



Paws, Claws and More

Mount Hutton Pet Hospital Newsletter
Winter Edition 2015

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Mount Hutton
PET HOSPITAL

WE'RE TURNING 21!!!

It's Mount Hutton Pet Hospital's 21st birthday.

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We are celebrating 21 yrs in business this June.

Ray and I would like to personally thank all our faithful clients and dedicated staff over the last 21 years for their support and trust in our services we have provided for your furry friends. If it was not for this support and loyalty to our family business then we would not have been able to grow and provide our professional services to our clients today. In appreciation for this loyalty, we would like to offer birthday gifts for all our furry friends who visit our practice during the month of June, with regular raffles drawn for our lucky furry friends.

To help celebrate we will be running a photo booth day on Sunday 21st June (make sure you make a booking as we have limited spots), your photo shoot can be fancy dress or portrait photo as a memory of your loved ones. So either click on the link

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054ca9ac2aa7fb6-secure> or go to our web site to book your complimentary time slot.

We will be supporting the SES during the month of June, in appreciation for all their hard work during the destructive storms we have just experienced in April and are asking for a gold coin donation to the SES, to be placed in SES donation hat whilst you are visiting Mount Hutton Pet Hospital. Everything helps here, as we never know when their services will be required again. THANKS GUYS

We are also offering a senior wellness package, book in for a free nurse consult, where they will be able to discuss the benefits of blood work, dietary requirements and other issues that come with senior animals as they age. We are running a colouring completion for the kids. So print off the kids korner, colour-it-in and drop it back to the practice to go into the draw for a winner. Drawn at the end of June

We have grown over the years from a 1 vet & 1 nurse clinic - Ray, and myself operating a 5 1/2 day a week Hospital to our current 4 vets, 16 vet nurses and professional groomer, operating 7 days a week. Our family business has certainly grown. Our children have also been involved over these 21 years. With our eldest son, Nicholas, now practicing vet nursing and our daughter, Emily, in her 3rd year of vet science at Sydney University (only 2 more years to go) and Alexander, our youngest son, also helps in school holidays. They have all grown up in the hospital and have helped us achieve our goal of providing a professional high standard modern purpose built Pet Hospital today.



**Mt Hutton
 Pet Hospital
 1994 - 2015**



We wish to show our appreciation to our clients in our birthday celebration with gifts discounts and prizes for everyone who visits our hospital for consults and services we provide. So be sure to book in for any of our many services available. We look forward to thanking you personally when you come in, for all your support over the last 21years in business.

Thanks again for being able to celebrate this milestone in our business. It has been a long road with all its ups and downs along the way. It is an honour in being able to help you in your time of needs. In addition, we look forward to be able to continue providing our services for you and your furry friend in the future. With the help of our children and your loyalty, we will continue into the next generation.

I wish to personally thank my wonderful darling husband, Dr Ray for all his hard work in achieving our Pet Hospital and our beautiful children for supporting us. We are very proud of our little practice and appreciate and send a special thank you for all our vets, nurses, groomers and anyone else that has contributed in helping us achieve our dream.

Happy birthday Mount Hutton Pet Hospital. May there be many many more.

Foreign Bodies

Foreign bodies occur when pets consume items that will not readily pass through their gastrointestinal tract.

Large or irregular shaped objects may get stuck somewhere along the digestive system and result in your dog needing urgent veterinary attention.

Clinical signs and symptoms:

- Vomiting/regurgitation
- Loss of appetite
- Drooling
- Evidence of foreign body (i.e. bone stuck in mouth)
- Lethargy
- Dehydration
- Diarrhoea (+/- blood)
- Increased respiratory rate (due to pain)

It is important to contact us immediately if your animal has eaten something, or even if you are suspicious that they have eaten something.

Diagnosis and treatment

Once the clinical examination, symptoms and the information about the foreign body is collated, the vet will be able to inform you of what is required to treat your pet. If your pet is otherwise well and has just ingested the object (that is safe), then the vet may be able to give your pet some medication to induce vomiting and expel the potential problem. If this is not the case then abdominal x-rays may be required to get a better idea of what is happening. The image may, may not show the item, or may suggest a problem is occurring due to a build-up of gas or ingesta in the intestine.

The foreign body won't always be obvious and sometimes a contrast agent or barium study is recommended as this can outline a foreign body or highlight a blockage. Prompt surgery may be required to remove the foreign body from the intestines to prevent blockage and possible serious consequences. The longer the foreign body is present the more potentially serious is the outcome. A perforated bowel or an intestine damaged by the obstruction caused by the blockage in the gut may result in peritonitis and this carries with it a much poorer prognosis.

Prevention

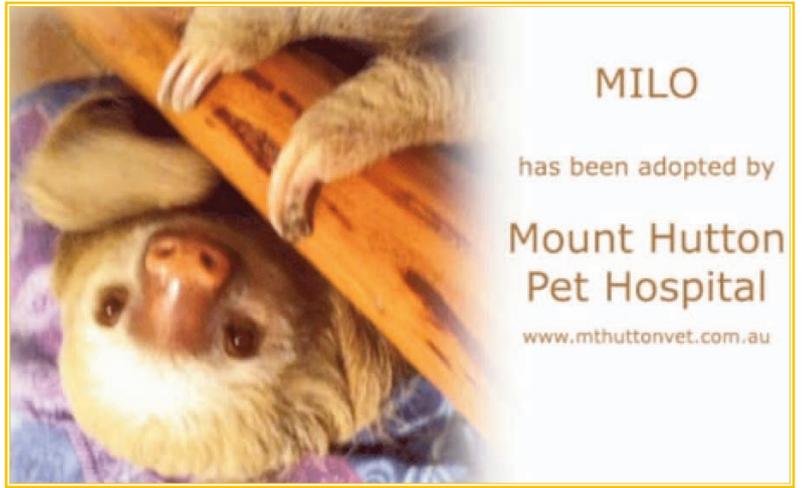
- Keep commonly ingested items out of reach
- Clear potential problems from your garden such as tempting stones.
- Prevent access to rubbish
- Keep your dog on a lead when out walking
- **NEVER** feed your dog corncobs, as they will not pass through the gut and are the most common foreign body.

Pick up your small items of clothing and kids toys as they are commonly consumed. Remember that young dogs because of their chewing habits eat most foreign bodies. In addition, certain breeds are more likely to be affected e.g. Labs or Golden Retrievers. If your dog is in the habit of chewing or swallowing items, then be aware of the consequences and watch for the signs of trouble that may indicate that something is wrong. Remember that young dogs because of their chewing habits eat most foreign bodies.

GO NATIVE - MILO

Milo

Milo was the second baby two-toed sloth that arrived at the rescue centre. After learning lots from their first sloth Baby, they were better able to prepare for Milo. He arrived very ill and his mother has just passed away at the vets' office due to complications. He was starving, dehydrated, and spent several days in intensive care at both the vets and the Rescue Center. After pulling through Milo started thriving and is now a permanent resident at the rescue centre.



STAFF PROFILE

Hi, my name is Ashley; I am the new groomer here at Mount Hutton Pet Hospital. I have 6 year's experience as a groomer. I started grooming as a pet bath and dryer for a professional groomer and fell in love with the trade.

Since beginning my grooming career, I have participated in many grooming competitions and have won all my classes including the poodle stylist class at the Sydney Royal Easter Show grooming competition.

I now am experienced in many breed style clips, including Asian Fusion and Scissor Trims.

Animal grooming and husbandry has been a passion of mine since a very young lass. I have always owned many different types of animals great and small, including horses, dogs, cat, mice scorpion, guinea pigs, and rabbits. My current babies are (Demi) a border collie I have had for 6 years now and (Jedd) a staffy, I have had for 4 years.

My experience enables me to groom many different length's, it does not always have to be short (as long as your fur-baby is not matted). Please don't hesitate to ask for a half groom during winter (which is a bath, dry, brush out, face trim, feet trim, nails cut, bum and belly tidy up), making your fur-baby clean and knot free ready for cuddles and kisses.

Hope to see your furry little friend soon for a warm bath and dry and haircut if they need one.



Whats new in grooming



We would like to introduce some new special offers, first one being a 10% off seniors discount (please just show the reception staff your seniors card to get your discount.)

We are now offering a loyalty card for all our valued regular clients for our grooming services, where you will get 15% off on your 5th groom, and then on your 10th groom you will receive 30% off. Your loyalty card will need to be stamped by reception nurses each time a groom is done for you to receive your discount.

We will also be starting a grooming service raffle where each time you come for a groom and re-book a date for your pet's next groom before leaving the clinic; you will get a ticket in the raffle. As soon as you have re-booked your fur-baby in for their next groom, before leaving the clinic, the reception nurse will give you a raffle- ticket, which will be drawn, at the end of each month. Prizes include a \$30 gift voucher to any grooming service.

Please find attached Ashley's introductory offer to try out Ashley's grooming services. Please print off and present to the reception counter to redeem this offer.

Hope to see you & your furry little friend soon for a warm bath and dry and haircut if they need one.

RAY'S REPTILE REPORT

Sunshine Virus

The subject of this article concerns an emerging viral disease of reptiles that is, justifiably, causing a great deal of concern to python keepers and breeders. The disease to which I am referring is caused by a type of virus called paramyxovirus and is commonly called the Sunshine virus. The virus was labelled for the first area in which it was reported, namely the Sunshine Coast of Australia. The virus was discovered during an investigation of a disease outbreak in a collection of 70 Australian pythons in south-east Queensland in 2008.

The affected snakes were exhibiting neurological and respiratory symptoms. The virus that was isolated was found to belong to a group of viruses that included those that cause important existing diseases such as human Mumps, Measles and Canine Distemper. A significant percentage of snakes in this initial outbreak died or were euthanised for humane reasons. Since this initial outbreak, the disease has been detected in captive pythons in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and the Northern Territory. The species of python found to be affected include Carpet python, Green python, Black-headed python, Woma, Olive and Children's python. Other python species are likely to be affected but have not been detected so far.

The disease has only been found in one other country outside of Australia and was detected in Ball pythons in Germany. The status of infection in wild python populations is unknown and is a cause for concern if it is found to be widespread in these species. Affected pythons can be of any age, sex or size and no species is more susceptible than any other. The virus is shed via faeces and nasal secretions and is transmitted by the oral route. The virus can be shed for months from asymptomatic carriers and these snakes are a major source of infection. The principle method of diagnosing Sunshine virus infection in snakes is by detecting the virus in swabs taken from the cloaca and oral cavity.

Symptoms of Sunshine virus infection are non-specific initially and include lethargy, weight loss, inappetance and mild respiratory signs. They may then progress to more severe respiratory disease and show profuse nasal discharge, pneumonia and mouth gaping. The most severe forms of the disease may then proceed to a neurological syndrome evidenced by a loss of the righting reflex, inco-ordination, "star-gazing" and neck twisting behaviour. The virus itself invades the respiratory system as well as vital parts of the brain, causing severe damage and the resulting neurological signs. The disease has a reasonably high mortality rate but may cause affected pythons to be euthanised for humane reasons if it is not fatal. No reliably successful treatment is available and some snakes do recover with supportive care.

The presence of a highly contagious disease like Sunshine virus has grave implications for native python populations but its biggest impact has been on large python collections and breeding establishments. A strict biosecurity policy is important when new pythons are introduced into any collection and a quarantine period of 4 to 5 months for new additions is recommended. In addition, it has been shown that good hygiene procedures can limit the spread of the virus within a collection. A test for the presence of the virus is available and routine testing of collections, especially breeding, should be considered. Culling of affected individuals may be an option if found to be present. Affected snakes should never be moved out of a collection if they have been diagnosed.

The Sunshine virus has the potential to be one of the most significant diseases of captive Australian pythons and even other python species around the world. The fact that it has been detected in Germany implies the potential for world-wide distribution. Even though little data is available on its incidence in wild specimens, it remains one of the biggest potential risks to Australian native python species. Its highly contagious nature has implications for being spread both Australia-wide and even world-wide.

Whilst Sunshine virus has never been conclusively diagnosed at Mount Hutton Pet Hospital, this is mainly due to the lack of a reliable testing procedure. Pythons presenting with Sunshine virus symptoms are relatively common and not all respiratory diseases are due to this virus. With the advent of reliable testing it is now possible to conclusively diagnose or detect this disease in captive pythons. Any python with both respiratory and strange neurological symptoms should be considered to be a possible Sunshine virus case and the snake should immediately be isolated and Veterinary attention or advice sought. I have seen several cases at Mount Hutton with these symptoms that have been resistant to treatment and the Sunshine virus is the most likely cause. If you suspect that you have had a snake that has exhibited these symptoms then please contact the Hospital as I am anxious to chart the presence of the virus in the Newcastle region.