

Our four legged friends could be doing us the world of good!

A study of pet companionship in Australia has found that owning an animal offers a wide variety of benefits to their owners, from the simple pleasure of making us smile to teaching us about loyalty and unconditional love.

Three-quarters of people surveyed said pets were "crucial" to their happiness, while almost 60% told their animals "I love you." More than half of those surveyed chose to share their beds with their pets each night!

A lot of people believe their pets make them a better person by modelling courage, dependability, tolerance, forgiveness and a lot of other qualities we want to see in ourselves.

Ticked Off!

The mere thought of ticks can send a shiver down the spine of pet owners. This is entirely understandable as **paralysis tick** can rapidly kill an animal.

Ticks are commonly found in long grass or scrub and tend to attach to the head or neck region of the pet, but can be found anywhere on the body. The ticks release a toxin during feeding and have been known to kill dogs within 48 hours.

Thank you for your business and friendship throughout the year. From everyone at 4 Paws Vet and Pets in the City we wish you and your pets a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year

Dog and cat owners need to be especially vigilant at this time of year as ticks thrive in warm and moist conditions. The early warning signs in pets include:

- a visible weakness in the legs, especially the hind legs when walking or standing
- vomiting
- rapid noisy breathing
- coughing, gagging and drooling

If you suspect that your dog is suffering from tick paralysis don't delay, get them in to 4 Paws Vet as soon as possible.

Tick prevention is clearly the best way to approach this serious condition. Owners need to be vigilant in checking their pets EVERY day for ticks. The best way to do this is to feel, not look, for ticks. Start in the common places such as the head and neck, but make sure you look everywhere, including the ears, around the eyes, under the collar, between the toes etc.



The tick on the left is yet to feed on the pet; the one on the right is fully engorged.

Pet owners need to guard against ticks by using a product specifically aimed at killing and repelling ticks. The vets and nurses at 4 Paws Vet will be able to advise you which product is the best one to suit your requirements.

Blocked cats – a true emergency

Male cats can commonly suffer from blockage of the urethra. This blockage is usually caused by uroliths (or small stones) forming in the bladder. These stones (if small enough) can be excreted through the urethra but, sometimes unfortunately, blockage can occur because the stones are too big to pass through. This is intensely painful and, with the bladder overfilling, causes the build of toxins in the body resulting in a very sick cat. If left untreated, the bladder will eventually rupture resulting in disastrous consequences.

Signs of urinary tract blockage include:

- straining trying to pass urine
- frequent visits to the litter tray
- vocalisation
- blood in the urine
- drooling or vomiting
- refusing to eat

If you suspect your cat may be blocked it is very important to contact 4 Paws Vet immediately and seek urgent medical attention.

19 year old local Emily McWilliam, has relocated to rural Thailand to co-found BEES: Burm and Emily's Elephant Sanctuary. The aim of the sanctuary is to retire elderly elephants from the tourist trade and give them a chance to "stop and smell the roses". Currently Emily has two elephants, with plans for more. BEES also has a volunteer program, if you want hands on experience. Come and meet Emily and join in the fun at a fundraising dinner [on Monday 17 December](#) in McMahons Point. For more information please contact Diana (vet nurse) on ddammery@gmail.com or visit Facebook (BEES: Burm and Emily's Elephant Sanctuary)

PETS IN THE CITY NEWS

We've got summer sorted with everything you need to get your pet through the warmer months.....

- **It's the season of the itch!**
Talk to us about the best over the counter remedies for your dogs' summer allergies and skin problems
- **Bang Crash Rumble!**
We can cure your pets' fear of storms and festive fireworks (or get your money back!), Ask us about the amazing Thundershirt.
- **Water water everywhere!**
Check out our range of waterproof collars, our great selection of floating fetch 'n' chew toys and our best selling 'hose down' dog cushions
- **Feline Fine...**
Let your indoor puss enjoy the summer sun safely with our super comfy harness and lead sets. Solve their pesky ant problem with the new, chic ant-proof 'Nom Nom' bowls from Heppers.

Pets in the City has a brand new website – visit us at petsinthecity.com.au

*Stop Press: 4 Paws Vet has just been recognised at the Rotary Club of Neutral Bay's Rotary Awards. 4 Paws Vet received the **Social Responsibility Award** for 2012. Well done to Dr Ian Russ and his wonderful team of vets and nurses.*