



## OLD REYNELLA VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

# AUTUMN 2017

### Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter...

Hooray its Autumn! We hope you all survived the strange Summer we had, and didn't get overrun by fleas (like many of our poor clients!) This issue is a celebration of pets and people that are there to help others. We offer some tips on dealing with dogs who are frightened of thunderstorms; and finally we share the mysterious case of the missing leg!



### The Team from the Old Reynella Vet.



### Bella: the Caring Companion.

Introducing a special patient of ours: Bella. Bella is a four year old German Shepherd dog who visits us frequently, just for love and treats of course! She graduated as a Canine Caring Companion and a Delta Canine Good Citizen at just 14 months of age. These special qualifications give her the opportunity to visit hospitals and nursing homes. Her loving mum Sue makes special trips to local nursing homes every week and provides much needed love and cuddles to the residents. She is pictured here relaxing with one of her favourite friends. If you have ever had an interest in being able to fulfill this duty with your trusted canine, please contact The Canine Caring Companions Organisation on 1800 077 722.

### Support the Forever Ferrets Team!

We mention them a lot, and for very good reason. The team from the Forever Ferrets Rescue are a registered charity committed to the rescue and rehabilitation of ferrets and none are turned away and all are given a wonderful life. Run by a family group, the Forever Ferret team take on all surrendered ferrets from the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and other welfare groups. They currently house over seventy ferrets, and while they do their best to raise the much needed funds for veterinary care, food and welfare, Forever Ferrets are mostly self funded.

In order to help Forever Ferrets, the Old Reynella Vet will be selling the 2017-2018 Entertainment Book. The Entertainment Book provides hundreds of vouchers of up to 50% off and two-for-one offers from Adelaide's best restaurants, cafes, attractions, activities, retailers and hotel accommodation. The clinic will be donating **100% of the proceeds** to this amazing organisation. The books will be

available for purchase from reception and you can start using your vouchers from July 2017.

Alternatively, if the Entertainment book is not your thing, you can purchase tickets for the People's Choice Credit Union Community Lottery; just search for Forever Ferrets Rescue SA. Again, all proceeds go to this worthy charity.

So if you can, please support a good cause.



Mel from Forever Ferrets holding 7 of her little fuzzies!



## OLD REYNELLA VETERINARY CLINIC

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### OPENING HOURS:

Monday to Friday: 8am—7pm

Saturday: 8:30am—4pm

Sunday and Public Holidays: **CLOSED**



## Reducing Storm Phobias in Dogs

With the recent spate of stormy weather, especially over much of Summer, we have had an high number of stray dogs brought into the clinic. These furry friends had escaped the backyard during storms.



Some dog breeds are more prone to developing noise phobias including Cattle Dogs, Kelpies, Border Collies or any other

herding breed where their sense of hearing is more acute.

Tips for helping your dog during thunderstorms:

- If possible, keep your pet inside. Draw the blinds and close the windows and doors. Dogs with severe phobias have been known to smash through windows or climb out of their yards during storms
- Stay calm! Your dog will pick up on your anxiety simply

from your body language.

- Play a game, or give them a super special treat or stuffed Kong to occupy them.
- You can try a calming collar—known as an Adaptil Collar. It releases synthetic calming pheromones to help soothe your dog when they are stressed.
- Thunder Shirts are a tight jacket you place on your dog and can have a calming effect. They have varying levels of success, and home made versions can be found online.
- Use desensitizing storm noise CD's as often as possible. Start playing them at very low levels, and reward your dog when they stay relaxed. Gradually increase the volume over time. These CD's can be purchased online, or contact the clinic.

Finally, in extreme circumstances where your pet's anxiety is so bad they may bring harm to themselves, sedatives can be prescribed. If you are worried your pet may require medication, please contact the clinic for further advice.

## Hiccup and the Mysterious Attacker!

Hiccup belongs to one of our nurses Roxanne and was recently involved in a fight with a mysterious animal.

Roxy found Hiccup screaming in pain the day after the incident occurred. He was rushed to the clinic where Xrays were performed. There were no obvious wounds or broken bones, so Hiccup was sent home on extensive pain relief and cage rest.

Within 3 days of the initial visit, a strange smell was noticed, and Hiccup returned to the clinic. He was anaesthetised, and upon clipping his thick fur coat back, small puncture wounds could be seen in multiple places around the leg, and gangrene had set in. Parts of the leg had become necrotic.

Our three vets had never seen an infection move so fast. Hiccup underwent aggressive treatment with multiple antibiotics, and the leg had to be amputated the next day.

The amputation revealed that the leg and most of the underlying muscle was gangrenous, and it had begun

to spread towards the abdomen. Hazel had to remove much of the surrounding muscle, and the wound was stitched together with some difficulty. Hiccup was still in danger due to the aggression of the infection. There was a huge risk of wound break down, and possibly even sepsis and death.

Thankfully, the larger part of the infection was halted by amputation, but areas of the wound still died and sloughed away. Hiccup underwent another two procedures and finally healed after 2 months.

Hiccup was lucky enough to survive one of the most nasty infections our team had ever seen, and to this day, after many hours of research, the animal that attacked him has not been identified.



## Congratulations!

Thanks to everyone who updated their details with us and entered the Bravecto raffle. The lucky winners were Andrew and Kane and their beautiful dog Shastah! Enjoy all the lollies guys, and Shastah being flea free!



Another raffle like this will be coming soon, so be sure to pop in to the clinic to keep your personal

information up to date, and you could win!

## Congratulations PUPPY PLAYSCHOOLERS!

