

# Animal Medical Services

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Alexandria, Kingsford and Brookvale South

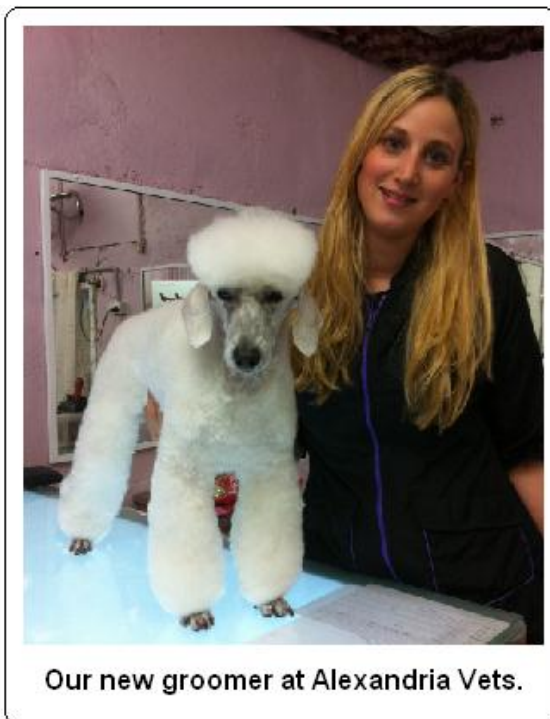
Veterinary Hospitals

And Mobile Veterinary Services

### **AUTUMN NEWSLETTER**

*There's a bit of everything for everyone in this season's newsletter with some helpful information on dental care, anal glands and a welcome to our new groomer at AVH.*

*Attention Stylish Pooches!*



Our new groomer at Alexandria Vets.

My name is Anna and I am the new groomer at Alexandria vets. I will be grooming here every Tuesday, I am

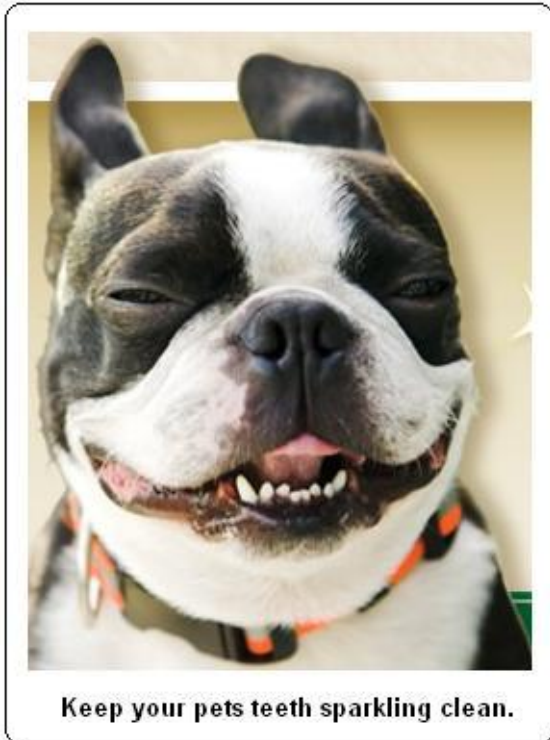
very excited to be a part of the team! This is just to tell you a little bit about myself and my past experience. I have been working in the Pet Grooming & Animal Care industry and for approximately 5 years now. I am a TAFE certified Animal Carer and Pet Groomer, I also studied at 'The Grooming School' which is owned by Christine Speerin who is one of Australia's best master groomers and is also a grooming judge. In this time I have had extensive training on my styling techniques as well as standard breed clips.

I discovered my love for grooming at a place called Paw paws Urban Retreat, I started off there as a nanny working in their day care and boarding, also assisted in the grooming salon with basic tasks such as brushing, bathing & drying which I really enjoyed and I found that I loved to sit and watch the senior groomers create beautiful styled cuts on all of the dogs. I then decided this is what I wanted to do and I have never looked back.

I have a true passion for pet styling and feel that I have the best job in the world! I adore any animal and can assure you that your pet will be in the best hands with me and have plenty of love and care throughout their time with me. I look forward to meeting you and your furry best friend!

## *A Smile For Life*

Dental hygiene in dogs and cats is just as important as it is in humans. Young animals have deciduous (baby) teeth which fall out at around 5-6 months of age. Their adult teeth will erupt soon afterwards and these should last them their lifetime.



However as animals get older it is inevitable that dental tartar will build up. In fact, 80% of dogs over the age of three have signs of periodontal disease. Thick mineralised bacteria and food particles will stick to the tooth and cause damage to the tooth and its roots.

Eventually this will spread to the gums and cause inflammation and pain in which the animal may drool, selectively only eat soft foods or stop eating altogether. Owners may notice bad breath. In severe cases the infection will spread upwards causing an abscess in the cheek which will require immediate Veterinary attention.

Dental disease is a preventable disease. If possible, brushing the teeth at home should be started during the puppy/kitten stage so that they are trained to sit still for the procedure. This involves using a specially designed finger brush and animal toothpaste (do not use human toothpaste). It is recommended to brush teeth daily. This method is 95% effective in reducing tartar build up.



Utilising other products like dental diets and dental chews is 80% effective. Hill's T/D is a prescription diet designed to be a more brittle biscuit which will encourage increased chewing and actively removes dental tartar.

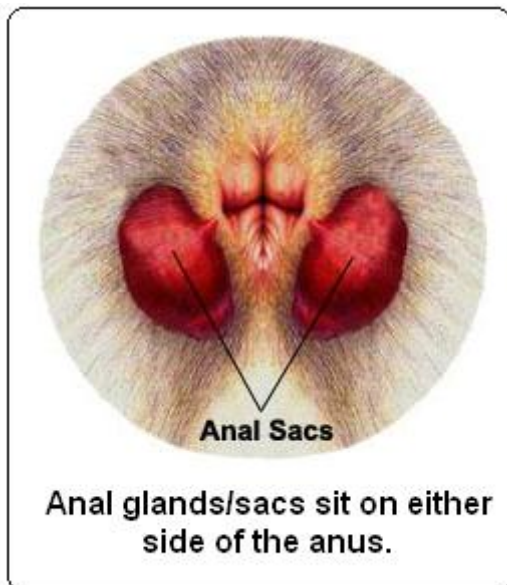
In small breed dogs like the Maltese terrier, Pugs and Chihuahua dental disease can occur very quickly and is so severe that a Vet may recommend a general anaesthesia and full surgical clean with scale and polish.

So to encourage everyone to have a look (and smell) at their pet's mouth, all three of our clinics are offering a free dental health check in the month of April with discounted preventative procedures. Please contact us for more information.

*Anal glands - a common problem*

If you notice that your pet is scooting (dragging their bottom along the ground) then they may have an anal gland problem. This problem is most common in small dogs but can occur in all breeds of dogs and cats at any age.

Anal glands are two sacs that sit on either side of the anus and can fill with a brown fluid. If they become very full then the animal will become irritated, which is usually when the scooting starts. You may also see them lick and chew around their back end a lot or notice a bad smell. One or more of these signs indicate that the anal glands need to be squeezed by a Vet to provide some relief.



You can do this yourself, however book in with your vet the first time you attempt this so that he/she can give you a demonstration and start you on an appropriate schedule. The anal glands will continually refill. The longer the fluid sits in the sac, the thicker it becomes, which makes expression more difficult and uncomfortable for the animal. This is why more regular expression is recommended.

They can also become infected if they become very full and you may see an abscess or a draining hole in the skin above the anal gland. This requires

immediate Veterinary attention which may involve surgical or medical intervention. Surgical removal of the anal glands is also an option for animals that get long term infections or where manual expression is very difficult.

### *Frankie's Sinister Sneeze*

Frankie had a rough start to life, a stray from the streets he found his way into Alexandria Vet's adoption program where he found the best of homes with already mum of two cats – Jill.

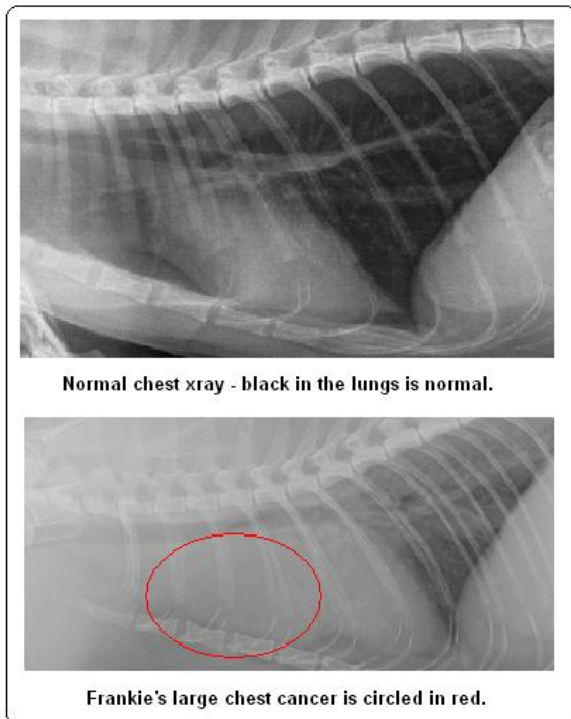


Since those humble beginnings six years ago, Frankie's had a pretty easy life. That was, until six months ago when Frankie started sneezing. Rightly so, Jill brought Frankie to Alexandria Vets for a consultation. His sneezing was frequent but it was thought to an infection and Frankie was placed on antibiotics.

It was when Frankie's sneezing went on for awhile longer without no improvement from the antibiotics, that it was agreed to undergo further testing with radiographs, a nasal flush and some fungal blood testing.

Sneezing is a sign of irritation within the nasal cavity. A very regular sign of cat flu, it can also be caused by a foreign body, fungi and tumours. All these tests were necessary to help find a diagnosis for Frankie's mysterious sneezing.

Frankie was found to have lung cancer that spread to his nose. Luckily this was caught early enough and chemotherapy was started for Frankie straight away. His sneezing went away quickly and Frankie was soon back to he's normal self.



Even though he's cancer is very serious and will require treatment for life, due to the loving care of he's owner Jill and commitment from the team at Alexandria Vets, Frankie can have a few more months with he's family and live a happy, normal life for a while more.

### **Testimonial from Frankie's owner - Jill**

*Frankie first came to Alexandria Vets for just a bit of sneezing but*

*due to the thoroughness and diligent care of the Vets there, Frankie was quickly diagnosed with lung cancer and there was no delay in starting him on chemotherapy.*

*The Vets and nurses there are not only good at what they do, but are great people as well. I wouldn't take my pets anywhere else!'*

### **10 Reasons To Desex**

1. Be less prone to develop certain types of cancers and prostate problems
2. Be less likely to develop aggressive tendencies toward people and other animals
3. Be less likely to mark its territory
4. Be less prone to wander
5. Cost you significantly less in Council registration fees
6. Removes the problem of dripping blood in the house whilst in heat
7. Reduce the already large burden on pet shelters from unwanted animals
8. Prevents your female pet from getting dangerous infections of the uterus
9. Avoid complications with birthing involving hospital care and/or surgery
10. Eliminates sexual frustration and allows your pet to just enjoy being part of the family.



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