



# OLD REYNELLA VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2016

## Seasons Greetings from the Old Reynella Team!



Hello Everyone! Welcome to Summer—took a little while for Spring to get started, but we got here eventually!

This issue gives you some hot tips (no pun intended) on dealing with heatstroke and other problems that can arise during summer.

We also warn pet owners of some risks with socializing at the dog park and dog beach—be careful out there everyone!

Lastly, we hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season! See you on the other side of 2017!

### Dog park and Dog beach safety:

We all love the idea of dogs having a blast, off lead running around with their mates, however fights do happen, and we have seen some injured patients lately. We have compiled a quick list of things to watch for to help keep your pooch playing safe this summer.

Before entering the dog park, take a few minutes to watch what's happening: Are the dogs surrounding every new visitor? Are the dogs standing over others, tail held high? This dog could be a **bully**. These dogs do a lot of staring, and will usually ignore any back off signals your dog shows.

A dog that hides behind their parents or cowers away when other dogs come near is giving quite clear signals to stay away. If you see a dog doing this, or this is **your** dog, don't force interactions on them, it

may make them worse. In fact, it might pay to avoid the dog park all together.

Dogs that **don't** take a break from play can quickly become aggressive. Dogs require breaks in play — this is natural behaviour for them. You should call your dog back periodically, or reward them when they take a break themselves.

Dogs all play with different styles, wrestling, chasing, body-slaming. These different styles of play will inevitably lead to tension. Make sure your dog is compatible with what's going on before entering the park.

And finally, watch the humans! If the other pet owners aren't

paying attention to their dogs, it will fall on you to be cautious.

A sign of a happy dog park includes play bowing, high pitched barks and growls, no hackles, stopping and starting play and an overall relaxed appearance of the dogs .

If you are worried or just not sure, give the dog park a miss that day. You may not realise that using their brain is just as tiring as running around, so do some training at home or play games with them. We want your pet to stay safe!



OLD REYNELLA VETERINARY CLINIC

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OPENING HOURS:

Monday to Friday: 8am—7pm

Saturday:  
Sunday and Pub-

8:30am—4pm  
lic Holidays.



**Congratulations to our lucky Forever Ferret Raffle winners!** Our cat raffle was won by the Griessel family, and the dog raffle by the Anderson family. Together with our amazing clients we managed to raise over \$130 for Mel and Trev and their self funded charity organisation, Forever Ferrets Rescue. These guys do amazing work for all the unwanted ferrets across SA— If you want to check out what they do, follow the Forever Ferrets Rescue page on Facebook!



Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December 8:30am—1pm

Christmas Day, Sunday 25th December: CLOSED

Monday 26th December: CLOSED

Tuesday 27th December: CLOSED

New Years Eve: Saturday 31st December 8:30am—1pm

New Years Day: Sunday 1st January: CLOSED

Monday 2nd January: CLOSED

Normal hours from Tuesday 3rd January

**Xmas  
Opening  
Hours**

## Congrats to our



## Puppy Playschoolers!



## The Heat is ON!

Summer can present a few issues with pets, some of which can be quite dangerous to them. Here are some pointers to help keep your furry friend happy during the hot weather.

**Heatstroke:** This can be very serious—Over 50% of pets that present to a vet with heat stroke pass away in the first 24 hours. It's caused by the pets body temperature rising and exceeding what they can naturally dissipate. This can happen in both dogs and cats, although it is less likely in felines.

Predisposed patients can include: Large breed dogs, Obese pets (dogs and cats), Short nosed breeds—pugs, bulldogs and even Staffies; The old and the very young and pets suffering heart conditions.

Please avoid exercising your pet in the hottest part of the day or even better, keep them inside. Provide them with cool water

Signs of heat distress can include panting, lethargy, collapse, excessive drooling, diarrhoea, vomiting, muscle tremors and wobbly gait. Without treatment, this can lead to kidney



**Dogs:** Make then supersized ice blocks in ice-cream containers. You can put carrots or hide some treats to make them more tasty and appealing. Wading pools are great for water-babies. Put some toys in there for them to play with.

failure, seizures and death.

**Sunburn:** Unfortunately, some pets are prone to sunburn due to unpigmented (or pink) skin areas. This can happen on white eared cats and dogs, exposed skin around the eyes and nose, and on the tummy if your pet likes to sunbake. And just like us, excessive sunburn can lead to skin cancers. There are pet safe sunscreens available, just ask us for more info.

**Pad Burns:** Another common burn injury we see is to paws. Usually with the return of warm weather, most people start taking their pets out more often, but we urge you to be careful! Typically the pads on your pets feet are softer after winter, and when coming into contact with the hot pavement they can quickly burn and blister. A rule of thumb is **if it's too hot for you to hold your hand on the pavement, then it's too hot for your pet to walk on!**

**AND PLEASE NEVER LEAVE YOUR PET IN CAR!** It can take just **15 minutes** for your pet to overheat on a 29 degree day! Please do not leave your pet unattended in the car! If you see a distressed pet in an unattended car, contact the police on 000.

**Cats:** Pop some ice cubes in their water bowl, or even set up a water fountain. Cats prefer drinking from running water. You could also put down a cool towel or sheet for them to lay on, or mist them with a spray bottle.

**Tips to  
survive  
the heat!**

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