

# BENTLEIGH VETERINARY CLINIC

Contact us - Ph 03 9557 9500

Email: [reception@bentleighvet.com.au](mailto:reception@bentleighvet.com.au)



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

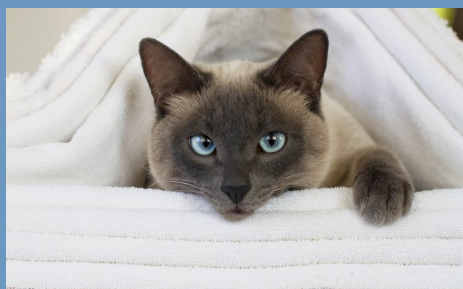
## Meet Our Newest Vet!



### Dr Jessica Holckner

Jess completed her Certificate IV in Vet Nursing before graduating from Murdoch University with a Bachelor in Veterinary Medicine & Surgery in 2017. Jess has grown up with lots of animals and has experience working in mixed and small animal practices around Victoria. She has also worked with many wildlife species in South Africa.

So we welcome the experience that she adds to our team. At home Jess has a dog named Ivy, a cat called Ralph, and has two horses! So their antics keep her entertained and busy!



### **Thunder Vests enable your pet to cope with their fear of storms.**

These firm fitting vests help lower your cat or dogs fear when there is thunder storms passing through. The vest is firm to their body which makes it feel like a reassuring hug. Many pets who are petrified of thunder storms have found the thunder vests/shirts to be a reassuring tool to manage those loud and explosive bangs in the sky.

## August 2022– Welcome to our newsletter.

August is celebrated as Pet Dental Health month while the 22nd August is National Take Your Cat to the Vet Day, always a mission unless you are blessed with a mellow kitty who enjoys social outings. Cats are always a bit more complicated to get to the vet than a dog who can be won over by a treat or two. But cats ... they know instinctively when you have a secret agender. Train your cat from an early age to accept and trust being in a crate. Feed them in their crate and make a game of carrying them around the house in the crate—it will get them used to it. Ensure you put a harness and lead on your kitty when you take them isn't what they thought! Both cats and dogs do need a regular dental checks as plaque build up is inevitable, but they can also suffer from tooth cracks, abscesses and more. Reward them well after a vet visit—especially your cat ... who may forgive you... in day or three! Note—we love to win over reluctant cats when they visit us—they usually end up our BEFF—Best Ever Feline Friend!

**Our Tip - Take the fear out of a car trip. Don't make their first trip to us as the first car trip for your pet. Take them on short trips first, get them used to being handled by other people, and stay calm yourself. Then when you need to come in, it will be fun!! It will make 'going to the vet' a breeze!**

## Are Dogs Affected by Seasonal Changes?

Thunderstorms, dark skies, and heavy rain day after day can affect even the happiest doggo. Some dogs get lethargic, show a decline in enthusiasm, or get restless and unsettled. Often this stems from boredom. We all tend to avoid going out in wet or depressing days, but your dog needs some activity to avoid the winter blues. Dogs react to changes in their daily routine. And a dog who has a lot of energy but not enough energy can suffer from anxiety or stress. Your dog looks to you for love, security and comfort. If you are irritable as we all can be on boring days, they will feel it. Even if you are confined to the house, try to build a little fun and exercise into your dogs day. Use a hall to send your dog flying after a thrown toy. Stairs are awesome to run up and down and burn off some energy for both dog and man. If there is thunder outside, pull the curtains closed, put on soft music, build a den of blankets where you both can snuggle down and watch some shows on the tele. A nice treat, a few cuddles, and some unexpected fun will brighten anyone's day!

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## Meet Imavi—Vet Nurse

Imavi is studying Cert IV in Veterinary Nursing and has been working with the BVC team since Jan 2022. She has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Melbourne (majoring in Animal Health and Disease). Imavi has spent many days working with the animals of the Royal Melbourne show. She loves working with animals, and her passion extends to nursing and further studies in Veterinary Medicine



## Meet Vincent—Vet Nurse.

Vincent is studying Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing and has been working with the BVC Team since January 2000.

He has a certificate II in Animal Studies and has spent many days working with Dog Rescue and as a Youth Worker. Vincent has two devoted dogs Penny and Evie, loves his sports, and loves working with animals. We are so blessed here at BVC to have so many talent, dedicated people in our team.

## Why Are My Cat's Eyes Red?

Four of the most common causes for red eyes are as follows. Your cat may have feline conjunctivitis, also known as pink eye. It may be caused by a viral infection, an allergy, or an irritant such as cigarette smoke, cleaning products, or even dust. Is your cat an indoor or outdoor cat? An outdoor cat may have a reaction to pollen, grass, bees or other irritants. Bring your cat into see us. We will first do an examination of your cat, and if need be run some tests to find the cause of the eye reacting as it has. Treatment varies from antibiotics to other topical ointments that help to alleviate the problem. If you have other cats in your home, quarantine you affected kitty until the health crisis is over. Be gentle when handling your kitty as they can become aggressive if they become scared. We can show you how to apply topical eyedrops in a way that is quick and easy.

**Deadly Parvovirus.** Canine parvovirus is a virus that is highly contagious and is spread from dog to dog by direct or indirect contact with their faeces. Vaccines can prevent this infection, but mortality can reach 91% in untreated cases. Treatment often involves veterinary hospitalization. Puppies are very susceptible to this disease with the greatest risk being at the age of 6 weeks to 6 months of age. A vaccinated dog can still get Parvo but the vax greatly reduces the risk of the disease. Grown dogs are vaccinated once a year. Signs of the disease include a fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, followed by vomiting and diarrhea within two days of the symptoms. There is no medicine for this condition, the only hope is that your dog's system can fight off the virus. Veterinary care increases their chances of survival by keeping them well nourished and hydrated being the key.



## Parasite Protection for Your Pet.

Now is the perfect time to follow up before the spring, and to ensure your pet is adequately covered for the months ahead. A treatment for the external pests such as fleas and ticks will knock them for a six, while an internal treatment will sort out the nasty worms. Preventative treatment is always a lot cheaper than surgery for the damage done by these parasites.

## Try out our tongue twister!

Try saying this one quickly and test your skills.

**Thirty-three thirsty, thundering thoroughbreds thumped Mr. Thurber on Thursday!**  
Or maybe try this one... **Six sleek swans swam swiftly southwards.**