



4 Paws Vet

Newsletter Autumn 2014

Hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing's Disease) in dogs

Hyperadrenocorticism is one of the most common **hormone abnormalities** to affect middle aged to older dogs, in particular Maltese Terriers, but can affect any breed. The disease is the result of **excess production of cortisol** (stress hormone) which has many serious side effects and can cause serious harm to your dog's health.

The most common form of Cushing's disease is caused by a lesion in the **pituitary gland** in the brain, whereas the less common form is caused by a tumour in the **adrenal glands** situated next to the kidneys.

The **symptoms** in each dog vary but the majority of dogs begin to eat and drink lots & simply look as though they are "getting old". The symptoms often include

- Marked increase in water intake and increased urine output
- Ravenous appetite
- Pot belly (distended abdomen)
- Skin disease, scabby skin, chronic skin infections, bruising, hair loss
- Panting
- Becoming lethargic as though they have "no energy"

There are many serious long term **side effects** which are caused by Cushing's disease such as diabetes, pancreatitis, liver failure, cataracts, high blood pressure, kidney disease, systemic infections, chronic skin infections, strokes and osteoporosis.

Diagnosis of Cushing's disease initially involves a screening **blood & urine test** which will help us determine if the disease is present or if there is another illness causing the symptoms. If the initial blood tests suggest Cushing's disease most dogs require **additional blood tests** to confirm the diagnosis and then ascertain if it is pituitary or

adrenal based. Some patients also require an abdominal **ultrasound** for final evaluation. It is important for clients to recognise that this disease is a complicated one which warrants a very thorough and precise evaluation.

Once Cushing's disease is confirmed your dog will begin **treatment** which will be for the rest of its life. The **pituitary** dogs are prescribed a daily **medication** with follow up **blood tests** to monitor the progress of the treatment. Some patients will have their doses altered (just like a diabetic) depending on the response to medications and the test results. The **adrenal** dogs may undergo **surgery** to remove the tumour, if it is indicated, or in some cases be treated medically.

If your dog has any of the above symptoms or you have any questions please contact us at 4 Paws Vet.

Coming soon – All Natural Pet Food from Hills

The Hills Pet Food Company has been hard at work developing a new product called **Ideal Balance**. Ideal balance is a pet food made with all natural ingredients which provides balanced nutrition for your cat, kitten, dog or puppies.

This new range contains high quality natural ingredients including chicken, brown rice and vegetables, just to name a few. 'Ideal balance' contains no corn, wheat, soy; or artificial colours or preservatives and thus is perfect for those of us looking for an all natural diet for our pets.

'Ideal Balance' will be available at 4 Paws Vet soon, so why not come in and chat to our staff about this exciting new range.

Match the 4 Paws Vet or Pets in the City staff member with their cat and WIN!!

Every month, during autumn, 4 Paws Vet and Pets in the City are holding a guessing competition and giving away some fabulous prizes for your cat (see below). Entering is simple - all you need to do is go to the Facebook page of either 4 Paws Vet or Pets in the City and follow four simple steps:

1. Like our Facebook page (if you haven't already)
2. Like and share this post
3. Start guessing
4. Private message or email us your answers at vets@4pawsvet.com.au

The idea is to match each staff member pictured opposite with their cat. At the end of each month, all the correct answers (or nearest correct) will go into a hat and the lucky person pulled out will be notified.

Fabulous prizes to be won!

The prizes on offer for this competition are a FREE nights stay in the luxury cat accommodation* at 4 Paws Vet (*excludes peak periods) plus a free nail clip and 3 months supply of Advocate for your cat. Pets in the City is donating a large pack of super delicious Bonito Flakes and a fantastic cat scratching lounge (see picture below). The lounge is a staff cat favourite here at 4 Paws Vet and Pets in the City.



 Natalie	 Ian	 Josie	Which Cat?
 Hayley	 Charlotte	 Tanya	

 Kenny	 Satsuki	 Nadia	Whose Cat?
 Bella	 Linus	 Gladys	

Pets in the City News!

Incredibowl – ‘oodles and long eared dogs rejoice – there is now a range of silicon bowls that allow you to eat and drink without dipping your ears at the same time! Priced from \$25.00

Fat cats – we have a way of keeping you entertained while you work off a little excess weight! The ‘Catmosphere’ slowly dispenses your kibble as you chase it around the room, exercising body and mind!