



OLD REYNELLA VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016

Welcome... Introducing our new look team! We are a sharp looking bunch aren't we?

Bring on the warm weather! It's been a wet and cold winter, but finally Spring is on its way, and with it comes a rise in the number of pets and their people getting out and about. This issue sees us revisit some of the stories we have covered previously to prepare you for the coming warmer months including grass seeds in pets, and fledgling birds. We also talk about the risks of consulting Dr Google for your pet's diagnosis, and introduce you to Dusty—the lucky puppy.



The team from the Old Reynella Vet

Paging Dr. Google!

In this technological age, information is literally at the tips of fingers. We *Google* places to eat, stay, sport, and the news – you name it. However while it is way too easy to type in your pet's symptoms to find a diagnosis, we would ask you to be cautious with this practice.

Over 60% of clients will have *Googled* their pet's condition before making an appointment to see their vet. This isn't necessarily a bad thing as there are some excellent resources online, but it shouldn't replace the advice of a trained professional. Scarily, it has been proven that approximately 80% of veterinary information offered online is incorrect!

Benefits of Googling your pet's condition: Reading about your pet's condition can often help in understanding a complex condition, but it is very important to have a diagnosis by your vet before you check with what Dr. Google has to say!

Disadvantages of Googling your pet's condition: Google can be terrifying! Often we have people who



fear the worst when they visit with us, because they have read misinformation provided on the internet.

Also, pet's are individuals just like us, with medical histories which the internet can't take into account.

What may have happened to one pet, might not be what is happening to yours!

Our advice? Call us, our staff are all highly trained and have a wealth of experience. If one of our nursing staff are unable to assist you, book an appointment to see either Hazel, Quinn or Sam. It's always better to be safe and check with the experts.

In summary, please be careful of what you read, or following the advice of people online. Medical treatments advance quickly and are usually tailored to you and your pet

for a very specific reason. The internet can't always provide the correct or best advice. If you are unsure about something, or want further clarification of what your vet has said, please contact us!

We are in the process of updating information sheets on different conditions on our website. If there is something you would like to see, please let us know!

OLD REYNELLA VETERINARY CLINIC

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OPENING HOURS:

Monday to Friday: 8am—7pm

Saturday: 8:30am—4pm

Sunday and Public Holidays: **CLOSED**



Your Springtime Checklist:

1—Grass seeds: These annoying little spikey seeds start appearing with the warmer weather but really become a problem with drier conditions. To prevent your pet having issues, have your dogs 'poodle-clipped' ie— short around their feet; avoid long grasses when walking; and keep your lawn watered and mowed to stop them popping up in your yard. Check their coat and feet everyday, especially after walks.



2—Snakes: Slippery snakes will start to make an appearance as the weather warms up. Be wary as they will be full of venom at the start of the season. Ideal temperatures for snakes is around 25-27 degrees, any hotter than that, and they start looking for somewhere to hide out of the sun—so keep your doors closed!



3—Fledgling Birds: Too old for the nest but too young to be on their own, many people bring what appears as birds in distress in to the clinic. They are actually scruffy fledgling birds still being fed by their parents, and they often spend their time at the bottom of bushes and trees looking quite forlorn. If you see a bird matching this description, don't grab them straight away. First observe them to see if their parents are around before sweeping them up. If they are at risk, then pick them up and move them to a nearby park or yard. It is a myth that a bird won't go near their baby if it's been touched by people.



4 — Insect stings: Bees and other creepy crawlies can bite your pets if they don't leave them alone. They can cause localised swelling, and discomfort. In more serious cases they can go into shock, in which case take them to the nearest vet for treatment!



All of these stories have been covered in more detail in previous issues of our clinic newsletter. If you would like more information, go to our website and check out the News tab to find them.

Congratulations to our Puppy Playschool Graduates



The Lucky Puppy...

Meet Dusty—he's a Border Collie puppy who visited us for the first time in July. Dusty became unwell, having difficulty standing which progressed quickly to paralysis. The only thing that never stopped working was his wagging tail. After a brief stay in hospital, our vet team performed a specialized faecal test and discovered the presence of a unusually uncommon single celled animal called Neospora. These little protozoan pests are carried by farm and wild animals. They can infect dogs by means of ingesting carcasses, and eating raw meat. Little Dusty was born on a farm, so may have come in contact with the disease in his early life. As soon as our superstar vets diagnosed Dusty's illness, he was quickly treated accordingly. Within a week of beginning treatment, he was moving about by himself. He is now getting into mischief like any young puppy should! Thank you to his family for sending us this gorgeous photo!

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