment such as drips as there is no specific antidote. In fact it is not clear what it is in grapes that is toxic to your kidneys at this stage. Kidney failure can result from eating just a few grapes so stop being so dog-like and being obsessed with food. Just do as I do and stick to your proper diet.

Thomas

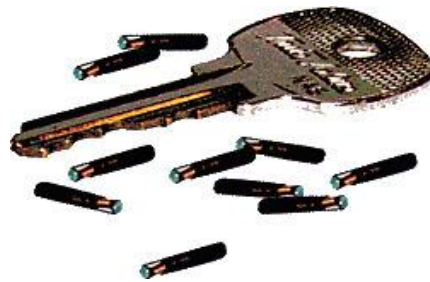


Welcome home Bangles- Behold the power of the microchip

Bangles was not even 1 year old when she went missing at Christmas time last year. On a family visit to Wagga Wagga Bangles escaped from the car and despite an extensive search could not be found. The reluctant decision was made to abandon the search and return back to Wollongong.

After 10 months almost all hope of having Bangles returned back home had been abandoned. Then, out of the blue came a phone call from the pound in Wagga Wagga. Bangles had been found and taken to the pound. She was alive and well, and in good condition, but what she had been doing is still a mystery. Someone must have been feeding her and looking after her. After 10 months she was back home with her family.

Bangles was reunited with her family thanks to the power of the microchip. The rangers at the pound scanned her to get her number and then checked their database to get a number to contact her owners. Microchips do work but it is very important to keep the information up to date on the register. If you move house, change phone numbers or if your pet changes ownership then you need to let the register know. You can do this at the pound or at the council building in Wollongong.



Seek treatment early for tick paralysis!

The most important factor in an animals survival for treatment for tick paralysis is how advanced the paralysis is when they present to us. Animals which are only very mildly affected have an excellent prognosis and make a fast recovery. Animals already paralysed and unable to sit up have a good chance of dying even when treated. They require intensive and expensive treatment and a much longer stay in hospital. Some animals are OK once the tick is removed but do you really want to take the chance with your pet. If your pet progresses it may die and the treatment will be more expensive. Some pets disappear and may be found in a severely paralysed state- this can not be helped but if your dog or cat is showing any signs of tick paralysis seek treatment straight away.

Fresh Eggs for Breakfast

There's nothing like sitting down at the breakfast table and eating a fresh boiled egg. What's even better is collecting that egg from your back yard the day before. Keeping Chickens is a rewarding experience; it is environmentally sound and keeps the welfare of chickens in best interest. There is nothing like coming home after a day's work and winding down while watching your chickens ramble around the yard. It can be very soothing and relaxing and very quickly diffuses any stresses of the day.

Keeping Chickens is very easy and anyone with a reasonable backyard can quite happily accommodate a small flock of chickens. Two hens will supply a couple with eggs and have enough spare for friends. The average family would require 3 or more hens. Chicken coops can vary from simple enclosures to quite complex portable structures. The basics are shelter to hide from the elements, nest boxes to lay, roosting platforms to sleep and an outdoor run to roam and dust bathe. Of course food and water are important. Food can comprise of commercial pellets and house hold scraps. Chickens are remarkable recyclers and will provide you with natural fertilizer i.e. Chook poo. Parasites are usually not an issue although worming twice



yearly is recommended.

Having your hens roam your yard will control pests and keep weeds at bay. Chickens

also teach kids about responsibility as well as providing important lessons about nature.

The decision to keep a rooster is dependent on your local council regulations, where you live and how well you get on with your neighbors. Roosters do crow all day and night in some cases. Locking them up in a secure cage at night in the garage or shed will dampen the noise somewhat. However, roosters are not necessary for hens to lay eggs.

What type of chicken you want to keep is up to you. Commercial layers are easy to buy and provide you with the most eggs. Bantams are cute kind and friendly and come in a variety of colours. Chinese or Silkie chickens are great for kids because they are docile and are easily handled but do not produce a lot of eggs.

Staff Pet Profile: George's blood donor cats

The Dellar family is controlled by three cats: Milo (the sociable), Ginger (the extrovert and flower collector) and Timmy (the timid). They began life as three older kittens surrendered



to the hospital 10 years ago. All are ginger desexed males, each having their own personalities that have developed with time.

Early in their careers they were blood donors to some of our critically ill patients. Nowadays, in their senior years, we are lucky to have referral hospital access to blood so that they may now live in largely undisturbed luxury.

Milo, being the social neighbourhood scout, had an episode of Lower Urinary Tract Disease due to training the neighbourhood to feed lots of and sometimes inappropriate food. After being very sick with obstructed urinary flow, he now is more confined and is on a strict diet of Hills C/d and light food. He is still monitored constantly to prevent recurrence. Ginger was the most prolific blood donor and very proudly brings "Mother" camellias and hibiscus flowers for her approval. Timmy is seldom seen by 'visitors' until they have been observed from hiding, assessed and grudgingly accepted as part of the household.

They have enjoyed training Lauren when she is the substitute servant at holiday time.



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