



Paws, Claws and More

Mount Hutton Pet Hospital Newsletter

Winter Edition 2007

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Mount Hutton PET HOSPITAL

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Why is it important to Desex your Pet?

There are many misconceptions when it comes to desexing pets. Owners will generally ask friends and family about desexing their pet and often get mixed reactions.

People often feel that desexing a pet changes their personality and think they'll become overweight and lazy or they won't be an effective guard dog. Others feel that if you let a female have a litter that they'll be more loyal and affectionate.

The truth is desexing your pet doesn't change their personality at all, if anything, it will often make them better pets. Once desexed their metabolism can slow down but as long as you don't over feed your pet their weight shouldn't become a problem.

Disadvantages of an undesexed male pet:

- Aggression as the pet matures
- Urine Marking
- Escaping/Roaming
- Unwanted sexual behaviours
- Prostate and testicular complications as pet ages

Advantages of desexing a Pet:

- Calmer behaviour
- Reduced risk of health problems associated with being undesexed
- Less abandoned puppies and kittens
- Dramatically cheaper lifetime registration

So when should you desex your pet?

Both male and female pets should be desexed around 6 months of age; it is advisable to desex female pets before their first season.

Disadvantages of an undesexed female pet:

- In heat every 6 months
- Unwanted Pregnancy
- Uterine infections
- Mammary and ovarian tumours as the pet ages



Unless you're planning on breeding or showing your pet, then really there's no reason to keep a pet undesexed and the benefits of desexing your pet are too good to ignore.

To clip or not to clip?...That is the question this

winter.



We at Mount Hutton Pet Hospital are often confronted with this question, the decision to give your pet a haircut in winter is a personal one. All pets are different and they all have different circumstances in which they live.

Pets that are solely outside are not as suited to have a haircut in winter as pets that live inside with their owners. Pets that have very fine fur may need extra warmth in winter than those that have a thicker coat.

There are a few options to consider, you may just need your pet to have a tidy up, where we trim around their face, feet, tail, clip their nails, give them a hydrobath and blow dry. For the pet that's a little more knotty we can clip the fur right back so that it's more manageable and if you're worried about them being cold there is always the

If you have any questions regarding having your pet clipped this winter give us a call or come on down and have a chat to our groomer Sally.

Remember that Flea Control during winter is important.

If you discontinue flea prevention during winter you are allowing for an infestation to build up on your pet and in your home, one female Flea can lay 40-50 eggs per day. During the winter we all have our heaters on and this creates an ideal environment for fleas to multiply.

To keep your pet happy apply flea prevention once monthly all year round.

Breed Bio- Ragdoll

The Ragdoll is best known for its docile and placid temperament and affectionate nature. The name Ragdoll comes from the fact that the breed often goes completely limp and relaxed when picked up. Ragdolls were developed in America in the 1960's, they descended from a female Persian/Angora cat and were sired by a Birman or Burmese male. It took



many years of selective breeding to gain the desirable traits of the Ragdolls we see today. The Ragdoll is a large, semi longhaired cat, They have pointed colours which generally come in 3 varieties, colour point (no white),

bi-colour (white blaze on face, legs and feet) and mitted (white chin and paws). The point colours can be seal, blue, chocolate, red, lilac, cream and torti. Their eye colour is generally a deep blue but can also be aqua in colour.

Ragdolls don't shed as much as other long haired varieties of cats, they do require regular grooming.

Ragdolls are very playful but much laid back so are great for families with children; they also get along well with other pets within the household.



Dr Ray's Reptile Report..

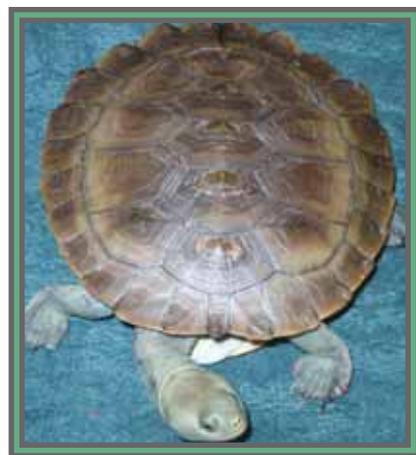
Part 1-Reptiles as Alternative Pets.

No other animal in existence is more misunderstood than the reptile, to be more specific the snake. Until recent years the idea of owning an Australian Snake existed only in the minds of a few reptile enthusiasts (herpetologists). Snakes, tortoises, lizards, monitors and geckos could not be legally kept in private hands but with the introduction of the reptile licencing system by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, it is now possible to be a keeper/owner of almost any Australian Reptile.

Since my time in private practice began, it is amazing to see how many reptiles are now being maintained and bred by private reptile keepers.

To many people the idea of keeping a snake or lizard as a pet is impossible to conceive but I believe most people would think differently if they truly disregarded the usual myths associated with reptiles. Even a student who enjoys biology and science at school can keep and enjoy many Australian reptiles. Snakes are by far the most commonly kept Australian reptiles. Monitors (eg. lace monitor), Dragons (eg. bearded), Tortoises (eg. longneck), Skinks (eg. blue tongue) and geckos are less commonly maintained.

People, thinking like a mammal and thinking of pet care of a mammal (eg. dog, cat, rabbit) would find it hard to believe that snakes, and to a lesser extent, the other reptiles can be kept easily and in healthy condition with only a fraction of the time spent caring for a mammalian pet.



The difference between keeping a dog or cat and a snake for a pet is immense most reptiles are kept within a maintained enclosure except when handled, whilst most dogs and cats remain "free" to roam at will.

Snakes and reptiles do not require feedback or attention from their owners (unlike dogs or cats) and do not respond to training or education. This demonstrates the more highly evolved that mammals have become but that does not mean that reptiles are not well adapted creatures.

Look out for Part 2 of Dr Ray's Reptile Report, next issue.

Does your best friend have bad breath??

Too embarrassed to tell them yourself, let us help you!

August is Dental Month and we are conducting Free* Dental Evaluations.

Please call to make an appointment.

* Conditions Apply, Evaluations will be preformed by Qualified Veterinary Nurses.

Did you know...

We Hire and Sell
Citronella Anti-Barking Collars!
If your Dog has a Barking Problem
give us a call and we can explain
our service to you.

It's going to be a

LONG COLD WINTER!

Keep your Best friend Warm this Winter
in a Stylish Dog Coat.

Lots of colours and Sizes available,
Come on in and have a look.

Does your best friend have sore ears??

Ear infections are seen in both dogs and cats, although dogs are generally more susceptible due to the shape of their ears. Dog breeds that have ears that hang down have a reputation for ear infections because when the ears hang down there is no air circulation which creates a warm moist environment which bacteria thrive on.

Pets who have hair that grows inside the ear canal are also prone to infections as the hair in the ears prevents sufficient air flow and the hair traps wax inside then ear canal.

Breeds that are susceptible are Labradors, Golden Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, Rottweilers, Sharpeis, German Shepards, Poodles, Cavaliers, Maltese, Shi Tzus, Pugs and Beagles. But really any pet that has hairy or floppy ears is at risk.



So what should you do to prevent nasty ear infections in your pets?

- Pluck the hair from inside the ear, the hair inside the ear canal only has shallow roots so is easy to remove but not all pets will let you do this.
- Clean your pet's ears out regularly, with a general ear cleaning solution such as Oti-derm.

If you notice that your pet has red or irritated ears or you find your pet has excess wax in the ear, contact us and make an appointment to have them seen too, most ear infections can be cleared up with antibiotic ear drops.

If ear infections are left too long, an aural haematoma can result from the pet shaking its head excessively; this then has to be repaired surgically.

In Pets that have excessive problems with ear infections surgery can be performed to correct the air flow to ear but this is a very big surgery and should only be performed if the vet feels it necessary.

Puppy Preschool

Classes are held on Thursday evenings between 6-7pm and run for 4 weeks. Bookings are essential.

Dates for winter 2007 are 19th July & 23rd August..

Staff Profile- Nikki



Hi I'm Nikki. I started working at Mt Hutton Pet Hospital in March 2007 and since then, have loved meeting and looking after the wide variety of pets that come in.

In 2006 I completed Certificate 2 in Animal Studies and am currently studying Certificate 4 in Veterinary Nursing. I am really enjoying the course so far and I am learning a lot.

I have one gorgeous Jack Russell Terrier of my own called 'Muffin', however she lives in Port Macquarie where I just moved from earlier this year. She is a very energetic and fun dog who loves going to the beach and playing around. It is hard not living with 'Muffin' anymore, I really miss her. However I keep myself occupied by going to the beach, camping and going to the movies in my spare time.

I am looking forward to meeting you and your much loved pets.