

# PAWS TAILS

## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013

### 4 Paws Vet recognised in prestigious award from the University of Sydney

4 Paws Vet is the recipient of the 2013 prestigious Educational Partner of the Year Award for Small Animal Practice. This award recognises supervisors and their fellow staff who have made an outstanding contribution to veterinary education through participation in the University of Sydney's Veterinary Student Internship Program. The award is based upon an analysis of feedback from student interns who attended placement in the past 12 months. Professor Andrew Dart from the Veterinary Faculty at the University of Sydney said, "the awards are tightly contested each year which simply reflects

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the tremendous enthusiasm within our profession for teaching and mentoring undergraduate veterinarians."

Professor Dart informed practice principal, Dr Ian

Russ that, "4 Paws Vet received excellent feedback from our veterinary students which is a direct reflection on you and your staff's commitment to teaching. Congratulations on this, it is a terrific endorsement of your team's mentoring skills."

Dr Russ said he is completely thrilled with this award and praised all of his staff for their hard work which contributed to 4 Paws Vet receiving this award. The award was presented to 4 Paws Vet at

the Partners in Veterinary Education Awards Dinner held recently at the Rydges Hotel in Camperdown.



### Poisonous Plants to look out for this Spring

With the arrival of the warmer months, many pet owners will be donning the gardening gloves and pulling out the tools to start planting the new season's flowers or plants. What most pet owners do not realise, when planting the new garden, is that there are quite a lot of plants that can potentially cause toxicity in animals.

Most cat owners are already aware that many of the Lily species are extremely toxic to cats and can even lead to death. However, often pet owners are not aware that the common plant we use to soothe sunburn and other ailments, the Aloe Vera plant, can be also dangerous to our canine and feline friends.

There are many plant, vegetable and flowers species we commonly grow in our gardens or arrange in our vases, which can be harmful to our beloved pet. Some

examples include daffodils, iris, onions, avocados and tomato plant.

For more information about potentially dangerous plants visit the following websites:

[www.rspcansw.org.au/education/pet\\_care/health/Toxic\\_Plants](http://www.rspcansw.org.au/education/pet_care/health/Toxic_Plants) or  
[http://www.aspca.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro\\_apcc\\_toxicplants](http://www.aspca.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro_apcc_toxicplants)

## **New Laws for Pet Owners who live in apartment blocks**

NSW pet owners will no longer be in the doghouse thanks to changes to strata laws making it easier to keep cats and dogs in apartments. Under the changes people will be allowed to move their pets in with them, with the approval of the owners' corporation. The corporation can refuse permission but it must be "reasonable"

## **Hyperthyroidism in Cats**

Hyperthyroidism is a disease we see commonly in middle age to older cats. Essentially it refers to a disease process where an animal has an overactive thyroid and, as a result, produces too much thyroid hormone. This leads to an excessively fast metabolism.

Often a cat with Hyperthyroidism will display signs such as weight loss, increased appetite and thirst, large amounts of urination, poor coat quality and frequent vomiting. However, not all cats will exhibit these signs. Some cats will also have a heart murmur, high blood pressure or a physically enlarged thyroid gland when clinically examined.

The good news about hyperthyroidism is that there are several options for treatment, and a cat with this disease can live an essentially normal life. The exemption for this is if they are very unlucky and have hyperthyroidism caused by cancer which is much less common.

Treatment is generally in the form of daily medication or, less commonly, some cases

may warrant radioiodine therapy, or even surgery. It is important to also note that the signs of hyperthyroidism can be very similar to other disease processes such as kidney disease and diabetes mellitus so your veterinarian will need to run some tests to tell these diseases apart and confirm the diagnosis before treatment is undertaken.

Please call us and make an appointment if you are at all concerned that your cat may be displaying any of these signs. Without treatment, your cat may be at risk of a serious secondary medical problem such as blindness or kidney damage, both of which can be easily prevented.

## **PETS IN THE CITY NEWS**

### **PERSONALISED COLLARS**

Pets in the City is now taking orders for personalised collars for dogs and cats. Why don't you have your pet's name and your phone number embroidered on a collar and never worry about a lost tag again!!

### **ANOTHER INGENIUS INVENTION!**

The geniuses who helped dog anxiety with the 'thundershirt' have launched another brilliant invention. The 'thunderleash' is a conventional lead which converts in a couple of seconds to an effective 'no-pull' harness (it's dead easy, we promise!). What could be better than a lead and idiot proof harness all in one? FANTASTIC!



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