



# OLD REYNELLA VETERINARY CLINIC

## Newsletter—WINTER 2014

### Welcome....

Welcome to our winter newsletter—we hope it finds you and your furry friends warm and dry during these coming cold months.

Michael Woodworth will be away from Saturday 7th June and returns to work on Monday 30th June. He is away overseas for a family wedding. Hazel will be consulting 6 days a week during this time. What do you think of our new layout for our newsletter? You will now be receiving a new publication from us seasonally.

Take care, give your furry friends a cuddle for us, and we'll see you soon.

**The team at the Old Reynella Vet Clinic.**



### IN THIS ISSUE:

*Do you know what your cat is vaccinated for?*

*Keeping ferrets as pets*

*Rat bait toxicity in companion pets*

*Our latest Puppy Playschool graduates*

*Dental Month is in August!*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PUPPY PLAYSCHOOL GRADUATES!



**Graduates from 30th April:**  
Michelle, Lilly and Ryan with Eleanor, Anthea with Banjo, Brigitte with Cheyenne, Sam with Noah and Tehya, Jesse and Scott with Munta.

### Rat Bait Toxicity in dogs and cats.

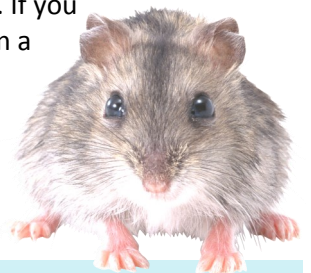
Recently in the media there have been reports of a mouse plague across the metropolitan area which has led to an increase in the number of homes using rat bait to control rodent populations. In turn, here at the clinic we have seen an increase in rat bait toxicity cases. The majority of rodenticide products kill by creating blood clotting problems. Unfortunately if your pet ingests enough of the product, they can also develop the same symptoms. The problem with this, is it may not be until days or even weeks after ingestion that you may notice a change in your dog or cat that could be fatal.

Fortunately in the early stages, rodenticide poisoning is very treatable, usually requiring the patient to vomit up anything they may have swallowed (if within a certain

time frame) or have an enema performed. The pet will then be given long course of the antidote in tablet form and followed up by a test to check your pets blood is able to clot properly.

In more serious cases, hospitalization and blood transfusions may be needed. Without treatment, your pet could die.

So if you are using rat baits around your house, please use with extreme caution. Dogs can be highly attracted to the blocks or pellets as they are designed to be tasty in order to attract mice and rats. If you suspect your pet may have eaten a rodenticide product or a rodent who could have ingested some, please call the clinic immediately for advice.



#### OLD REYNELLA VETERINARY CLINIC

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#### OPENING HOURS:

Monday to Friday: 8am—7pm

Saturday: 8:30am—4pm

Sunday and Public Holidays: CLOSED



## ***Ferrets as a pet? Absolutely!***

Ferrets are becoming an increasingly popular pet choice for many different types of families. They have a lovable and inquisitive nature and love to play, but also enjoy lots of sleep making them a perfect pet for busy working people.

These furry little critters live approximately six to eight years, and both males and females make great pets. They do have a characteristic odour which decreases dramatically once the ferret has been desexed, particularly the male ferrets. Female ferrets will come into season and stay in season so do need to be desexed at six months of age as this can be life threatening to them. They can be trained to use a litter tray not unlike a cat, and will get along with other

family pets too.

They are easy to feed, and do well on high protein kitten dry foods. They require very little grooming and they do enjoy a good bath and swim for fun!

Ferrets never really grow up and love to play and explore making them highly entertaining pets to own. Here at Old Reynella Vet, we support the locally run Ferret Rescue SA, who rehabilitate and rehome ferrets. If you think a ferret would suit you and your lifestyle, please contact Mel at Ferret Rescue SA on 0422 496 002 for more information.



## ***Why Cat Vaccinations are vital!***

Everyone knows that cats require vaccination as kittens, but some cats only ever have one sequence of vaccines in their life, leaving them vulnerable to infection once these boosters wear off. Vaccination is only performed to save your cat from suffering in the long term from these debilitating diseases.

F3 vaccination is the standard given in this area of South Australia, and is the minimum requirement should you ever need to board your cat in a cattery. Even if your pet lives 100% indoors it is still important to vaccinate, as these diseases can be brought home on your clothing and footwear.

**The F3 vaccine protects against: Feline Enteritis:** A highly contagious virus, it can cause death in young cats, and birth abnormalities in unborn kittens. Symptoms can include depression, loss of appetite, uncontrollable vomiting, diarrhoea and severe

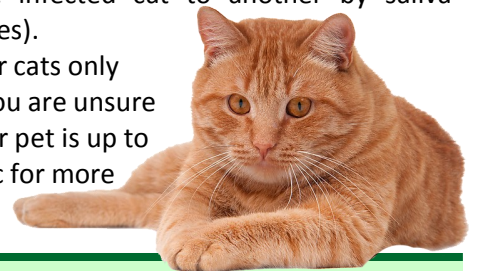
abdominal pain.

**Two types of Cat Flu:** These diseases affect cats of any age and are highly contagious. Symptoms can include sneezing, runny eyes, coughing, nasal discharge, loss of appetite and tongue ulcers.

All of these diseases spread very easily, and cats can continue to spread it long after they have stopped showing symptoms.

**The FIV vaccine:** The last vaccine you may like to consider if your cat spends time outside is for feline AIDS. Once contracted, this virus destroys your pet's immune system resulting in their untimely death. It is passed from one infected cat to another by saliva (usually via cat bites).

Vaccination is your cats only protection, so if you are unsure as to whether your pet is up to date, call the clinic for more information.



## ***Dental Month is coming up!***

Believe it or not, just like us your pets require daily dental care as well. Dental disease is one of the most common problems in companion animals. It can be a painful condition, and can lead to infections and bacteria in the blood stream and major organs such as the heart, liver and kidneys. Higher risk pets are small dog breeds and cats, with four out of five already affected by as young as two years of age. Sadly though, many owners are not aware that their pet is affected until the disease is quite advanced.

Signs of dental disease may include some or all of the following: Bad breath, Yellow/brown crust on teeth; Changes in chewing and eating habits; Tooth loss; Abnormal drooling; bleeding gums and broken teeth.

Dental health will always decline, and if the disease

proceeds unchecked in your pet, it may come to a point where your four-legged friends may require surgical intervention. This can include scaling and polishing, to the extraction of both smaller and larger teeth.

During August we will be offering free dental checks with our vets, free bags of Hills Prescription t/d with all pets having a dental procedure, and competitions to win free dental care products.

So if your pet has a stinky, yellow smile, call the clinic to schedule a free dental check and get them back to shining their pearly whites in no time!



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