

# BENTLEIGH VETERINARY CLINIC

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**BENTLEIGH**  
VETERINARY CLINIC  
for healthier + happier pets



## Do Snakes Hibernate in Winter?

The answer is no, not really. They are not like mammals. They don't enter into total hibernation, but they do go into a lesser state known as brumation during the colder months. In other words, instead of long and sustained periods of inactivity reptiles still need to drink water or change their location if they are disturbed. They also need to sunbathe for external sources of heat. If you irritate them, they will still bite you so if you see a snake, leave it alone and let it go on its travels. Regardless of temperature, snakes are only semi-dormant in autumn and winter. So keep showing them respect and keep pets away from them too. Snakes are looking for a peace private place, they're not looking for trouble so leave them in peace.



## A Touch of Humour.

Q. What's the difference between a dog and a marine biologist?

A. One tags a whale, and the other wags a tail.

Q. Why do cats always get their way

A. They are very purr-suasive!

## March 2022 Edition.

As we ease into autumn the days are slightly cooler offering a respite after the heat and humidity of summer. March is a great time to catch up with some basic maintenance for you pet and their belongings. Make sure you choose a sunny windy day to wash your pet's bed and leave them to flap dry in the breeze. Don't forget to wash their blankets and favourite pillow too! Soft toys can also be put in the wash to freshen them up, after checking them out for any repairs they may need. While you are in the cleaning mode check your pet's toys and bedding, grab their brush or mitt and give them a good brush/massage to remove any loose fur while at the same time checking them over for any cuts, abrasions, lumps, fleas, and ticks. Check their ears, eyes, and teeth are healthy while you are at it. Book your pet in for any vaccinations, parasite, or dental treatment if it is due. Proactive pet owners keep ahead of the game when it comes to preventative pet care.

## Pancreatitis in Dog's is a Very Painful Condition

Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis) is often the result of a diet that is rich in fats i.e. table scraps, the rapid introduction of new food, or if your dog habitually raids the trash can for food. But it can also be idiopathic which just means there was no actual cause that can be blamed for this condition. It can be an extremely painful condition for your dog. Signs of this health issue are if your dog is lethargic and unwilling to do much, vomiting, or they may refuse to eat and have none of their usual energy. If your dog is exhibiting any or all of these symptoms bring them into our clinic. We can do a simple blood test to diagnose what is ailing your pet. Many pets respond well to treatment and medication but in rare cases, the disease can be fatal. Early detection gives your dog a better chance of a quick recovery. Don't wait to see if your dog self-heals, early treatment is cheaper and easier to treat when the disease is in its early stages.

**Hairballs in cats.** There is nothing quite like listening to your cat hacking and gagging while trying to cough up a hairball. The resultant soggy cigar-shaped hairball surrounded by vomit is disturbing, especially for the one who must clean it up. Usually, your cat can manage to clear a hairball out by themselves. But if your long hair cat is having problems coughing up a hairball, please bring your kitty to us so we can help them to clear the blockage. There are some things you can do to help your cat cope with the furball situation. You can groom your cat often with a brush or mitt keeping the loose hair to a minimum. We can prescribe a mild laxative that will move hairball through the system. Whereas at home you can help by adding a little olive or coconut oil to your cat's food or treating them to a little canned tuna or sardines in oil. Another thing that you can do is dip their paw into petroleum jelly for them to lick it off. All these things add a little lubrication to the digestion system that will prevent hairballs from getting too large to pass. Don't overdo the oil though or you may have to clean up a different type of mess than the hairball.

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## Train Your Dog not to beg for food!

Looking into your dogs pleading eyes at mealtimes makes you feel like a selfish person. But it is important not to give in when they beg. Human food is not good for their health and begging is a bad habit to eradicate. Train them to go to their 'special spot' when you sit down to eat. This is often a favourite day bed that is in the same room as the family. A little treat when they go to their spot will cement your order. They will try you on by stretching away from the bed to be closer. Just firmly but kindly put them back and tell them to stay. This is one trick that is well worth persisting with.

## Interesting Facts

Large parrots eg Macaws and cockatoos live more than 75 years!

Dogs have a unique nose print like humans have a unique fingerprint

Cats have over 100 vocal sounds while dogs only have about 10

A chicken with red ear lobes produces brown eggs, while a chicken with white ear lobes lay white eggs.



## Our Services are Designed to Make Your Life Easier.

If you have any concerns regarding your pet(s) please bring them into us at the clinic. We have a team who have over 50 years plus of experience and are dedicated to ensuring your pet leads a healthy and happy life.

Here are [some of the services](#) we can offer:

Got a problem- come in for an in-depth consultation so we can help ease your concerns regarding your furry or feathered friend

We do diagnostic and lab work in the clinic

Surgery from routine to advanced soft tissue and orthopaedic surgery

Dental treatments for strong healthy teeth

Affordable health care plans & preventative medicine

Puppy school— where puppies learn valuable social skills

We assist with injured wildlife

Cat grooming – Knotts be gone!

Pet supplies & food - from toys to treats to food

Our warm and friendly team really do care and will try to make your pet's visit a positive and happy experience.

Your pet is important to us, and we offer exceptional personalized care.

Give us a call, come in and see us or shoot us an email query- we are here for all pets and their owners.



## Rabbits Teeth can grow 2-3 mm per week!

If the front incisors don't meet properly they may cause your rabbit an eating problem. Rabbits have 28 teeth including the two upper and lower two incisor teeth. Signs that your rabbit needs to visit the vet include the following:

- Drooling and wetness around the mouth
- Swelling, pain and inflammation around jaw and under chin
- If they stop eating and loses weight
- Prefers soft food instead of hard
- Bad breath and grinding of the teeth

We can do a full dental check while your rabbit is sedated. Their teeth may need filing down and need trimming. This is normally done once a year to ensure your rabbits teeth aren't growing into their gums or jaw which can be excruciatingly painful for them. Bunnies need regular care of their teeth to keep them healthy and happy!

## Lurking Somewhere Near You!

Ticks and their friends the flea may seem to disappear as the weather gets colder, but rest assured they are still very much alive and well. They're just being a bit more cunning and are planning on an invasion of your pet and your home where the climate is nice and warm. Don't let your guard down. Continue with [preventative strategies](#) to keep the parasites at bay!