

BENTLEIGH VETERINARY CLINIC

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BENTLEIGH
VETERINARY CLINIC
For healthier + happier pets



Welcoming Dr Nicole Elias.

Nicole has joined our dedicated team here at Bentleigh Veterinary Clinic. She had wanted to be a vet ever since the 2nd grade at school. Now fully qualified and with extensive experience behind her, she has achieved her goal. She shares her home with her partner Amith, and a much treasured 8yr old ginger cat called The Midget whom she nursed back to health after finding him abandoned.

Nicole has a special interest in canine and feline internal medicine and her dedication to animal health and welfare will benefit all at the clinic. With her warm outgoing personality, Nicole is the perfect fit for our team here at the clinic, as I am sure you will find out.



HEALTHY GUMS – Checking your pets' gums for general health is easy. Gums that are a coral pink colour with some dark pigment is healthy. The teeth should be clean, white, and free from any chips. White gums or open sores needs veterinary attention as they are a sign that all is not right.

Welcome to our March 2021 newsletter.

The start of autumn is a welcome sign for many who have been longing for cooler weather and an escape from summers blazing heat and humidity. There are still some hot days ahead, but the cooler mornings are a welcome treat. With cooler pavements and temperatures, your dog will be keen to get out and explore the parks and beaches. Many people are training their cat to walk on the leash without the fear of losing them, so they may even welcome a different place to explore. Exercise is important for everyone, and especially for house bound pets. A game or two in the back yard will burn off their energy before they begin their day. With Easter in the first week of April, shops are already flooded with easter eggs and other gooey chocolate treats. We all know how bad chocolate is for pets, so be alert for sneaky dogs and cats who are not above stealing the odd chocolate or three! Stock up on some [healthy pet treats](#) and give them those instead— perhaps a new flavour so they do not feel they are missing out on something special.

HOW TO CHECK YOUR PET FOR TICKS.

Ticks are nasty parasites that carry diseases that can make pets and humans sick. You should check your pet for ticks every day, especially if your pet spends a bit of time each day outside.

Where to look for ticks.

- Check in and around the ears, as ticks like to burrow in this area.
- Under collars is another favourite area for the tick.
- Remember to check under the front legs & between the back legs.
- Around the tail area is another favourite place for ticks to hide and feed.
- And lastly, around the eyelids and between the toes.

To find a tick, run your fingers through your pet's fur using a gentle pressure to feel for any small bumps. When brushing their fur, keep an eye out for any hidden ticks. If you find a tick, remove it as soon as possible. Use a pair of fine tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as you can. Then pull upward with a steady pressure taking care not to twist or jerk the tick, which can cause the mouth part of the tick to break off and remain in the skin. And take care not to crush or squeeze the tick which will cause its fluids to leak into the bite area on the skin as these fluids may contain infectious material. Wipe the area with a pad of cotton wool and disinfectant. If you have any concerns, keep the tick and put it in a small jar, and bring it and your pet into us to check. Keeping the tick is for identification purposes and will help us treat your pet. We offer very affordable [tick protection treatments](#) so bring your dog or cat into us and we can protect them from this disgusting parasite.

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INSTAGRAM: bentleigh_vet



A Touch of Humor.



In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship them and a cat that will ignore them.

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR PETS FEET LATELY?

Paws take the brunt of wear and tear during everyday life. Many pets are sensitive about you handling their feet, so be careful and gentle so you do not get bitten. Look for matted fur between the toes that is causing pain or infection. Check for redness, bleeding, a torn nail, or make sure no stones, grass seeds, or glass are embedded. Are their nails too long – if so, a quick trim may be in order. If your dog goes to the beach a lot, check for dry cracked paws from the salty water. Hot pavements can also cause damaged paws which can lead to infection. Start checking paws when your pet is a puppy or kitten so that they get used to them being handled. If your pet's feet are causing problems, bring them into us for a check over.

We can put the 'spring' back into their step!



CANCER CAN AFFECT PETS.

As your pet ages, they may develop cancers as their bodies change. Dogs and cats suffer from many of the cancers that we do, such as lymphoma, melanoma, and even prostate cancer. Like all cancers, catching it early is the most important thing. So always check for any unusual lumps, or new spots on your pets' skin, ears and eyes. Treatment can take the form of surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation treatment.

Symptoms can include sores that won't heal, straining to defecate, limping or a change in your pet's usual walk or an increase in water intake and urination. Drainage and odor from the ears or lethargy or lack of appetite. Any time your pet has a change in behaviour, you need to bring your pet in for [a checkup](#). The earlier the diagnose of a health issue, the easier it is to treat.

DOGS WILL EAT ANYTHING! As a dog owner, you will realise that dogs will eat anything, from the most disgusting of treats to the sweetest. And with autumn comes things like fungus – you know – those crazy mushrooms that pop up on your lawn. And while most are harmless, sometimes a dog will just push their luck and strike a toxic mushroom, especially when out walking in a forested area. You get over that hazard only to find your dog sampling the rat poison! After a hectic trip to our clinic for treatment, they will then venture to chew up any medication left lying around. They will chomp on decorative glass ornaments which will require another clinic trip, and even lick anti-freeze off your driveway and eat pesticides you left out while working in the garden. That will mean yet another trip to our clinic. And while we love to see you and your dog, life would be easier for you if you lock anything harmful away. Don't just shut a cupboard door, your dog can open that. Lock away **anything** that might be dangerous, especially for young, curious dogs. Autumn is a lovely time of year, but dogs are a danger unto themselves all year round!

GROOMING YOUR CAT – MAKE IT A HABIT.

Grooming is a perfect time to check your cat. While you are giving them the best massage and brushing ever, you can check out their ears for any discharge or inflammation. Other areas that require a regular check include the eyes, nose, teeth and gums, claws, and of course – their coat and mobility. Check for any lumps and bumps, or perhaps a sore or any unusual swelling. If you are not sure about trimming your cat's nails or brushing out a matted patch of fur, bring them [into our clinic](#) where our experienced staff can help you to untangle your cat's fur. This will save your cat from trying to do it themselves and ending up with a furball in their stomach. A gentle brushing and check-up ensure your cat stays in tip top condition. Cats normally do a great job of cleaning themselves, but every now and again they can use a little help. Treats help to motivate your cat to co-operate, but many cats just love the brushing and attention that goes with grooming. And be gentle or your cat may just reprimand you!



FOR DOGS – WE HAVE THE HYDRO BATH! Everything in one place for your dog. Our hydro bath provides a [deep and thorough clean](#). Towels, shampoo and condition are available from the clinic or bring your own. Do it yourself or ask our staff to help. Your dog will love the attention!