

Gilbert St Gossip

Kitty Clinic



Have you heard the great news...
Carolyn will be running a Kitty Clinic on Thursday mornings.

We are passionate about providing the best experience possible for the Kittie's who come to visit. We appreciate that it is very stressful for cats to be in the waiting room when there are big, bouncy, noisy dogs at the same time.

We often find that by the time cats get to the consulting room they are totally stressed - they have been shoved in a carrier, put in the car and then forced to sit next to a dog! In an attempt to make veterinary visits more relaxing, we now have a dedicated Kitty Clinic on Thursday mornings between 8.30am and 10.30am with Dr Carolyn.

Rabbit Calicivirus - new strain

A new strain of Rabbit Calicivirus (RHDV2) is spreading across Australia with confirmed cases in Paruna and Murray Bridge. This new virus strain is distinct from RHDV1, which was released in Australia in 1996 for the control of wild rabbits.

The impact on pet rabbits and rabbit farms is high and it can cause death in young kittens (3-4 weeks) and a proportion of vaccinated adults.

The current vaccine for rabbit calicivirus is not fully protective against RHDV2. However, keeping domestic or pet rabbits' vaccinations up to date is recommended to provide the maximum possible protection against this new strain. While an updated vaccine is being developed in Europe, a revised vaccination protocol may be warranted for kittens, using the vaccine currently available in Australia. The suggested off-label regime is: vaccinate kittens at 4 weeks, then at 8 weeks, and again at 12 weeks or later, followed by yearly vaccinations. For breeding adults, a six monthly booster is recommended.



Does your pet have a broken heart?...



Our focus this month is on Heart Health, something which is just as important for our pets as it is for us. Just like people, a heart that is not working well will impact on your pet's health significantly. We are offering **FREE** Broken Heart Checks with Dr Sarah during February. If you would like your dog or cat (or both!) to have a Heart Health check please call the clinic on 85821344 and make an appointment.

What is SRR?

SRR refers to your pet's Sleeping Respiratory Rate. The SRR is a very useful tool in recognising the onset of or monitoring left sided congestive heart failure (CHF) in both dogs and cats.

How to monitor Sleeping Respiratory Rate!

The good news is you can easily perform this test at home! The measurement should be done when your pet is asleep in a normal environment (not too cold, not too hot). Repeat the measurement over 2-3 days (to get a baseline variation), and then ongoing monitoring should happen once or twice a week. Normal SRR in dogs and cats is less than 30 breaths per minute, often in the high teens or low 20s. If your pet has an underlying heart disease and their SRR is consistently greater than 30 breaths per minute, your pet could be developing CHF.

If you are concerned about your pet it's best to arrange a check up with us as soon as possible.

Visit : www.healthyheartsfordogs.com.au for more information.

Patient of the Month



Turbo presented to our clinic in great distress – he was completely paralysed from a snake bite that he sustained the night before. He was seen immediately by Dr Carolyn and then admitted for hospitalisation. Over the next 3 days he stayed in hospital on fluids with round the clock nursing care, waiting for the effects of the toxins to subside.

His condition improved slowly. There was not much movement in the first 2 days, other than occasional kick of his leg when his temperature was being taken. Turbo finally started to move more on the third day – he would lift his head up every now and then. Best of all, he started to swallow and was able to be syringe fed some food and water.

Turbo was discharged in the afternoon that day and continued to recover at home. He started moving more once he was at home and soon made a full recovery. He came back for a recheck one week later and was a completely different cat. He was back to his normal self, purring and exploring the consult room like a very happy cat.

