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SNEEZING IN CATS.

When your cat sneezes, it could mean several different things. They may just need to discharge matter from their nose, or it could be a seasonal or food allergy that causes frequent sneezing. Sometimes it can be caused through viral causes, or from foreign matter in the nose. Sneezing is not in itself a problem, but if your cat is showing signs of distress and sneezing in fits, then your cat needs immediate attention. [Contact us](#) if you have any concerns at all about the health of your furry friend.

UPDATE ON Coronavirus (Covid-19)

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

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[SEE OUR VIDEO](#) re our **clinic procedures** during this difficult time.

BENTLEIGH Veterinary Clinic Autumn is upon us now, offering cooler weather amid the pandemic lockdown. With so many people now confined to home, pets around Australia are loving the extra time with their human family. Use this time to get in a bit of training especially for a young dog. Longer walks, teaching them new tricks, and brushing up on obedience will be a valuable use of time. Cats will love snoozing on your knee while you try to work on the computer, but they can be taught a few choice tricks too ... if they want to learn that is! Although the country is in lockdown, our clinic is classified as an essential service, so we are open for business as usual. We just ask that you ring us before arrival and abide by our social distancing stance at the clinic. We will get through this if everyone does their part.



ISOLATING WITH PETS.

The forced isolation to control the Coronavirus is not the end of the world. Yes, we would all like to go out and visit our friends, and who doesn't long for a sit-down meal at a restaurant, but all in good time. People are finding creative ways to fill in their day, and often the recipient of this phenomenon is your pet! Your dog will volunteer to help you during a workout (sitting on your back while you do pushups or licking your face at every opportunity) while your cat will appreciate you staying at home to entertain them (lying on your computer or just curling up for a sleep... on your book)! Facebook is crawling with funny pet memes and stories about the tricks your daft furry friend will do to keep you happy. You can create an indoor training circuit out of boxes, chairs, and tents! If you have a treadmill, teach your cat or dog to walk with you! By the time you come out of isolation, you will have a fit, well-trained animal. Online sources such as Facebook, [Instagram](#), and Pinterest can provide endless ideas of things to do with your best furry friend.

Diabetes in Pets (Diabetes Mellitus) is a common disorder caused by a lack of insulin within the body, or the body's inability to respond to insulin. A lack of insulin causes the glucose levels to increase in the blood. This forces the body to use energy sources other than glucose which leads to a build-up of toxins within the blood. Clinical signs of diabetes in pets is increasing thirst, depression, vomiting, sweet 'acetone' breath, dehydration, and cataracts in the eyes. The diagnosis of this disease is done via a blood & urine test. Simple diabetics will start on insulin injections and hospital monitoring. These pets need to be fed at certain times to suit their insulin levels. Pets with more severe diabetes may require a period of hospitalisation including intravenous fluids to correct the hydration and electrolyte imbalances. If your pet is tested positive for diabetes, we will discuss your pet's treatment in depth with you to enable your pet to have a happy, healthy life.

Tips about Pet Health



A Little Touch of Humour

Q: What is smarter than a talking cat?

A: A spelling bee!

Q: What do you call a crocodile with GPS?

A: A Navi-gator!

EAR PROBLEMS. Dogs or cats who spend a lot of time outside often have ear infections caused by dirt, dust or a foreign object such as trapped grass seed. You will know if your pet has an ear infection, as they will paw at their ear a lot and whine. Keep calm as you examine your pet's ears to see whether it is a serious problem such as an embedded seed head which will require our help. We may need to prescribe antibiotics for an infection or to gently use a surgical tool to remove a seed head as they can burrow into the skin. It is a good habit to check your pet's ears when you are grooming them.



Courtesy of Daily LOL Pics.

OBSESITY AMONST PETS. With pets and owners confined to home, eating or 'snacking' can occur more than normal. Pets are at risk of obesity with some experts saying that almost half of dogs and one-third of the cats in Australia are overweight or obese! Resisting those pleading looks from your furry friend is difficult, and being stuck at home doesn't help, but a little treat here or a bit more food there adds up into a lot of extra weight. Some health issues experienced by plump pets include stress on the animal's joints, heart disease, liver disease, skin problems, high risks during surgery and general anaesthesia, plus back problems and so on. If your pet has packed on some weight, bring them in for a health check and we can help you to formulate a weight loss plan involving [dietary choices](#) and exercise options. Recognising that your pet has a weight issue is the first major step to a better life your pet!



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<https://www.bentleighvet.com.au/>

INSTAGRAM [bentleigh_vet](#)

SKIN INFECTIONS IN CATS. The most common skin infections in your cat are caused by bacteria and fungi. Parasites can also cause skin infections, but this type of infection is not as common. Skin infections can also be a secondary disease, caused by parasites (fleas, etc) which causes your cat to scratch, opening the skin to microbes and other foreign bodies. Left untreated, the skin infection can rapidly worsen, and they can become contagious and yes, the infection can even be spread to humans. Bacterial skin infections will weaken your cat's immune system and require immediate treatment with antibiotics and special shampoos. Fungal infections include the highly contagious ringworm and treatment consists of antifungal oral and topical medication. If your cat is driving you mad with its incessant scratching please bring them in to us [for treatment](#). We can provide immediate relief for your pet and prevent any contagion being passed onto family members.

BEST PRACTICES FOR THE PET OWNER. *Weekly grooming of your pet is a wonderful opportunity to check them over for fleas, cuts or abrasions, and to examine their eyes, ears, and teeth for health issues.*

Book a regular 6 -12-month health check at our Veterinary Clinic to keep on top of pet health issues.

Maintain your regular parasite protection plan eg. fleas, ticks & worms.

Invest in a [wellness plan](#) – prevention is cheaper than a cure.

Trim the long hair around your pet's eyes to prevent infections.

Provide a healthy diet in the correct serving size.

Pets need positive attention, mental stimulation (games, training and activities) and a health program designed to meet their unique requirements.

- Talk to us about all your [pet care requirements](#); we do phone consultations for your convenience.