



4 Paws Vet

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2013/14

Staff News

- Exciting news! One of our vets, Dr Tanya Soo-Phillips, recently gave birth to a baby boy called Angus. Tanya had worked a busy Saturday at 4 Paws Vet and was due to work the Sunday when she went into labour! Luckily, Ian was able to make the mad dash to get to work on the Sunday instead! Congratulations Tanya!
- More exciting news! Another one of our vets, Dr Natalie Burke, recently married her long-term partner Andy. We wish Natalie and Andy all the best with their future life together!
- Over the summer you will see a couple of new faces in the consulting room at 4 Paws Vet while Tanya, Natalie and Ian take breaks at different times. Dr Heather Russell will be joining us for a summer stint while she is visiting from the UK. Dr Amelia Daymond will also be working for us, mainly at the weekends. We warmly welcome Heather and Amelia!
- We also have two of our regular part-time vets working more frequently over summer – Dr Kirsten Hunt and Dr Kathryn Piper. This means the service you receive at 4 Paws Vet will remain of the highest standard over this period.
- We also welcome our newest staff member, Jeanna Penley. Jeanna is a vet student who will be working as a vet nurse and receptionist at weekends at 4 Paws Vet. Welcome Jeanna!

To keep up to date with all our news, promotions, competitions and special events, visit our website at 4pawsvet.com.au and become part of our 4 Paws Vet community on Facebook.

Our cat boarding facility has been given a face-lift!

The cattery at 4 Paws Vet has recently received a “make-over” courtesy of our receptionist-come interior designer, Ordella! The cat “play room” is now equipped with more interesting decor including ivy, a mirror and more toys, ensuring your cat’s stay at 4 Paws Vet is stimulating and exciting. Why don’t you check it out next time you are in?



On the subject of cats – our new **cat consulting room** is in full swing. Your cat will now enjoy their consultation knowing that their space has not been invaded by doggy smells! Check out this revamped area on your next visit to 4 Paws Vet.

Thank you for your business and friendship throughout 2013. From everyone at 4 Paws Vet and Pets in the City, we wish you and your pets a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2014.

Tips for new pet owners!

If you are reading this article you probably already have a pet or may have had a pet recently. So it might seem like a silly article to have included. But please read on: This article is different.

We all know what mischief and joy new animals can bring to our home. And even though we love seeing our clients and their new family members, we don't really enjoy seeing them injured or sick.

This article outlines some home safety consideration and some ideas which you may not have heard before. They are mostly quirky and fun and because we are scientists the original reasons for using them are well thought out with a lot of history and science backing them up.

Generally speaking a comfortable living space is one which has enough room for all the basic resources of life. This means enough food, water, toileting space, educational/discovery space and social interaction.

How does this translate when introducing a new cat into the home?

PETS IN THE CITY NEWS

- Our Facebook fans get exclusive access to competitions, special offers and freebies. Make sure you like our page so you don't miss out!
- Ho Ho Ho! Buy your pet a beautiful handwoven Xmas stocking and get 10% off EVERYTHING you fill it with (expires Dec 24, 2013)
- Fireworks, summer storms, loud parties – if your dog is still suffering with fear of these events, they needn't be! Talk to us about 'Thundershirts', so effective for canine anxiety they come with a money back guarantee.

Did you know the number of water and litter receptacles is supposed to be one per cat plus one? That means if you have two cats ideally there would be three litter trays and three water bowls dotted around the house. While it might sound excessive, consider how having abundant resources (money, clothes, time and food) makes you feel? It's quite comforting isn't it, to know you have more than enough to survive? Cats are exactly the same.

If you help new cats and long standing cats in the house to feel like there is an abundance of resources there's no need to fight, and they are more likely to get along (unless their personalities just don't match). Similarly, one great way to increase the space in your home is to put up some sturdy floating shelves. You can superglue some carpet to them to create mounting perches for the cats. This can really help in apartment spaces or townhouses.

Another trick is hiding places. We all need "our own room". If you have a studio or one bedroom space, try to partition off some sections with cat tunnels or boxes so the cats can have their own "time-out". This is also a good time to check those weird nooks in the kitchen or cabinetry, where the joiner might not have sealed a space between cupboards. If your cat climbs up in there; WATCH OUT!

Dogs are a little different. Because they get walked more regularly than cats, their sense of social security is usually a lot stronger. As such they struggle over resources like food and bedding. So for every dog in the house have one food bowl per dog plus one or two extra if the look like there might be trouble. We always recommend feeding your pets in different rooms or on different levels. This really helps if they need a diet change due to health reasons, or some calorie control due to metabolic differences.

Dogs are also really sneaky because their social hierarchy is completely environmentally dependant. This means that if you're at home you might be the figure head, but in the park they could team up and you could be defied... practicing consistency in every action will ensure your new pets fit in quickly and become polite family members.

For more great tips on preparing for a new pet, please come in and speak with us at 4 Paws Vet. We make it our mission to help you build healthy relationships with animals. And if we start at the beginning we can help you really understand what your pet needs.