



## Heathcote Veterinary Clinic is proud to offer the following services and facilities to our clients and their pets:

- Open 7 days a week
- 24 hour Emergency Service with live-in qualified veterinary nurse.
- Preventative medicine including vaccinations, worming and nutrition advice
- Surgery performed on-site from desexings to complex orthopaedic procedures
- Digital X-ray
- Ultrasound and ECG
- In-house laboratory
- Dentistry including ultrasonic scaling and polishing
- Endoscopy
- House calls
- Puppy Pre-school
- Stem Cell Therapy
- Penn HIP certified veterinarians
- Extensive experience treating reptiles, amphibians, rabbits, rodents, birds and fish!

PLEASE DROP IN AND SAY HELLO OR CALL US ON 9520 0655 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AND SPEAK TO ONE OF OUR FRIENDLY STAFF

**1335B Princes Hwy  
Heathcote 2233**

[www.heathcotevet.com.au](http://www.heathcotevet.com.au)



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# Heathcote Veterinary Clinic

1335 Princes Hwy, Heathcote ph: 9520 0655

Winter 2013 Newsletter

## Welcome to the winter edition of our clinic newsletter

**A**t Heathcote Veterinary Clinic, our friendly team are always happy to answer your questions and give helpful advice and experienced care to ensure your pet is as healthy and happy as can be!

We are experienced in not only treating dogs and cats, but also reptiles, rabbits, rodents, birds and all creatures great and small.

Heathcote Veterinary Clinic is also happy to introduce our 2 new vets: Maryann Bransdon and Madelaine Guy-Moore. Maryann and

Maddie join Dr. Joseph Sulyok, who has owned Heathcote Vet Clinic for over 15 years and Dr. Rebecca Robey who grew up in Heathcote and has recently returned from an overseas holiday where she volunteered with street dogs in India through the charity Vets Beyond Borders.

Our incredibly dedicated and devoted nursing team also has a new addition, Jacquelyn Hiscocks who has just finished a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science. Jacquie joins our other wonderful nurses Tiffany, Alyce, Leone, Sarah and Hollie.

### Arthritis

We may all be feeling a little stiffer during these colder months, and our pets are just the same! Stiffness, moving slowly, and reluctance to get up, walk or jump in the car are all signs of arthritis and can sometimes be worse in the winter months.

Unlike us, our pets are unable to tell us when they are uncomfortable, so we rely on these subtle signs. Cats can also get arthritis and sometimes the only indication may be a scruffy coat because they are too sore to bend around and groom themselves.

Arthritis is a common condition seen in our older animals, and can be quite painful.

But the great news is that it can be treated. There are a huge range of treatment options available including injections, tablets, modified diets, natural supplements to support the joints and even advanced Stem Cell Therapy. Our treatments aim to reduce any discomfort associated with arthritis, making your pet more comfortable and pain free.

Come in and speak to our friendly staff about options to help improve the comfort of your pets during these colder months, and all year round.

## Ticks

Paralysis ticks are extremely common along the East coast of Australia, especially near bushland. Unfortunately that makes our area (Helensburgh to Yarrowarra) a prime target!

We commonly see ticks between August and February, though they can be present all year round due to warm and humid weather. Tick paralysis is a very serious and unpredictable condition for dogs and cats. Sadly it can quite often be fatal if not treated in time. With ticks, prevention is the best form of treatment as sometimes even animals that start on tick paralysis treatment will not survive.

How do I prevent my pet from getting a tick?

- Use a registered tick control product: there are a variety to choose from, including rinses, top spots and collars. Make sure you always read the label as some products, such as Advantix®, are VERY toxic to cats.
- These products help control ticks, but unfortunately nothing is 100% effective. Visit our clinic for more advice as to which product best suits your pet's needs.
- Try not to take your dog walking through the bush or thick scrubland, areas where ticks are most likely to be. Don't allow your cat to roam through bushland.
- Do daily tick searching of your pet: run your fingers through your pet's coat, massaging down to the skin. Pay particular attention to the head and neck areas but don't forget ears, feet and under collars. Remember ticks can be found ANYWHERE on your pet's body.
- Keep your pet's coat short in spring and summer so it is easy to do daily tick searches.

What signs will I see if my pet has a paralysis tick?

- Sometimes your pet may display signs of toxicity before you find a tick.
- Signs to look out for include:
  - o weak and wobbly in the back legs
  - o a change in the sound of their bark or meow (becomes more squeaky and high-pitched)
  - o vomiting or dry retching
  - o excessive salivation
  - o unusual breathing sounds or difficulty breathing
  - o general weakness and lethargy
- Prompt treatment is ESSENTIAL, even if the tick has been removed. Some animals can get worse once the tick has been removed, and the longer your pet goes without treatment the less effective the treatment will be.
- Remember...TICKS CAN KILL!

What do I do if I find a tick or suspect my pet has tick paralysis toxicity?

- Stay calm. Don't panic.
- Keep your pet calm and still and gently move them to a quiet sheltered area (out of the sun and wind)
- Look for a tick. If you find the tick, use a pair of tweezers to remove it. Lay the tweezers flat on your pet's coat and grasp the bottom of the tick as close to your pet's skin as possible. Use a rolling action to remove the tick rather than pulling. Don't worry if you don't get all the tick. Place the tick in a sealed bag or container for identification at the vets
- Call the vet. Explain to the vet staff exactly what signs your animal is showing and how long they have been doing this.

- Even if your pet isn't showing any of the signs described above, it is best to seek veterinary advice.
- Remember: Removal of the tick does not guarantee symptoms won't develop!
- If you need to transport your pet to the vet, do not walk them up. Keep them as quiet and calm as possible.

REMEMBER:

- PREVENTION OF TICK PARALYSIS IS BEST.
- DO NOT DELAY TREATMENT IF YOUR PET HAS A TICK
- PARALYSIS TICKS CAN KILL DOGS AND CATS

Sadly our resident clinic dog, Jessie the German Shepherd passed away in April at 14 years of age. Jessie was a true doggie hero, having frequently donated blood for many of our critical hospital patients. Her gentle nature will be sadly missed by us all.

Our Clinic opening hours are:

Monday to Friday: 9am to 7pm  
(consultation hours from 9am to 12pm and 4pm to 7pm)

Saturdays: 9am to 1pm

Sundays: 9am to 12pm

Please call our clinic to arrange a consultation time on 95200655.

If you have an Emergency outside of these hours, please call the clinic number (95200655) and you will be given the number of our Emergency After Hours Service

### PUPPY-PRESCHOOL!

If you have a puppy between 8 and 18 weeks, you are welcome to come and join in our puppy pre-school classes at the clinic. Classes run for four consecutive weeks on Wednesday nights from 7:30pm and are very well valued with lots of advice, treats and goodies for you and your pup! Classes are run by our experienced and qualified veterinary nurses in a fun and interactive environment. Graduates also receive a 10% discount on desexing at our clinic! Call us today to book your place in our next class!

### CHECK US OUT ON-LINE!

You can visit our website to download pet information, review our services and check out our staff profiles! Visit us at [www.heathcotevet.com.au](http://www.heathcotevet.com.au)

STOP PRESS! STEM CELL THERAPY IS NOW AVAILABLE!

The latest advancements in Stem Cell and PRP (platelet-rich-plasma) therapies are now available right here at Heathcote Vets! Conditions such as Arthritis, Cartilage damage, Ligament and Tendon Ruptures, Elbow and Hip Dysplasia and recent Orthopaedic Surgery, can all benefit tremendously from this revolutionary new treatment that only requires a quick and simple procedure in hospital. Come in and speak to one of our veterinarians about how Stem Cell Therapy can help your pet today!

### HIP DYSPLASIA

Hip Dysplasia is a painful, debilitating condition that affects large breed dogs such as Golden Retrievers, Labradors and German Shepherds. There is no medical or surgical cure and it requires a lifetime of management to reduce the clinical effects of Hip Dysplasia in your pet. Fortunately at Heathcote Vet Clinic, our specially certified veterinarians can perform a unique hip-screening procedure through x-rays known as PennHIP which can detect the degree and susceptibility of hip dysplasia in your dog. Come in and see us today about identifying hip dysplasia early in your beloved pup.