

# Animal Medical Services

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Alexandria, Kingsford and Dee Why Veterinary  
Hospitals

And Mobile Veterinary Services

### WINTER 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 Vet at Kingsford Vet Hospital.*

### *Kingsford Has A New Vet!*



Kingsford Vet has a new Vet - Roelie.

My name is Roelie Schrijnders-Schmidt and as my name gives away, I was born in the Netherlands. Since my name is quite hard to pronounce, most

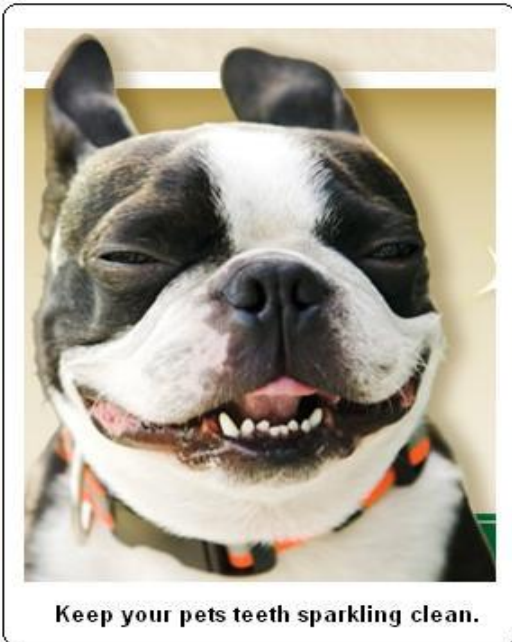
people call me Rosalie. I finished my studies in Holland and after working there and on the Dutch Antilles for a while, my husband and I decided to emigrate to Australia 6 months ago.

After working as a locum in Wollongong for a couple of months, we moved to the eastern suburbs of Sydney where I started at the Kingsford Veterinary Hospital.

As a vet I love treating pocket pets, eye medicine and general surgery. At home we have two guinea pigs running around, they are called Chippy and Salsa and have a passion for parsley.

### *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 and eventually even look forward to it. This involves using a special rubber 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, pug 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) in their pet's mouth, we are offering a free dental health check in the month of August with preventative procedures reduced up to \$200! Please contact us for more information.

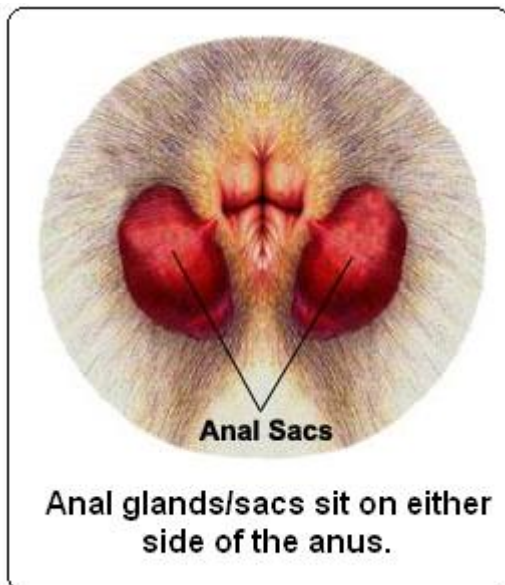
### *Anal glands - a common problem*

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 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.

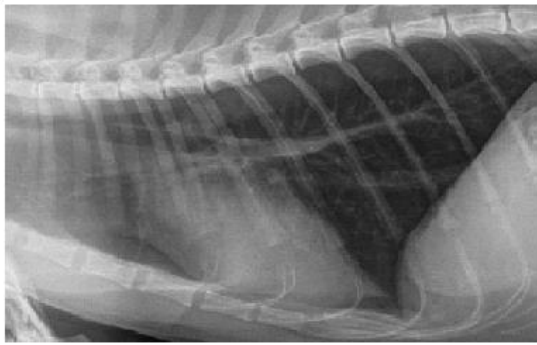
Since those humble beginnings six years ago, Frankie's had a pretty easy life. That was, until six months ago when Frankie started sneezing. Rightly so, Jill brought Frankie to Alexandria Vets for a consultation. His sneezing was frequent but initially minor so and Frankie was placed on antibiotics to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

It was when Frankie's sneezing went on for a while longer without any improvement from the antibiotics, that it was agreed to undergo further testing with radiographs, a nasal flush and some fungal blood testing.

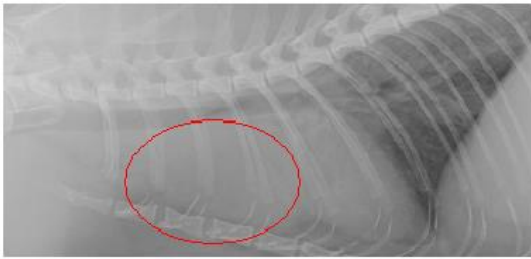
Sneezing is a sign of irritation within the nasal cavity. A very regular sign of cat flu, it can also be caused by a foreign body, fungi and tumours. All these tests were necessary to help find a diagnosis for Frankie's mysterious sneezing.

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 his normal self.

## *Frankie's Sinister Sneeze*



Normal chest xray - black in the lungs is normal.



Frankie's large chest cancer is circled in red.

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



Frankie living life to the fullest!

*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 towards 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

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



A desexed animal is a happy one!

*For further information contact:*

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