

BENTLEIGH VETERINARY CLINIC

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BENTLEIGH
VETERINARY CLINIC
for healthier + happier pets



To keep your pet warm and healthy, keep them inside when the weather throws a tantrum. Provide them with a warm elevated bed and whatever type of pet, keeping the bedding dry over winter will help them cope with the cold. Coats for older or smaller pets will keep them snug. And bring rabbits or guinea pig hutches into the garage to protect them from the cold winds. Provide extra straw for the small pets so they can tunnel and snuggle in the hay. Cold icy winds are hard on animals, so give them the protection they need.



Is your pet a bit grumpy, are they not eating as much as they used to? Well it could be time for a [dental check](#). Cold aggravates a sore tooth. Even chilled water can turn a pet off having a drink. Left alone, the pain can escalate into an ulcer or worse. So bring them in and we will check their teeth and have them happily tucking back into their food before you know it.

Welcome to our June 2021 Newsletter The nip in the air means that winter has arrived. While the cold temperature or rains are part of winter, it is the chilling winds that do the most damage to an animal caught outside with no shelter. And if they are wet, then their body temperature can drop rapidly. Pets can't tell us that they are cold. If you see them shivering, trembling, or trying to get as close to a heat source as possible, it is a sure sign they are feeling winter's bite. Also spare a thought for the wild animals such as feral cats, koalas and birds etc. Perhaps you have room in your yard to provide an elevated weather proof bed for a feral cat or a bird box you can set up? Maybe you can have a small area where wild animals can shelter from the freezing winds before they travel on. Keep warm this winter, enjoy a winter walk when you can get out with your dog, and let's lend a hand to the native animals and birds during the hardest time of the year.

Can Your Cat Catch a Cold. Cats can catch a cold, as well as getting upper respiratory infections. These are caused by viruses. The feline herpesvirus or the other which is feline calicivirus. Kittens and older cats can be particularly vulnerable as their immune system is not as strong as a healthy adult cats. It is important to keep your kitty away from any cats that are sick. Symptoms of the cat flu include lethargy, coughing, sneezing, fever, trouble breathing and runny nose and/or eyes. Animals can spread the illness to other pets, so keep a sick cat away from other pets. Perhaps you can use a spare room for the sick pet as long as its warm, and they can see you often. There is no cure for the flu but antibiotics may help, keeping your cat warm, and try to get them to drink lots of fluid to prevent dehydration will help. Cats that recover from cat flu can become temporary virus carriers. This means that they may shed into their environment causing other cats to pick it up. If you have any questions, [please give us a call on 03 9557 9500](tel:0395579500).

Here at Bentleigh we can perform the majority of tests and procedures to diagnose the disease process on site. Many tests such as skin, blood or urine can be performed here in our clinic. If not, we utilise the services of veterinary specialists to achieve a diagnosis and our goal is always to provide your pet with the best possible care ... because we care.

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At Touch of Humour.



Q. Why did the cowboy get a dachshund for a pet?

A. Someone told him to get along little doggy!



Do Not Overfeed Pets this winter! Less exercise during winter can lead to an increase of weight in winter. A fat pet can lead to heart disease. Keep them active. Devise games inside to keep them active on stormy days. Give your pet more attention but keep the food to a minimum. Heart disease can decrease your pets quality of life. so be mindful with treats this winter.



We Have Our Own App!!

It is free to download from [the App Store](#) or you can get it on [Google Play](#). If you have a question about your pets health, you can chat with us on it, book an appointment, share your pets photos with us (we love to see how they are) and you can even request their medical records. Most of us always have our mobile phone with us at all times. You can even order a refill of a prescription from our App.

So please try it—the App is FREE!



High-Rise Syndrome in Cats

You may think that your cat who has no fear of heights, can cope with a high rise apartment but the truth is that unscreened windows pose a real danger to cats. Falls can result in punctured lungs, broken limbs and pelvis and even death. Cats have excellent survival instincts and don't deliberately jump from high places. Most cats fall accidentally while their attention is focused on something else such as a bird. When they fall from a high place, they don't land squarely on their feet. They usually land with their feet slightly splayed apart and this can cause severe head and pelvis injuries. A one or two story building fall is a greater risk as the shorter distance doesn't give them enough time to adjust their body in the fall. Luckily there is a high survival rate for cats who are high rise victims if they receive immediate veterinary medical attention. But prevention is always best!! Install snug and sturdy screens in all your windows in your home.

Caring For Your Dogs Paws All too often we forget about our dog's paws. Dogs are very sensitive about their paws, so be gentle when you handle them. You are looking for lumps, cuts, scratches, foreign objects, infections, and corns. Wait till your dog is tired after a long walk as they will be more relaxed. Gently lift the paw, separate the toes, looking between each and checking for any redness, cuts or nasty thorns that may have become embedded in the paw. After a walk in the woods, check for ticks, seeds, blisters, infections or anything that is lodged in the paw pads. If you are going hiking over rough terrain, use a protective paw wax over your pooches paw pads. Keep a dog antibacterial spray on hand for cuts or when you remove ticks and seeds to prevent further infection. Cold pavements in winter often dry out the paws, so use a heavy duty dog paw moisturizer and keep nails trimmed. If your dog steps in any chemicals such as [antifreeze that](#) has leaked onto the footpath, wash their feet so they won't lick them clean and poison themselves! if in doubt about any changes to your pets feet, bring them in and we can help. We can even show you [how to trim](#) your dogs nails.

Poor Eyesight in Cats and Dogs.

An older cat or dog may begin to experience failing eyesight. If they start walking into furniture, or you notice a white fuzzy glaze over one or both eyes, then it may be the sign of failing eyesight. Animals adapt to things without moaning, but much can be done to help their eyesight. We may be able to prescribe medication that will help to clear their eyes, reducing the pressure within. It may help to slow the decay of their eyesight. The first thing is to get [their eyes checked](#). Once we know what is happening, we can make an informed decision on what can be done. Things change as age advances, both for us, and our beloved pets.