



Mount Hutton
PET HOSPITAL

Paws, Claws and More

Mount Hutton Pet Hospital Newsletter

Winter Edition 2009

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Tail Docking

Tail Docking has been banned Australia wide since April 2004

Tail docking of dogs is a purely cosmetic procedure which has NO health benefits for the animal. In fact if a tail is docked incorrectly it can cause catastrophic health problems. When a puppy is presented to have its tail docked they are generally 2-4 days old, no anaesthetic is usually used even though the cut goes through highly sensitive nerves. Many veterinarians oppose the procedure on the grounds that it is 'cruel, painful and unnecessary'. The basic nervous system of a dog is fully developed at birth and evidence indicates that puppies have similar, if not increased, sensitivity to pain as adult dogs. Docking a puppy's tail involves cutting through muscles, tendons, up to seven pairs of highly sensitive nerves and severing bone and cartilage connections. Puppies give repeated intense shrieking vocalisations the moment the tail is cut off and during stitching of the wound, indicating that they experience substantial pain. Inflammation and damage to the tissues can also cause ongoing pain while the wound heals.

Many people think that dog breeds with docked tails, which include Dobermans, Rottweilers, terriers, spaniels, pointers and other gun dogs, are born with short tails, **this is NOT true!!** The only reason a tail is docked in these breeds is because it's a fashion trend! There only a few rare breeds of dog born without a tail or with a naturally short tail these are the Stumpy tailed Cattle Dog, Boston Terrier and some varieties of Bulldogs.

Tail Docking has been banned Australia wide since April 2004 you may still see puppies with docked tails this is generally done illegally and under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* people found docking puppies tails can face fines of up to \$5500 per docked tail or 6 months imprisonment or both. The only people allowed to dock dog's tails are vets and only when it's because of a medical condition/trauma. Never purchase a puppy with a docked tail as this just encourages back yard tail docking! If you get a dog from a breeder, make sure that they do not dock tails. If you go to purchase a puppy and it has a docked tail please report it to your local Council Rangers or to the RSPCA.



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50% OFF
Nail Clips
for your Pets

Does your best friend need a Manicure?

Dogs often need there nails clipped, generally around every 6-8weeks depending on their size and breed.

Present this voucher to receive 50% of a nail trim for your pets normally valued at \$12 each. This voucher is not redeemable for cash and must be presented at the time of the nail clip.

This Voucher CAN be used in conjunction with the Free dental check voucher on the reverse side.



Dental Month



Dental health in your pet is extremely important! Whether you have a cat or dog, oral disease will most likely occur if you don't put home care preventative measures into place. So to help you become more aware August is Dental Month! We have a wide range of products that will help you prevent and eliminate dental disease in your pet's teeth. These include:

Hills Prescription Diet t/d – Dry biscuits that contain a unique arrangement of dietary fibres to gently wipe the teeth clean and reduce the accumulation of plaque, stain tartar and associated malodour.

Hills Science Diet Oral Care – Dry biscuits that keep the teeth strong and healthy, preventing the build up of calculus and tarter.

Aquadent – A liquid additive to your pet's water. Just a small amount each day will improve bad breath, maintain healthy gums and reduce the bacteria in your pet's mouth that contributes to dental decay. The active ingredient xylitol helps to do this.

Toothpaste and Toothbrushes – Pet toothpaste has a yummy flavour (chicken) and brushing your pet's teeth is a basic form of preventing the accumulation of plaque and tarter build up. If your pet will allow you to, this can be a fun daily ritual and great one-on-one time.

Dental Care at Home – You can help care for your pets teeth at home by supplying **raw** bones for them to chew on. Pick a bone that's the right size for your dog as there's no use giving a Labrador a chicken wing to help clean his teeth if he's only going to swallow it whole! Pick a bone that you dog can take the time to gnaw on making sure you supervise them at all times.



To celebrate August being National Dental Month,
Present this voucher to receive a free dental check
for your pets by our nurses!

We will be happy to assist in all your needs and give you the best advice to
get your pets teeth sparkling bright and white.

Offer Valid until the 31st August 2009

This Voucher CAN be used in conjunction with the 50% off Nail clips voucher on the reverse side.



Breed Bio - Great Dane's

The Great Dane is known for its giant size and gentle personality. They are considered one of the tallest dog breeds in the world, with the tallest being in the Guinness World Records standing at 110 cm.

It is believed this breed was developed at least 400 years ago in Germany, where it was used for boar hunting. Various Sources report that the Great Dane was developed from the medieval boarhound and of the Mastiff and Irish wolfhound lines.

This Breed is Large in size with a short, shiny and smooth coat and therefore does not require a lot of grooming. They come in a variety of colours including Fawn, Brindle, Blue, Black, Harlequin and mantle.



Great Danes are often referred to as “Gentle Giants” and are generally well-disposed toward other pets and humans. However, as with all dogs, they should be supervised around young children.

Because Great Danes have a fairly slow metabolism they need daily exercise the same as any other dog, and a fair amount of it. A common misconception is that they are slow and docile and don't need walking; this is incorrect and in most cases Great Danes are full of energy and need regular walking. They are robust, alert and agile when needed to be.

Great Danes have some health problems that are common to large breeds including bloat, hip dysplasia and congenital heart disease. They generally live 8-10 years, but with responsible breeding and improved nutrition they can live to be 12-14.

PARVO VIRUS ALERT

We have noticed in recent months an increase in the amount of dogs affected by parvovirus! Parvovirus is a nasty haemorrhagic gastrointestinal virus which causes severe vomiting and diarrhoea often causing death through severe dehydration.

PARVOVIRUS IS EXTREMELY CONTAGIOUS.

It is **VERY** important to be cautious with a new puppy by avoiding dog areas and parks until they have had their full course of puppy vaccinations. Care must also be taken with mature dogs, by making sure you keep them up to date with yearly vaccinations.

If you suspect your dog could have parvovirus contact a vet immediately.

Staff Profile ~ Laura

Hey!! I'm Laura and I am the new Vet Nurse at Mount Hutton Pet Hospital. I started working here in November 08 and graduated from my Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing last year. I have always had a passion for animals, living on a property with dogs, horses, cows, chickens, ducks, guinea pigs rabbits and any other native animal that was “sick” or needed looking after. ☺

The team here has been very supportive of me, and I am learning something new everyday! I am very enthusiastic about my career and can't wait to further my skills in the future. I look forward to meeting all of you and your pets!



Rays Reptile Report ~ Skin & Scales Part 1



To describe the most common diseases and ailments of reptiles is a large topic, so I will deal with the most common problems that a keeper is likely to encounter. I propose to discuss them on a system basis and will begin with the most obvious ---the SKIN & SCALES. This is a large subject and will be divided into two parts.

Scales and skin both exist in reptiles, with the skin largely obscured by the overlying layer of scales of various sizes. Scales cover the entire reptile, even the eyes in the case of snakes. As a reptile grows and ages, these scales must be replaced and enlarge in size. As a result, a reptile must discard this old skin and replace it. This process is called

shedding and can occur in one large section as in snakes or in many pieces in reptiles such as lizards. This reflects the differing anatomy of the various reptile types.

Shedding can be a rapid process [snakes] or occur gradually. It may be obvious or happen subtly. Tortoises are the only exception and, due to their shell, are constantly replacing scales. When a snake is due to shed, its eyes will become cloudy due to changes in the scales over the eyes. Growing reptiles shed more frequently and as a reptile ages, the shedding rate decreases.

A failure to shed the skin properly and completely is a health problem and can result in sickness or death. Retained scales can be a problem, especially the eye scales in snakes. Reptiles usually help or start the shedding process by rubbing against a hard, rough object such as a rock. Snakes begin their shedding from the head and will start by rubbing their face to peel back the first lip scales. A healthy snake should then remove the complete skin in one section.

Lizards and other reptiles shed their skin in pieces over a longer time and will not shed in one piece. Snakes that shed in pieces are not necessarily unhealthy but one-piece shedding is a sign of a healthy snake. This means that you must provide an item for your snake to rub upon and a good shedding rock is an essential part of your cage environment. It does not need to be large and is preferably rough in texture and unable to be pushed around by your reptile. Small areas of retained scales can be removed after bathing with warm water but retained eye scales can be difficult. When the eye scales become clear again after the cloudy pre-shedding stage in snakes, shedding will normally occur within about 7 days. A snake that does not shed after 7 days should be checked and the skin manually removed if required.

Shedding time is very stressful to reptiles and snakes will generally stop eating at this time. Freshly exposed scales are soft and must harden over time. This means that shedding snakes are more likely to suffer more scale infections ---a condition called scale rot. Affected scales are usually on the underside of the body and are inflamed and ulcerated. This is a serious infection that can prove fatal if untreated. Excess humidity in your enclosure will definitely predispose you snake to scale rot and maintaining correct humidity is necessary for a healthy snake. On the other hand, too dry an environment will produce a slow and difficult shed.



Cat Desexing Special-30% OFF

**This Winter if you book your cat in to be desexed
receive 30% off the total price!**

**Offer available to current or new clients until the
31st August 2009. Just mention this newsletter while
making the appointment.**

**Booking is essential. Pregnancy Surcharge still applies, not available in conjunction
with any other offer.**