



OLD REYNELLA VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

# SPRING 2017

## Welcome to SPRING...

The weather is starting to get warm again, the lizards are coming out, and all the birds are chirping! It could only mean one thing... SPRING! Welcome to our new issue, where we introduce our practice manager's pets—and she has a few! We talk about Mischa, a diabetes success story, and give you some tips on how to make a trip to the V-E-T a little less scary for nervous pets.

We also welcome back Kylie, one of our nurses. She recently made her first trip overseas to Italy as part of her university studies. Here she is at the Colosseum... very cool!

*The Team from the Old Reynella Vet Clinic*



## Meet our pets—Michelle's Clan...

Our longest standing nurse and Practice Manager Michelle is probably the most prolific pet owner of the whole team! She keeps herself busy with four cats; Max, Lilly, Smudge and Cleo; two dogs: Buddy and Jax; and four horses: Sprite, Merlot, Spud and Grommet.

Sprite and Merlot are two special Warmblood horses Michelle bred herself. Spud and Grommet are ex-racehorses turned Eventers under Michelle's careful tutelage.

Her cats must have known what she did for a living, as they were dumped at her house with various ailments (including a broken leg!) Lucky for these kitties they landed in the right place, and they now live the life of luxury.

And lastly, her two faithful pooches, who you may recognise from behind the front desk in the clinic. Buddy is an old fellow now, having been rescued as a puppy many years ago. His loyal sidekick and partner in crime Jax is Michelle's most recent edition, and is a bit too cute to be legal!



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CURRENT PUPPY SCHOOLERS! WELL DONE!**

OLD REYNELLA VETERINARY CLINIC

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OPENING HOURS:

Monday to Friday: 8am—7pm

Saturday: 8:30am—4pm

Sunday and Public Holidays: CLOSED



### Meet Mischa, as written by her owner – Kate.

Mischa is a female Maltese X Shih-Tzu who is like a soft, fluffy, cuddly toy. Mischa has been a lifelong patient of Dr. Hazel and enjoyed good health until diagnosed with diabetes 5 years ago. This condition is difficult to detect in dogs, however Dr. Hazel acted promptly to start her treatment. Mischa now has insulin injections twice daily (6 am and 6 pm) her diet, weight and general well being is monitored regularly.

A few months ago Dr. Hazel discovered the eye disease Glaucoma in one eye and a cataract in the other eye. (now being treated). Unfortunately Mischa's sight started to deteriorate and she is now blind. However she is still a happy loving dog who teaches me about loyalty and love every single day. I am totally devoted to her and hope to have many more years with her. Mischa is 14 years old in a few weeks and still enjoys at least two walks daily.

We visit the vet surgery every few weeks – far from being nervy or upset Mischa loves the caring Vet nurses (who fuss over her) as soon as Dr. Hazel opens her door and she hears her voice Mischa runs to her arms. The love my little dog has for her “special vet” lifts my spirits. Dr. Hazel saved her life and is keeping her alive with professional care but most of all her love of animals shines through.

I can't thank Dr. Hazel enough for her support – however over the years I have discovered she is a “wine connoisseur” with a sweet tooth for chocolates! So sometimes I take a little gift of wine and chocolates to say “thank you”. Dr. Hazel – a talented – one - in - a - million person. It's an honour and privilege to have her in our lives but especially Little Mischa's.

*Sincerely,  
Kate.*



### Scared of the vet? How to help your pets break the fear cycle!

A simple visit to the vet may be stressful to both you and your pet - as their guardians we may be tempted to put off or cancel a vet visit just to avoid it. Here are a few tips and tricks to entice your pet and have them waiting at the door to visit our team!

**Let us know:** Don't be embarrassed, lots of people share the same experience as you! Letting us know that your best friend is a bit nervous, we can bring you through the back way, or you could even hang out in your car until your appointment to help keep them at ease.

**Start Young:** The shock of seeing new faces can make a trip to the vet unnerving. Attending puppy playschool when young is a great way of getting dogs used to our clinic. Also, importantly introducing your kitten to lots of different people at home will set them up to be far more relaxed in clinic.

**Practice at home:** Most pets may not be used to having their paws, belly, mouth, ears, and eyes and bottom

touched and examined. Practicing with your pet by playing with their ears, paws, and mouth at home. Make sure you reward them with delicious treats when they accept your handling.

**Cover your kitty cage:** Some cats may be easily spooked. By covering your cat's carry cage with a blanket during travel and when at the clinic can often calm their nerves and make them feel safer. Also using a soothing pheromone in their cage (like Feliway) will help reassure them.

**Come in for a visit, often!** If your pet is nervous, pop in for a hello, a pat and a treat every now and then. Our team are more than happy to give them the attention they need, and attempt to win them over so when they need to make an official visit, it's far less scary.

**Finally,** take it slow. Changing the way your pet perceives a veterinary trip may take time and perseverance, and maybe they will always be a little worried. But if we can take the edge off by offering some tips and bribery(!) we will always be happy to help.

