

WINTER 2022



# WANGARATTA VETERINARY CLINIC

## Winter Blues!

Winter in the Wangaratta region usually provides us with a bitter chill and often some rain.

It can be hard to motivate ourselves to get outside and can be difficult for our pets too. Our pets need to continue their exercise for weight control and health reasons but also for enrichment and stimulation. This is where you can get creative!

A few tips to help you keep their exercise up:

- Using coats to keep them warm and/or waterproof jackets.
- Walk when the sun comes out and the ground is less frosty.
- Play time inside or under cover if the weather is particularly adverse.
- Interactive toys for your cat also allows good bonding time.
- Dogs and cats can be trained to walk on a treadmill to keep up their miles!!! Think outside the box. Enrichment and mental stimulation is great for our pets.
- Puzzle toys for feeding (can be as simple as feeding in a muffin tray with tennis balls covering the food) or for cats the "No bowl" feeders.
- Training sessions or playing "find your toy (or family member) are mentally stimulating and reduce boredom and the issues that come with it.
- For many dogs a trip in the car will also provide a change of scenery and some entertainment.
- Agility courses in the backyard/undercover or cubbies made out of cardboard boxes for cats allow exercise and mental stimulation.
- Create scent trails for your pet (using cabana or something else delicious!!) around the undercover areas and leave goodies a long the way.
- Activity balls and Kong food stuffed toys to prevent boredom (remember to make sure these are safe for your pet).

Enjoy what is often a miserable time of year (unless you are a snow bunny!) and remember Spring is just around the corner!

## Jo's Jabber

Well, Winter well has well and truly arrived... and so have some clinic babies!! Courtney welcomed gorgeous Romeo into the world (see pic) and Maddi is due any minute!!

So much is happening with our team - Leesa has headed back west and we have welcomed trainee Claire into our nursing team. Felix and Freya enjoyed 6 weeks away traversing the Nullabor and we had Floss and Amanda helping us out during that time.



We are also excited to announce we are partnering with Sustainable Salons (<https://sustainablesalons.org/>) to reduce our environmental impact and take on the bulk of our recycling. These guys are great - they turn pet (and human) hair into sponges for oil spills, provide employment for people with disabilities and all profits from the sale of recycled products are donated to charities!! We are so excited to be their first ever Vet Clinic partner and hope it will pave the way for other clinics to become more sustainable too. We start our recycling program with them on July 1 (you may notice 'Sustainable Salons' on your invoices from then).

And Adam and I are braving the Gold Coast theme parks with the kids soon - everyone gets to choose one ride that the whole family have to do without argument. Clare is delighting in showing me the scariest rides she can find and none of them were thrilled with my suggestion that my choice will be the teacups. I'll update you next issue if I survive....

## Case of the Quarter

With the help of Warby Street Veterinary Hospital Adam & Jo's mare had surgery to remove a granulosa-theca cell tumour.

Granulosa-theca cell tumours are the most common type of ovarian tumour in horses. They are benign but cause ongoing hormone problems, so the affected ovary is best removed.





## More about Mads!

MADDI - VETERINARY NURSE

**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?**

Man! I Feel Like A Woman - Shania Twain

**If you were an animal, what kind of animal would you be and why?**

A cat - because you just eat and sleep.

**Where is home?**

Wangaratta

**What keeps you out of trouble?**

Chasing after my 2 year old!

**What would your best friend say is your best quality?**

Always giving 100% to anything I'm faced with.

**Pets at home:**

Dachshund - Juni, 2 cats - Harry & Warby, 2 chickens - Dora the Eggsplorer & Hilary Fluff.

**Favourite...**

**Lolly:** Summer Roll

**Vegetable:** Broccoli

**Singer/Band:** Sam Hunt

**Movie:** Dirty Dancing

# Buying & using antibiotics

DR JOANNE WILLIAMS

Have you ever wondered why we need a farm visit to examine your herd or flock **once a year?**

Well, it's because we must fulfil the legal requirements filtering down from both state and federal government.

But enough of the legal mumbo jumbo!

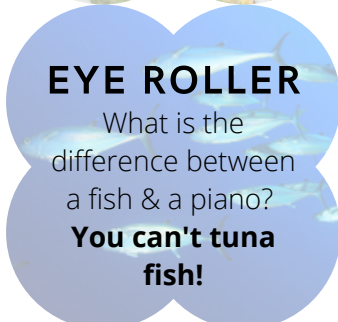
Here are the facts:

- We must have personal, CURRENT knowledge of you, your facilities and your herd/flock health (so unfortunately, sorry, no we can't give you eye ointment for pink eye if we haven't seen your cows for 6 years - even if you yell at us!)
- Examining and treating one species does not cover us for dispensing medication for another species—so if you have our vet out there, it's a great opportunity to discuss your whole farm operation—including all your food producing animals!
- These rules are trying to balance careful use of antibiotics with the practicality of running a herd or flock of large numbers of animals. Our horses, dogs, cats, birds and other companion animals are treated individually (and one day it may become the same for our livestock, so take this seriously!)
- We can do our examination and treatment of your stock at the clinic (eg you can bring a sheep or calf in)
- We cannot dispense medications from a prescription from another vet clinic
- We cannot dispense medication for you to have 'on hand'. It must be for a specific condition and only enough to treat that condition. (This is so we don't have left-over antibiotics sitting around going out of date and possibly used incorrectly which will encourage the development of antibiotic resistance)
- If you are considering treating a condition, never hesitate to call us first to find out which antibiotic we would recommend (eg long acting penicillin is not a great choice for pneumonia or mastitis)
- Follow the directions—treat with the correct amount in the correct way for the full length of time (even if the animal seems better sooner). This helps minimise development of antibiotic resistance and super-bugs.
- Never forget great animal husbandry is a huge help in fighting off infections —good nutrition, good quality water, the opportunity to behave naturally and shelter from the elements go a long way to keeping our stock (and us!) healthy.



## FUN FACT

Dalmatians are born without spots!



## EYE ROLLER

What is the difference between a fish & a piano?

You can't tuna fish!

