

Spring 2022

WANGARATTA VETERINARY CLINIC



Senior Citizens

From 8 years of age dogs and cats are in their senior years (the equivalent of a human in their late 50s) and this is often the time when age related health problems start to show themselves.

Because of this, our older pets need a bit of **extra care** to keep them happy and healthy for as long as possible.

Problems that we see commonly in our senior pets:

- Lumps and bumps
- More severe dental disease
- Arthritis
- Dementia
- Organ failure (including heart, kidney, liver)
- Eye problems



What you can do to help:

- Bring your senior pet in **twice a year** for a check up.
- We recommend a **blood test and urine test** at least once a year to monitor major organ function for signs of disease.
- These check ups will help provide **peace of mind** for you and will allow us to get onto **any problems early** and begin treatment if necessary.
- We'll get you to fill out a form about your pet's behaviour at home which will help us assess if dementia may be starting to be a problem
- Always tell us if something **has changed** since the last visit even if you're not sure it's important.

Older pets can have other **non-medical problems**: they may not be so good at grooming themselves and may have occasional toileting accidents, so extra grooming and bedding care can make them much more comfortable too.

Give us a call on 0357 214 000 to book your pet in for a senior health check.

Jo's Jabber

So I survived the rollercoaster situation... Narrowly.

Clare took us to the most terrifying one straight up and I thought I was going to die. Josh and I took the rest of the day pretty quietly - not these 3 kids though:



Our team have all been busy over winter - Maddi welcomed beautiful Maeve into the world and Freya and Felix are expecting their first baby in December which is very exciting!

Alanna, Amy, Angie, Claudia, Hollie and Maddie have all enjoyed some well-earned time off over winter and we've had the pleasure of hosting many vet students from Australia and overseas across the last 3 months.

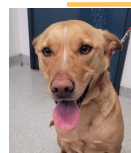


Sandra, Tina, Martin and Julia were our Austrian contingent (our 'ostriches') and while their English is much better than our German, it does seem to give them a lot of joy when Adam sings German songs at them! And there was some confusion over 'towel' and when Martin thought we were saying 'nipple' when discussing netball...



Happy Spring!

Case of the Quarter



Meet Axle the miracle dog! Axle came in with a sore tummy and off food, his owner was concerned that he might have eaten some BBQ skewers. Dr Maddie took an



x-ray which did not show anything unusual and began pain relief and supportive care. Axle was much better the next day and was able to go home.

He was back to normal but 6 days later came in again as his excellent owner could feel something poking out of his skin. Sure



enough, Dr Amy sedated him and removed an entire wooden skewer! It had moved through his abdomen without causing major internal damage. Miracle dog indeed!!



Hollering Hollie!

Hollie - Practice Manager

If you could only choose one song to play every time you walked into a room for the rest of your life, what would it be?

This is too hard! I'm choosing 3:
Ocean by JBT, Thunder Road by Springsteen and Pencil Full of Lead by Paolo Nutini

If you were a tree, what kind would you be and why?

River Red-Gum - So I could have all the native animals around me and be at my favourite place near the water.

Where is home?

Wangaratta (I grew up in Albury).

What keeps you out of trouble?

Tinkering in the shed/backyard, exploring with Dan and the doggies, snow and water skiing and getting into mischief with my brothers.

What would your best friend say is your best habit?

Lover of the spicy kitties!

Favourite...

Lolly: Kinder Surprise

Vegetable: Broccoli

Singer/Band: Bruce Springsteen

Movie: Love Actually

Horse dental essentials!

Horses are cool!

More specifically their teeth are cool - they have **12 incisors** at the front for cutting grass off and **12 premolars and 12 molars** all for chewing!



Horses are designed to be **constantly grazing** which means their teeth are being **constantly worn** down. To allow for this, their **teeth continually grow!** With so much activity in the mouth, issues can develop depending on how the teeth are wearing - we can see **problems** including sharp edges, uneven wearing and plaque buildup. These can cause **pain, problems eating and weight loss, problem behaviours when ridden** with a bit and **health issues**.

To help keep our horses in tip-top condition they need **regular dental checkups** (just like us!)



• Up to the age of 5 years

- Horses are growing adult teeth and losing baby teeth, with **40 teeth erupting** over this period!
- Because of these rapid changes, a dental exam should be performed **every 6 months** during this time to pick up any problems early
- Examination prior to a young horse being started can help prevent pain and problems associated with wearing a bit.

• 6 years - 15 years

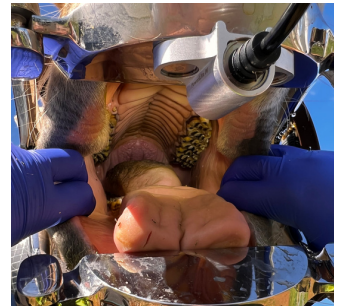
- dental exam should be performed **every 12 months**
- **performance horses** should have a dental exam **every 6 months**

• Over 15 years (senior horses)

- tooth eruption slows down and we see much shorter teeth and sometimes these teeth are lost altogether. These horses may need soft food and additional supportive care.
- dental exam should be performed **every 6 months**
- **early detection** of problems can **extend the working life** of our horses

Dr Lorna has completed an intensive veterinary equine dental course and is our go-to for equine dentistry. Our **dental examinations include:**

- physical examination and health check
- sedation
- complete visual and physical dental exam
- correction of issues with power and hand tools
- written report of all findings
- recommendations for any further treatment
- referral to specialist equine dentists if needed
- reminders set up so you won't forget checkups!



EYE ROLLER

What do sprinters eat before a race?

**Nothing.
They fast.**

