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OPENING HOURS:

Monday - Friday

8am - 7pm

Saturday

8:30am - 4pm

Sunday

CLOSED

Public Holidays

CLOSED



Welcome....

Welcome to issue 11 of our bimonthly newsletter. Summer is well and truly here, and we hope you and your furry friends have been surviving the sizzling temperatures. We provided some tips on how to keep your pets cool on our Facebook page – make sure you ‘like’ us to keep up to date with all



the latest information and promotions! This issue of our newsletter features the final answer to ‘Ursula’s’ mixed breed heritage in the form of her final DNA test results. We also have a short article on how to cope with puppy play-biting behavior for all of those new little additions people have adopted over Christmas. Lastly we have a case study about a cat that got caught in it’s collar – and the damage it left behind.

If you have any suggestions about things you might like to see in the next newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us at enquiries@oldreynellavet.com.au

The team from the Old Reynella Vet Clinic

All teeth – dealing with bitey puppies.

Mouthing is the way in which puppies explore objects in their surroundings, and can often be mistaken as biting. It is a natural thing for them to do, and is usually not a sign of your puppy being malicious. When your puppy is playing with you and begins to mouth and bite, it can hurt! The method we teach in our Puppy Playschool classes is very simple, but does require patience and persistence on the part of the whole family.

Firstly, if your puppy begins to play and mouth your fingers and skin, say ‘**OUCH**’ in a loud, shrieking, piercing manner! If you can, mimic the yelping sound one puppy would make if it was hurt. Your puppy should stop, even for a split second. If they do, make sure you praise them immediately as they cease biting you. Put a toy in their mouth, and praise them when they chew on this instead of you.

If they don’t stop yelp louder until you get a response, then as soon as they stop, walk away. If they chase you, continue to ignore them. If they then grab your pants, or any part of your clothes, stop, and ignore them till they let go. Once they let go, praise them, then give them a suitable toy to chew on rather than you.

If they still don’t stop, TIME OUT! If they continue to still bite you, yelp and remove them from you. Have a timeout zone, away from their toys and the family. Remove the stimulus until they calm down. Leave them there until they quieten; this may take a while! At no point tell them off, or go to them, because any response from you is still attention, regardless of whether it is positive or negative.

Don’t ever smack them on the nose either as this could promote even rougher play and aggression. If at any time your puppy’s mouthing accelerates to nipping and biting, **this is a problem that must be managed straight away, not only for your safety, but their welfare too.** If you have further questions or need advice, please contact the clinic to enroll in Puppy Playschool class or for further advice.



URSULA'S DNA TEST RESULTS

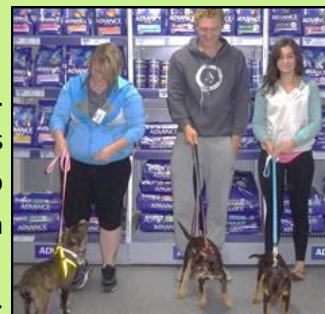
Just a quick note to update everyone on our winner of our Advance Mixed Breed Identification DNA Test. Ursula's results have come back and she has been identified as a Golden Retriever x Alaskan Malamute X Siberian Husky X Miniature Bull Terrier. We have done a few tests on other dogs over the last month and we have uploaded the full results onto our website. If you would like to see Ursula's report and others head to our website at <http://www.oldreynellavet.com.au/> or for more information go to the product website <http://www.advancepet.com.au/DNA>



Puppy Play-School

In 2014 we will be continuing our Puppy Play-school. Both Kylie and Roxanne will be running the classes this year to try to keep up with demand. We have also changed our class times from a Monday to a Wednesday at 6:45pm.

Congratulations to our Graduating Puppy Schoolers:



January class (left photo) : L to R—April and Nathan with Lucy; Emily with Hunter; Chloe with Barney; Shaun with Beau and Sharon with Kip. December class (right photo) : L to R—Jody with Minnie; Matt with Jessie and Zoe with Eddie.

Well done everyone!

Tangled!

Dusky is a four year old, Domestic Short-Haired cat who unfortunately became caught in her elasticised collar, causing a large laceration under her forearm. Her owners removed the collar, then she presented to Hazel with a large, smelly open wound under her arm. Dusky was anaesthetized immediately so the extent of the damage could be assessed. The gash was approximately 10cm long and large areas of the wound had started to 'granulate' – or attempt to heal from the inside-out.



The laceration was thoroughly cleaned, and the dead areas of the flesh were removed. Three layers of suture material had to be placed to close the wound, but Hazel had concerns that the wound would 'break down' due to the initial state of infection, and the natural mobility of the skin under the arm. Dusky would have to be confined and wear a 'bucket' collar during the healing process.

Dusky came back to see us numerous times after the surgery, and as suspected, the middle of the incision started to break down. Dusky underwent surgery a second time. The wound was cleaned and a drain placed, but even so, there was still a chance the wound could break down.

After a month of almost full confinement, a small area of the laceration (approximately 1cm) still refused to heal. Poor Dusky had to undergo a third operation, but this one was a little different from the first two. It was decided to use part of the omentum to seal the wound. The omentum is a network of tissue that surrounds the major organs in the abdominal cavity. It has incredible healing properties and limits the passage of infection.

In Dusky's third procedure, Hazel made an incision into the abdominal cavity; made a tunnel between the abdomen and the wound under her arm, then passed a portion of the omentum through to seal the wound. The omental flap was then stitched in place and the skin stitched closed. Finally, after this third operation, Dusky healed up completely, and is now back to normal! Between her initial presentation to us, and the final sutures being removed after the last operation, it took just over three months!

Dusky's story provides us with a unique opportunity to stress the necessity of not using cat collars with elastic – instead ensure you purchase a collar with a quick release buckle. We stock a large range of Rogz cat collars with quick release buckles that can be adjusted to suit the weight and size of your cat, starting at just \$10 each, they are a sure fire way to save your kitty going through what poor Dusky did.