

# BENTLEIGH VETERINARY CLINIC

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



**Eye Infections in Cats** These infections are a common problem in cats, which can be caused by bacteria, viral infections, fungi and parasites. Redness, rubbing the eye, discharge, as well as sneezing and a nasal discharge are signs of a problem.

Mild infections can be treated with rest, keeping the eyes clear of discharge, providing a healthy diet and plenty of water for your cat to drink. For severe infections your cat may need topical ointments or eye drops, and sometimes a systemic antibiotic may be required. If your cat is having problems with their eyes, bring them into [our clinic](#) so we can find the cause and get your kitty some much needed treatment.



## A Touch of Humour.

What did one flea say to the other flea when they came out of the movies?

“Should we walk or take a dog?”

## Welcome to our November Newsletter

Warmer temperatures means being aware of hot pavements, blistering beach sand and walking in the heat of the day. As the days get hotter, try taking your dog for a walk early in the morning and later at night to avoid injury to their paws or dehydration. Cats will appreciate the fan or air conditioner on a hot day, and they will tend to gravitate to the cooler parts of the home. All animals require clean fresh bowls of water to drink when they are hot so keep those water bowls topped up. If you have outdoor pets, make sure they have a shady place where they can relax away from the hot Australian sun. Dogs love a small paddling pool to chill out in. Toss in some ice cubes and it will make it even more fun. Frozen pet treats start coming back into their own as summer approaches. Try freezing meat treats in a block of flavoured broth to keep them entertained. And as usual we are here to remind you to check your pets for ticks and fleas—prevention is always the easier option. And beware of hot cars—[they are deadly](#) to pets. Please leave your pets at home rather than leave them in a hot, sun baked car. A shady spot can become a hot spot in a very short amount of time.

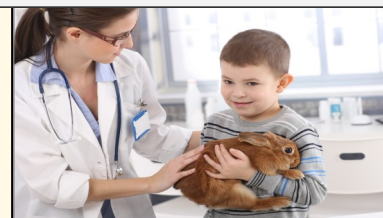
## Excessive Barking

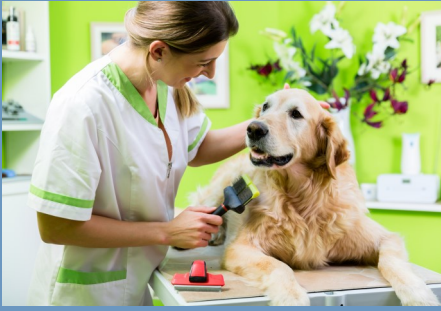
A constantly barking dog can drive you and your neighbours crazy! Why do dogs bark constantly? It could be boredom, territorial (barking at people who pass your property), attention seeking, or compulsive—they have nothing better to do! So what can you do to try and improve your dogs (and neighbours) life? Try keeping your dog active and wear off their excess energy. So lots of walks, ball chasing etc will help. Spend more time with them... they may be bored and feel neglected. Give them an activity to do such as a frozen block of water with treats inside to lick on a hot day. A good brisket bone to chew, or a food dispensing toy to keep them busy. You could increase their training, teaching them to bark on queue, not all the time. There are many good videos about training your dog. Keep your dog entertained and active as much as possible so they will enjoy a sleep when you can't be with them.

**Lonely Little puppy ?** There are soft dog toys on the market that have a heart beat insert and are used to comfort small puppies to adapt to a new home. It encourages your puppy to snuggle up and they love the sound of the beating heart. Puppies take a while to get used being without their mum and siblings. So these toys are a useful tool in raising your puppy.

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**Pet Fur Knotts.** Both long hair cats n dogs get knots in their hair which can cause irritation and itching on their skin. You can try to comb out the knot while using a detangling solution but that can cause pain and your cat wont sit for long! The next option is to cut off bits of the knot until you can get into the heart of it. But if you are in doubt, we can help your cat or dog and we can cut those knots out without harming your pet.



#### Handy Tip.

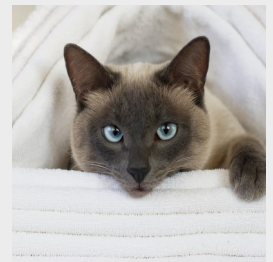
Dogs and cats need their nails clipped when you can hear their nails 'clicking' along the ground. We can do it for you if your cat is nervous about it, or we can show you how to do it correctly. Call us, we are here to help.



**Snake Alert.** The warm weather will encourage snakes to get out and move around. The next few months you will have to be aware that they are on the move, so give them space and respect. The greatest risk of a snake bite is when people try to frighten the snake away. A curious dog can get too close, especially if they haven't seen one before. This is when all that training to come, sit and stay pays off. When encountering a snake, remain calm and motionless in the first instance along with your dog. Move slowly and quietly to a safe distance observing the snake at all times. Keep your dog quiet and calm also, and rein them in close to you. If the snake is around your home or in your yard, call a licensed authority to come and remove the snake to a safer place. Make sure pets and people are kept inside. Snakes inhabit places like ponds, piles of timber and sheets of iron. Vermin also attract snakes, so ensure your yard is tidy, and rubbish free. Should your dog get bitten, take note of the type of snake it is, ie size ,colour etc, take a photo IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO, and get your dog to your nearest vet asap. Don't panic, keep everyone safe, and take your pet without a moments hesitation to the nearest vet for urgent treatment.

#### Cat Capers.

Why do cats bob you with their heads, rub your face and smooch along your chin? They are simply telling you that they love you. But they are also letting everyone else know that you belong to them! Cats have pheromones in their cheek areas that 'mark' you as their possession. Just in case some other cat tries to poach their human, they want to stake their claim so there is no doubt about who owns you. Cats are crafty and possessive!



**Ringworm in Cats and Dogs.** Despite the name, ringworm is not a worm or even caused by a worm. It is a fungal infection of the top layers of the skin and hair. While generally harmless, ringworm is highly contagious to humans, so if you suspect your pet has ringworm, you should seek medical and veterinary treatment to prevent it spreading. Ringworm can be caught from the soil, other pets and it is one of the few infections that can be transferred from pets to people. Identifying ringworm on your pet is difficult due to their fur, but look for dandruff-like scaling in the depth of their coat, red lesions on their head, forelegs, chest and ridge of their back. The patches are circular in shape and often have loss of fur. Bring your pet in immediately, and we can offer you a number of effective treatments for ringworm, depending on how severe the case is. Mild cases respond to antifungal creams and ointments, plus an oral anti fungal drug. If you have more than one pet, all will need to be treated to ensure eradication. A deep cleaning of the house and furniture is recommended. The fungi that cause ringworm live in warm, damp environments such as soil. While you can't do much to prevent these conditions, you can make sure pet blankets and bed is regularly cleaned, get rid of hair in your pets brush, and vacuum the house often.