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**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY
HAPPY EASTER.**



Easter a time for family, fun and celebrations. Just a *reminder not to give your pets any chocolate* as it is toxic to their system. The theobromine in chocolate increases urination and adversely affects the heart muscle and nervous system. So instead of chocolate give your pet a special treat such as our recipe on page 2 – Kong Stuffing!

UPDATE ON Corona Virus(Covid-19)

**NB-Our Clinic is
Classified as an
Essential Service and
will remain OPEN**

There are changes in our clinic operations. [HERE IS A VIDEO](#) re our **clinic procedures** during this difficult time.



BENTLEIGH Veterinary Clinic April is a lovely month, not too hot, not too cold, it is a welcome relief from a searing hot summer. Of course with the Covid-10 (Coronavirus) pandemic in full swing, it has changed the of life for everyone. But every dark cloud has a silver lining; I am sure all the pets are enjoying the extra time with their humans as self-isolation takes effect. The time at home can be a good time to relax with a good book (and your cat/dog) and escape reality. If you are working from home, I am sure you will enjoy the company of your furry friend curled up on your feet or in your lap. Use this time at home to play with your pets, engage with the family and always look for the positives. Have heart everyone – this too shall pass.



SOCIAL DISTANCING & ISOLATION

The World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that dogs and cats do not contract or transmit the coronavirus i.e. it is not a zoonotic disease. During the current health crisis, keep a positive outlook and only buy your pet supplies as you normally would. There is no need to panic buy, there are plenty of supplies for everyone. During confinement to the home, it is a great time to deepen the bonds with your pet. If you are working from home you will enjoy their companionship. If you are not working but are confined to home, use the time to catch up with training, teach your pet new tricks, and enjoy the time you can share with them. Use the time to catch up on a few outstanding items, such as washing the pet beds, shampooing the dog, and cleaning out the kitty litter. Then settle in and snuggle with your pet while you watch a good movie. Effective social distancing and isolation isn't forever. If everyone does their part, we will win the war. Keep the faith and keep safe.

CANINE PAROVIRUS Canine parvovirus infection is a highly infectious virus that attacks the gastrointestinal tract and cardiovascular systems of dogs. With the current human pandemic, it is a good reminder to be vigilant about the health of our dogs. Parvovirus is highly contagious, and resists heat, detergents and alcohol so it can remain in the environment for up to a year. Symptoms include lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting and the sudden onset of bloody diarrhoea. Young puppies less than five months old are the most severely affected and the hardest to treat. Rehydration and correcting the electrolyte imbalances plus a course of various drugs are part of the treatment. But the very best method [is prevention](#) with a premium vaccine. Puppies receive the vaccination as part of their vaccination regime but as they become an adult, they just require a booster shot every one to two years. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask us for clarification.

Tips about Pet Health



A Little Touch of Humour

Q: What did the gym coach say to the cat?

A: Have you paid your annual fleas?

Q: What kind of dog does Dracula have?

A: A Bloodhound!

PET WELLNESS PLANS

The [Pet Health Care](#) plan caters for young and old pets and everything inbetween. Simple and effective, they take the worry out of pet ownership. Parasite prevention, vaccinations, and so much more, these plans are tailored to give your pet EVERY opportunity for good health and a long life. For you, it is peace of mind and confidence knowing you are being pro-active in protecting your pet's health and providing preventive care.



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HEARTWORM – THE SCOURGE OF MODERN PETS Heartworm disease is spread between pets via mosquitoes. Heartworms live inside the arteries of the lung and the heart chambers of an animal (commonly dogs but cats can also have it). These parasites feed off the surrounding blood. Heartworms are dangerous because they damage the lungs and affect how your pet's immune system works. Your pet reacts to the presence of the heartworms which results in the formation of blood clots, bleeding from the vessel walls and inflammation in the lung tissue. Symptoms of this disease include weight loss, lack of energy, a dry persistent cough, and a dry coat. In severe cases, there may be distressed breathing, a distended abdomen, and heart failure. Sadly, by the time these symptoms are noticeable, the disease is already advanced. You can [protect against](#) this disease by an annual heartworm injection or chewable medications that also include parasite protection from fleas and other worms. If you have a wellness plan for your pet, heartworm protection will be included in your plan.



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COPING WITH AN OVERACTIVE PUPPY/KITTEN! Young kittens and puppies have one thing in common - they have abundant energy! They never stop playing, exploring, or testing their new muscles nor their boundaries! The secret is to tire them out through play. Make sure you have a selection of toys to keep them busy. But also remember, young animals need to learn how to behave. A water spray bottle is a good tool when they persist in biting, scratching or just generally misbehaving. A quick squirt to the back of the head and a firm loud 'STOP IT' will soon get the message across that they had better stop what they are doing. Water is harmless, but the shock of a wet spray will alter their concentration so that you can divert them to something less annoying. With luck, perhaps a long nap ...?

EASTER TREAT RECIPE – Kong Stuffing 4 Dogs & Cats

Rather than give your pets chocolate that is toxic to their system, try this for a special treat.

Mix 2 tablespoons bran cereal with 1 teaspoon of melted low salt peanut butter.

Add some chopped up apple and carrot bits for a bit of crunch. Seal one end of the Kong with a small amount of low fat cream cheese and fill with mixture.

Add a few dog/cat kibble (small dry biscuits) and a few chopped roasted almonds or cashews.

Fill up to the top with low salt liquid beef stock, sit upright in a container and seal the end with more cream cheese.

Freeze overnight.

This treat will take ages to chomp through and will be healthy and filling for your pet, plus it is low on calories!