



CROWN STREET NEWS



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Human and Feline Diabetes on the Rise

Recently the media has been reporting on the rising epidemic of obesity and type II diabetes in people. Excessive caloric intake combined with reduced activity levels is resulting in Australian's becoming obese. The high levels of obesity are leading to an increase in type II diabetes in the Australian population. There is a similar trend occurring in cats in Australia, the USA and Great Britain.

The primary cause of the increasing trend towards obesity in cats seems to be associated with the cat's environment changing. Previously most cats were allowed to roam outdoors and remained active. Due to unwanted behavior such as hunting of native animals and an increase in the density of housing, many cats are being confined indoors and so are less active. A cat's psychological needs must be met to enable them to cope with a sole-indoors lifestyle. Unfortunately cats are very good at conning us into feeding them to provide comfort and too much food combined with low energy expenditure lead to weight gain.

Normally when we or cats eat, we digest and metabolise nutrients into glucose (sugar). Insulin is produced and

acts on the cells of the body to move glucose out of the blood and into the cells. Obese people and cats have insulin resistance which means that they can produce insulin but the glucose does not move into the cells normally. This leads to a high blood glucose and if it is sufficiently high, glucose will leak out into the urine. High blood glucose levels are toxic to the cells which produce insulin and if not rapidly corrected the cells will die off and the cat will require life-long insulin therapy.

Thanks to research done at the University of Queensland, new types of insulin and diets can now be used to treat diabetes in cats. If affected cats are identified and if treated appropriately with insulin and dietary modification many of them will go into remission and not require ongoing insulin injections.

So how do I know if my cat has diabetes??

Cats with diabetes drink a lot of water and will often flood the litter tray. If these signs are not seen then the cat may become acutely ill and may be vomiting, lethargic and weak and refusing to eat and drink.

How can I prevent Diabetes??

Prevention of obesity is the cornerstone to prevention of diabetes. Burmese cats are particularly prone to diabetes. Monitor your cats body condition. If they are obese then they will need to have a dietary modification. Dramatically cutting back your cats food is dangerous and can lead to serious liver problems and dietary deficiencies. It is better to modify the diet to achieve weight loss. Many foods have a "lite" version. These diets are for cats that are prone to obesity and help to make them feel full. If your cat is already overweight you need a stronger diet which is appropriate to your cat. If your cat is obese please come in and speak to one of our nurses (for free) who can select the right and safe diet to use on your cat to help them lose weight.

With any purchase of 6 months Advantix for dogs and Drontal All Wormer for Dogs you will receive a retractable lead with a value of \$34.95 absolutely free!!
(while stocks last)

Congratulations to the following people who won our monthly prize draws for April, May and June

April—Senseo Espresso Maker—Mrs. Sutherland from Figtree, May—5 Romantic Comedy DVDs—Mrs. Adams from Lake Heights, and June—Rob Thomas Double CD—Mrs. Smith from Coniston

How do I get a Repeat on a Prescription or get Medication Re-supplied?

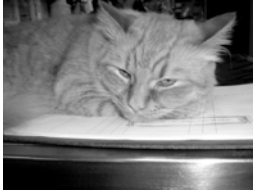
These are common questions we are asked. In general it will be necessary to have a consultation with the vet to obtain a repeat on medications. It is illegal for us to supply you with prescription animal medication without us seeing the animal for that problem. While it may seem silly having a consultation for a recurrent problem such as

an ear infection, it is important that the correct medication is dispensed at that point in time. Medications needed vary as the condition changes. Animals with ear infections may have an infection with different bacteria or yeasts not affected by the previous medication. Animals with allergic skin conditions may have developed

skin infections. It may be appropriate to investigate and treat the underlying cause of the problem. Medication may only be re-dispensed if it is approved by the original prescribing vet and is recorded in the patients notes. It is also important that the patient has been seen by a vet within a six month period.

Opening Hours: Monday—Friday 8.00am—7.00pm, Saturdays 8.00am—6.00pm, Sunday's & Most Public Holidays 9.00am—1.00pm

Thomas' Tails



Hi, to all the paws and claws gang. The winter version of Thomas' Tails focuses on prescription diets and pets in the family, particularly their relationship with children. Recently there has been a number of dog attacks in the community and media attention has focused on certain breeds of dog and whether or not they have a place in our society. Genes certainly contribute to things like personality and behaviour, but equally as important are the pets upbringing and environment. Close attention should be paid to how an animal is cared for. From a young age our furry friends

need the company of other pets and children, so that they can interact with them and learn how to behave. Puppy and Kitten classes are great at teaching our furry friends how to interact with each other and the kids. Our human servants should also teach their kids how to care for animals and how to behave when they are around. Such measures reduce anti-social behaviour amongst our furry friends.

Prescription foods are an important part of our diet, how do you think my coat stays nice and shiny! Hairball control diet works for me, but there are many other diets out there that can help with all sorts of ailments. Often when an animal is diagnosed with a condition at the hospital

a prescription diet will be given to help with the recovery process and ongoing management of the disease. There are prescription diets for kidney disease, liver, joint disease and even foods designed to treat the frailing minds. Each diet is made in such a way that it specifically targets the disease process and helps the body cope with the problem. They should be viewed as part of the ongoing management of the disease together with any medications prescribed.

Well, goodbye for now I'm off to bed after I was so rudely awoken!

Purchase any bag of Hills Science Diet Canine or Feline Senior and receive a blanket absolutely free!
(while stocks last)

Feeding Senior Pets

"Senior" pets need special care. You may not think that your seven-year-old pet is "old" but veterinarians recognise that in the latter half of a pet's life they may need some extra care. As your pet ages, the function of various body systems can decline. For example older cats can experience:

- Loss of hearing
- Difficulty maintaining normal body weight
- Poorer digestive function
- Reduced ability to exercise
- Thinner skin and hair coat
- Reduced heart and kidney function

Whilst we cannot avoid these changes, we can do something to help your pet better cope with them.

What we feed an older pet is important. The food should be highly

digestible to ensure a pet gains the full nutritional benefit. Since older pets can lose their sense of taste the food should also be highly palatable. The nutrient levels within the food are also critical. Many apparently healthy older pets suffer from reduced kidney function, yet this is very difficult to detect. Kidney disease is made worse if a pet consumes excess salt and phosphorous. Nutritional experts therefore recommend older pets be fed on a diet that limits the intake of these nutrients. Science Diet* Canine and Feline Senior* are especially suited to your older pet. It is a complete and balanced diet that is highly digestible, producing less mess and odour whilst maintaining high levels of fatty acids for a healthy skin and coat. Senior foods come in a wide variety including Small Bites for dogs and Hairball Control for cats!

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Staff Pets!

Toby The Wonderhound!



The Dellar family extends to Toby (the wonderhound), Milo, Ginger and Timmy (from the same litter of ginger

and white moggies). All four were rehoused as young orphans and have grown up enjoying each other's company and generally trying to run the household. All members have been blood donors for needy patients at times but are now reaching older age and have passed that responsibility on to younger animals. Toby is now 11 years old and has the most fantastic temperament, being a long-haired German Shepherd. He is getting wobbly in the back legs due to arthritis and a spinal nerve problem—all the more reason for gentle flat ground exercise and watching his weight. He has found the Hills J/D diet helpful and enjoys sleeping inside on a mat-

ress nowadays. He also enjoys a toddle and paddle at the beach. Ginger is his best little mate and gets rather disturbed if he cannot look after Toby. He also proudly brings Jan (George's Wife) flowers from the Camellia tree. Timmy is very shy and mainly stays indoors, while Milo is outgoing and has (at times) trained most of the neighbourhood to satisfy his "wants". He has been on a special diet for 5 years to prevent his Urinary Tract Disease from returning—so far, so good. They all sleep together inside at night so as not to get into too much trouble.