



Paws, Claws and More

Mount Hutton Pet Hospital Newsletter

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Mount Hutton
PET HOSPITAL

Comparing pet food prices?

What's really the best deal??

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When choosing food for your best friend, the price on the bag, while important, is usually not the best consideration. Low prices may indicate inexpensive ingredients, or ingredients that change as market prices fluctuate.

In addition, many lower-priced products have higher daily portions to provide the same amount of nutrition found in a high-quality diet. To get better representation of cost, it is the cost per feeding, not the total cost that counts. To figure out cost per feeding, divide the total cost by the number of days the product lasts.

For example, a high quality 9kg bag of food costs \$43.95 and last for 30days (average for a 15kg dog). The cost to feed is \$1.47 per day. A lower quality 9kg bag of food that cost \$28 and only lasts for 15days, costs \$1.86 per day.

When feeding premium quality pet foods you have some added benefits, such as

- Cleaner teeth and fresher breath
- More alert energetic pets
- Smaller and firmer stools
- Healthy skin and shiny coat
- Overall sparkle in pets eyes

So when costs are analysed properly, high quality pet foods compare quite favourably.

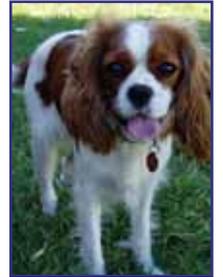


Iams pet foods are now available in our hospital and like all Premium quality pet foods they offer a 100% money back guarantee. So if you or your pets aren't happy with the quality or palatability of the product, return it and receive a full refund.

FACT OR FICTION



- **Dogs heal themselves by licking their wounds.** False, although small amounts of licking can clean wounds, excessive licking can cause infection, slow healing and further damage.
- **When the dog's nose is dry it means he's sick?** False, wet or dry, his nose doesn't hold the answers to your dog's health.
- **All dogs are colour blind.** False, dogs can distinguish colours but not as well as people, actually their vision is much like ours during twilight.
- **All ginger coloured cats are male.** False, the majority are male but ginger cats can be male or female.
- **Bathing your pet every week is good for their skin.** False, in actual fact bathing your pet too often can cause skin irritation as it strips the natural oils from the coat. Bathing should be restricted to once a fortnight unless otherwise specified by a vet.
- **Wool wash and baby shampoos are good to bath your dog in.** False, using shampoos or washes that are not made for your pet will dry out your dogs coat, wash off flea control and cause more damage than good. Always use a soap free gentle shampoo such as Epi-soothe or Aloveen.
- **If you put garlic in your pet's food it will rid them of fleas and worms.** False, it has no effect on fleas or worms; all they end up with is garlic breath!
- **When a pet eats grass it means their sick.** This is unknown, some pets eat grass to help them vomit and some eat grass purely because they like the taste. YUM
- **Pets should drink milk.** False, they may like the taste but milk is not good for them and can cause bowel upsets.
- **Without whiskers do cats loose their balance.** No they don't but they do use their whiskers as feelers so avoid trimming them.
- **Tortishell coloured cats are all female.** True, genetically Tortishell cats are female. Very rarely a male Tortishell will emerge but generally they are not true males and can be sterile.



DID YOU KNOW

It can be dangerous to give human medications to your pet without your vet prescribing or recommending it.

Some medications such as

~ Paracetamol ~ Ibuprofen ~ Codeine ~ Vitamins and supplements ~ Contraceptive pill, etc
can cause gastric ulcers, liver failure and sometimes even death.

There are many great animal medications you can get from your vet that are safer and more effective.

Also....

Although Heartworm prevention, worming tablets, shampoos and flea control are available at cheaper prices they are often poorly made meaning generally you will have a higher dose rate so you are giving more, thus costing you more.

Economy brands are generally less effective than those at your veterinarian, they contain different out dated ingredients, although it is not bad to use these products on your pet, be sure to give according to species, age and weight of your pet, and
Remember you get what you pay for.



Dr Ray's Reptile Report. Part 1-continued

When people "talk" or make noises to their snake it seems ironic as snakes have no hearing sense at all.

The simple requirements of reptiles are their biggest advantage but also their biggest drawback since failure to meet these basic housing requirements is more dangerous to the animal's health.

Put simply, failure to provide the basic requirements of reptiles will lead to poor health and death of the reptile.

With no exercise to provide or training, reptiles are

viewed as being "boring" or "non-interactive" by most people. The truth is that the person who keeps his chosen reptile in a safe and healthy environment achieves as much personal satisfaction as the owner of a loving cat or colourful/ boisterous dog. To think of these different pets in the same way is totally wrong and leads to misunderstanding on both sides.

Most reptile keepers are very enthusiastic and well informed on their chosen hobby. Unfortunately, with reptiles now so freely available to purchase, some people make poor choices in the first "pet". A failure to understand the unique biology of reptiles will lead to problems in their keeping.

My role as a vet is to both treat sick or injured reptiles but also to educate people in the care of their pets. Reptiles are unique in their ability to be kept for many years with minimal work but can also become sick very quickly if their certain husbandry requirements are not met.

What we classify as a "pet" has many definitions. Snakes do not play with a toy mouse or run along the beach with you but they still produce great happiness to an enthusiastic reptile keeper.

LOOK OUT TICKS ABOUT!

Beware!!! Ticks are emerging early this year! It is strongly advised that prevention methods are put into place. Remember that nothing is 100% effective and it is important to check your pets daily. Signs of Tick Paralysis are vomiting, hind leg paralysis, change in voice (cats) and respiratory distress. For advice on Tick prevention please contact the hospital on 4947-1311.

Breed Bio - Italian Greyhounds

The Italian Greyhound is a gentle, submissive and affectionate dog. They become very attached to their masters and can be reserved with strangers. Playful and intelligent, generally these dogs are not difficult to train provided their handler is consistent with them. They are often naughty and are aware of it. It is important that you can see the funny side when things go wrong but this does not mean allowing them to take advantage of you. This dog can be highly strung and timid and must be handled very gently. This is a pet for a quiet household where there are no lively children, although they do get along well with behaved children and other dogs and cats. In a stressful situation they need constant reassurance by stroking. They are very dependent and peaceful. They can be snappish if frightened. This breed can be difficult to housebreak. They are generally easy to get along with and take care of. This dog is extremely fast! Young Italian Greyhounds are very active. They can climb wire fencing and are very inquisitive - jumping from chair to table tops to nearby furniture. They are not good companions for large dogs. They do get along well with other Italian Greyhounds and some breeders recommend that you have more than one of this fine breed.

Height: 12-15 inches (30-38 cm.) Weight: 3-5 kgs There are two weight varieties: 4 kg, maximum, and over 4 kg. Life expectancy: About 12-15 years.



What is Dressage?



An interpretation of dressage is training to enhance the natural movement of the horse. The word 'dressage' is derived from a French term meaning training.

The whole dressage training process is designed to gradually strengthen the horse to be able to do a range of movements that require great physical strength, & a good partnership between horse & rider to perform in natural beauty.

Dressage horses can be of any breed, sex, age, colour or size.

Exceptional basic paces in the walk, trot & canter, together with a good temperament, as well as sound conformation are what riders look for in a potential dressage horse.

The attention to detail starts with good horse ownership, such as quality veterinary care, proper feeding, & an on-going training program. Correctly fitted equipment & good grooming are also necessary to achieve this.

Dressage is a performance, & as such, competitors strive to look as beautiful as possible. Showing elegance & grace, while making hard movements look reasonably effortless from both horse & rider. Dressage tests are performed in a 20 x 60 meter arena, with 12 lettered markers placed at specific points around the arena. These letters do not represent any sequence of the alphabet. Nobody seems to know the reason why these letters are not in order, or when they were introduced into the sport.

A dressage test asks you to perform multiple movements within the arena. While, depending on the level of dressage performed, there may be 1 to 3 judges at one end of the arena giving marks from 0 (not executed) to 10 (excellent) for each movement. The judges also give marks on the horse's paces, impulsion, submission & the rider's position. These marks are then tallied & the result is given as a percentage. Most riders score on average 60%, while aiming for a score of around 70%, this being the most realistic score anybody can achieve.

Dressage is a great sport. It will bring out the competitive side in almost anyone. You find yourself striving to better your personal best scores, as well as your competition.

Christmas is just around the corner and our boarding facility is now taking bookings. Get in early to avoid disappointment

Goodbye and good luck

Kristy is leaving our practice after 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ years to work with horses in her home town in the Upper Hunter. She relocated in January but still travelled to our practice 3 days a week. Now its time to move on in her career and be closer to her partner Josh and her 3 dogs, Maggie, Gracie and Jaffa. We will miss you !!

Staff Profile - Marissa Bickerton

Hi I'm Marissa. I started working at Mount Hutton Pet Hospital in March 2007. I am currently working in boarding as a kennel hand but my dream is to become a Veterinary Nurse. To achieve this I am about to commence certificate 2 in animal studies which will allow me to do certificate 4 in veterinary nursing. I absolutely love working here and getting to know all the amazing animals. As an animal lover I have 4 pets of my own, two beautiful rabbits Jelly Bean and Sazie, one gorgeous 10 month old kitten named Molly and my very cool yabbie Ross! In my free time I love to watch movies, go dancing and spending time with my partner Michael and of course my pets.

