

Animal Medical Services

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Alexandria, Kingsford and Brookvale South

Veterinary Hospitals

And Mobile Veterinary Services

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Easter's coming up, so please make sure you keep all your chocolate away from curious animal mouths because most chocolates are poisonous to dogs and cats.



Happy Easter Everybody.

Meet Alexandria Vets New Vet

This new year has brought many changes at Alexandria Vets. Introducing Dr Michael Stephen, who started in February after recently completing his Masters. He has a special interest in small animal surgery and imaging. Dr Michael has worked in

various clinics around Sydney and Queensland for over ten years and after previously working in a large Veterinary clinic he is looking forward to working in our close knit Alexandria community. He owns a blue cattle dog called Ned and a ginger cat called Purrsia.



Dr Michael with our adoption kittens.



Search for 'Amelie Alexandria Vets' and add us as friends for up to date

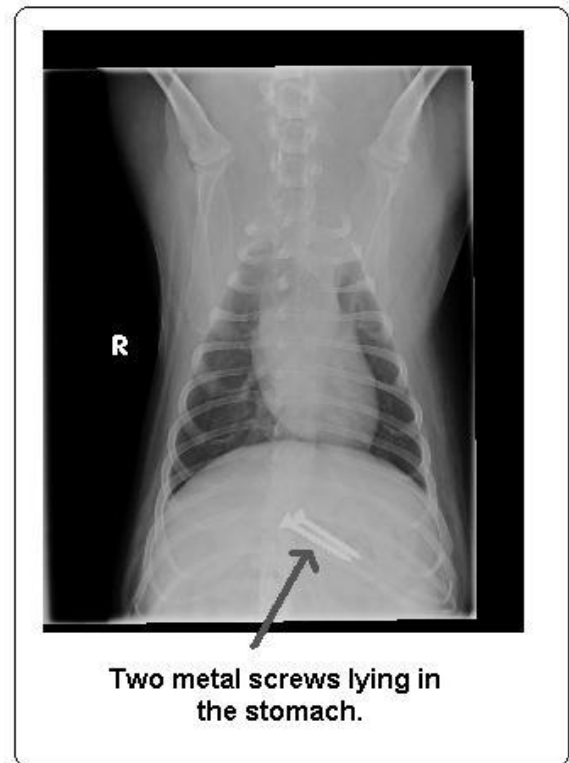
photos of our adoption kittens and pet news.

Elvis is Back From the Dead!

Early in April Alexandria Vets had one of the most unusual cases we've seen yet. Meet Elvis, a five year old Maltese mix, who's owner called us in distress because Elvis couldn't walk on his back legs and she couldn't bring him in.

So as soon as we could, one of our Vets came by to pick up Elvis to bring in into the hospital for emergency care. He was very flat and wouldn't let anyone pick him up. Upon examination we noticed Elvis had a lot of bruising and swelling around his back legs and stomach. Had Elvis been hit by a car? Some X-rays were needed to check he didn't have any broken bones or internal bleeding.

The X-rays revealed the most bizarre findings. Poor Elvis had somehow swallowed three metal screws that were visible in his stomach and rectum. This had us all scratching our heads.



Upon further investigation we also discovered a green substance in his faeces. In most cases, this points to rat bait toxicity. This would explain the bruising and bleeding because rat bait toxicity prevents blood from coagulating and causes widespread, uncontrollable haemorrhaging.

Elvis was immediately given Vitamin K injections, which is the antidote to the rat bait, but he had already lost so much blood and was in a very serious condition where he needed an emergency blood transfusion to keep him alive. Luckily for him there was a kind donor in the form of a lovely great dane called Pearl. A big thank you to Pearl and her owners for rushing in to save Elvis's life!



Being brought back from the brink of death, there was still a matter of taking out the screws in Elvis's stomach. It was planned that once Elvis was stable enough the Vets were to remove them surgically as there was a serious risk of them penetrating the stomach wall and causing a widespread infection. However with some careful treatment and planning from our vets the screws had luckily come out through Elvis's faeces and Elvis was able to go home after a few days to the joy of his owner.

It still remains a mystery how Elvis had come to eat the rat bait and screws. Had someone screwed a box of bait to a fence that Elvis had access to? A plea to all animal owners to check that you do not have any sort of toxic bait lying in your garden or shed.

Testimonial From Pearl's owners Ken and TR

'We were approached from the staff at Alexandria Vets because they were in urgent need of a blood donor and knew Pearl to be a young, healthy, large dog which meant she had lots of blood! She had to be lightly sedated to have the blood taken was bouncing around within the hour. It was a really

quick and easy process and I knew that Pearl was in good hands. It was such a rewarding feeling to know we had saved another animal's life and Pearl even got a special certificate and lots of extra kisses and cuddles for helping out.'

If you are interested in registering your animal to be a blood donor at any of our vet clinics, please contact us for more information. It's a gift that keeps giving.

Human Food Is Only For Humans

Pet owners should not assume that human food is always safe for pets. Certain human foods are toxic in animals and can cause serious harm or even death if given in high enough quantities. Here is a list of a few:

Chocolate

Milk chocolate, dark chocolate, cocoa powder and cooking chocolate all contain theobromine and caffeine which causes vomiting, hyperactivity, seizures, coma and death. Signs occur within 1-4 hours of ingestion.

Onion and Garlic

Contains thiosulphate causing haemolytic anemia, where the pet's red blood cells burst while circulating in its body. Signs also include vomiting, diarrhoea and weakness. Signs can take a few days to appear. All parts of the onion are toxic.

Macadamia Nuts

Clinical signs commonly reported in dogs ingesting macadamia nuts include weakness, depression, vomiting, ataxia, tremors, and hyperthermia. In most cases, dogs developed clinical signs within the first twelve hours post ingestion. These signs have only been seen in dogs and

the exact cause for their sensitivity is unknown.

Grapes

Some types of grapes and raisins have been shown to cause kidney failure in dogs. The amount of grapes or raisins that may cause renal failure is not exactly known, so any amount could potentially be dangerous.

Raw eggs

Contain an enzyme called avidin, which decreases the absorption of biotin (a B vitamin). This can lead to skin and hair coat problems. Raw eggs may also contain *Salmonella*.

Pear pips, the kernels of plums, peaches and apricots, apple core pips contain cyanogenic glycosides. Signs of cyanide poisoning include vomiting, heavy breathing, cardiac problems, coma, skin irritation.

Any foods high in fat can cause a disease cause pancreatitis involving vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy and abdominal pain.

If your animal is suspected to have ingested any poison, they may require immediate Veterinary attention which could involve emesis (making the animal vomit), supportive fluids and hospitalisation. In serious cases surgery may be required to remove the toxin straight from the stomach.

Feeling a Bit Lost

By Dr Toni Nguyen

Losing a beloved pet is one of the worst feelings in the world as I discovered at an off leash park in Leichardt on sunny Saturday afternoon.

We were sitting at Café Bones where they do a great milky puppacino with my dog Daisy – a six year old Papillion cross, when a fight broke out in front

of us between two large dogs and knocked over our table.

During all the commotion we didn't realise that Daisy had run off in fear and it wasn't until a minute later once order was restored that we noticed Daisy was missing.

Who knows what would happen to her? Thoughts flashed through my mind of her running across a busy street and getting hit by a car or getting trapped somewhere.

We were called after what seemed like a lifetime but was probably only an hour. A kind hearted bike rider had seen her running frantically around the streets and had managed to catch her, find some rope to secure her and flag down a passing by car to find someone who had a mobile contact us.

I rushed over there and I must admit, I burst into tears from relief when I saw her, shaken but ok. I was completely amazed at the kindness of people and had offered him a reward but in true hero-style he refused and only accepted a profuse thank you from a crying and slightly hysterical Vet.

If you have lost an animal:

- check that your animal was microchipped and that your details are up to date.
- contact your local vets, we hold animals for 48 hours before sending them to the pound. If there is a microchip we can scan it and find the owner's details to contact them.
- Contact your local pound, all lost dogs are eventually brought there.
- Put up posters and search around the neighbourhood, asking locals if they had seen the animal.

Stay positive and keep faith, we've had animals return to their owners after ten years of been lost and others

who have been found in a different state altogether!



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