



OLD REYNELLA VETERINARY CLINIC

Newsletter—SUMMER 2014



Welcome...

Summer is here, and the weather is set to get HOT HOT HOT! We would like to wish you and your family a happy and safe festive season, and hope to see you and your pets back in the new year. Please find our Christmas opening hours in this newsletter, and be aware that Dr. Hazel will be away from December 16th to December 27th in order to celebrate Christmas with her WHOLE family for the first time in over 10 YEARS! WOW! Once Hazel returns, Michael will then be away from December 31st until 12th January for a friends wedding in Perth. This issue we give you handy hints to avoid grass seeds; we discuss the risks of snake bites to your pets, and, if you are one of our latest Puppy Playschoolers, check out your graduation photos!

This year, Santa took the time out of his busy schedule to have photos taken with many of our patients. In turn, we raised over \$100 for the Animal Welfare League! If you missed out, Santa said he had so much fun, he'll be back next year!



SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE TEAM AT THE OLD REYNELLA VET CLINIC!



Clinic Opening Hours During the Festive Season:

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December— 8am to 5pm

CLOSED THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER & FRIDAY 26TH DECEMBER

Reopen for normal business hours on Saturday 27th December

New Years Eve, Wednesday 31st December—8am to 5pm

CLOSED THURSDAY 1ST JANUARY.

Reopen for normal business hours on Friday 2nd January.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PUPPY PLAYSCHOOL GRADUATES!



Graduates from September (L to R)
John, Jade and Polar; Shane and Jax;
Mason, Josh, Erin and Sasha



Graduates from October (L to R)
Julia and Taylor; Tahlia, Paul and
Bosco; Caroline and Nelson



Graduates from November (L to R)
Kate and Indi; Paul, Bella and Milli; Lauren
and Astro; Warren, Margaret and Molly;
Dave and Molly.

LOOK OUT! It's a GRASS SEED!

The warmth of Spring, in combination with a wet Winter, has resulted in the booming growth and seeding of many grasses. As they dry out, many of these grass seeds can cause a real problem for your dog or cat.



Grass seeds are usually arrow shaped and are produced on long shoots from the parent plant as the season becomes drier. These seeds can travel long distances in the wind and can be carried home on your clothes. Pet's can get them lodged in their ears, eyes, nose, between their toes and even in their coat. This is particularly the case with thicker coated breeds.



Due to the pointed shape of the grass seed, they can pierce the skin and cause localised swelling, infections, and even travel long distances from the initial penetration site.



In the ears, other than causing acute pain, they can rupture the ear drum and bring about more serious issues.

The biggest concern for pet owners is that most of the problems caused by grass seeds will require your pet to undergo sedation or a full general anaesthetic in order to remove the seed. This can result

in an unexpected and expensive vet bill.

So what can you do to protect your pet from grass seeds this season?

- When your pet goes to the groomer, ask them to have a 'poodle' clip—this is where all the hair around the feet and toes is clipped extremely short. This can prevent the grass seeds from becoming lodged there.
- Try to walk your pet at the beach. While they can still get grass seeds from a trip to the coast, it's much less likely than walking at your local dog park.
- Avoid all reserves where there is long dry grass. Even if you keep to the paths, there's a really good chance your pet will still collect a grass seed or two.
- Keep your lawn at home short, and water if possible. Keeping your grass greener means grass seeds are less likely to develop.
- Check your pets paws as often as you can—daily if possible. This goes for cats as well!
- If you notice your pet squinting, best to give us a call. Grass seeds can become hidden beneath the eyelids and cause serious damage if left.

Hopefully with these handy hints, your pet will remain trouble free this summer!

SNAKES ARE OUT IN FORCE—PLEASE BEWARE.

As the weather warms up, snakes are becoming more active and can pose a threat to curious pets. We have already seen multiple cases in clinic, so it is increasingly important that owners protect their pets from snake bites. Here are some of the warning signs that your pet may have been bitten:

- Sudden weakness followed by collapse
- Pain
- Difficulty breathing
- Neurologic signs such as twitching, drooling, shaking or weakness
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Loss of bladder and bowel control
- Dilated pupils
- Ascending paralysis (hind legs affected first)
- Blood in urine

If you believe your pet has been bitten, keep your pet calm & quiet and contact the clinic immediately. Please do not attempt to catch or kill the snake! If you can identify the snake tell your veterinarian—the most common varieties in the local area are Eastern Brown

Snakes and Red-Bellied Black Snakes.

These are some way you can minimise the risk to your pets this summer:

- If you are walking your dog on reserves with long grass, in the bush or particularly near water during the summer months please keep your dog on a lead and avoid long grassy areas.

- Exercise caution in the late evenings, as snakes can remain active as the ground is still warm.

- Be sure to keep your grass short in your backyard. Clear away objects where snakes may be able to hide

- Other reptiles DO NOT deter snakes from entering your yard.

- If snakes are a common threat in your area, you could consider building a snake proof fence around all or part of your property, or contact your local council or reptile removers for more advice on snake deterrents.



Juvenile Eastern Brown Snake