

# Gilbert St Gossip

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## million paws walk

Million Paws walk is just around the corner - Sunday 15th May. The walk will start at the Martin's Bend picnic grounds in Berri, with registration from 9.30am. The walk will commence at 10.am with activities to follow.

Million Paws Walk is a great day out for the whole family – particularly the four-legged ones!



It's a healthy way to get out and about with the people in your community, whilst raising much-needed funds for animal welfare. And it's not just about the walk: there is also food, raffles and other activities during the morning. Even those without pooches are encouraged to join in the fun!

Million Paws Walk isn't just a regular walk. It's a walk that helps fight animal cruelty. And the RSPCA's largest fund-raising event of the year will turn an incredible 22 years old in 2016.

We have some awesome raffle prizes this year, so drop into RivaPetz Pet Care for your lucky tickets.

## where's my sock?

This is a tale about a missing sock. The sock was long, red and very smelly and one afternoon it went missing from a footy bag. The next day, Jake, the well-loved and playful labrador started to look a bit 'off'. He was quieter than usual and didn't want to eat his breakfast. This is very unusual behaviour for a labrador, a breed often referred to as vacuum cleaners!



After a rather large vomit, a visit to the vet was in order. Examination revealed some tummy pain and x-rays were taken showing a large amount of gas and food in the stomach. Suddenly there was a suspicion that something was stuck in Jake's stomach. As time was ticking by, Jake became more and more unwell so the decision was made to perform surgery to open Jake's stomach and sure enough, the sock was found!

### Watch out for:

Vomiting      Lethargy      Loss of appetite      Abdominal discomfort

Diagnosis can be a bit difficult as not all items show up on x-ray and if the obstruction is left too long, areas of the gut can become unhealthy and require extensive surgery. Early intervention and treatment is essential to ensure a good outcome.

**If you are worried your pet might have eaten something out of the ordinary you should call us for advice.**

## my pet is vomiting should i be worried?



There are many reasons your pet might vomit, and physical obstruction from eating a sock is just one of them! Diseases such as pancreatitis, liver or kidney disease, or endocrine diseases like diabetes can all produce vomiting. Dogs and cats can also suffer from inflammatory bowel disease and may vomit intermittently or have periods of severe gastrointestinal upsets associated with the condition.

### So if your pet is vomiting, what should you do and when should you start to worry?

As a guide, if your pet has had a one off vomit but appears happy, bright and alert and otherwise well you should keep a close eye on him over the next 24 hours. It's best to withhold food for a few hours (gastric rest) and offer fluids for rehydration. Feeding a bland diet (steamed chicken and rice) for a few days may be all that is needed.

If your pet has vomited more than once in a short period of time, seems quiet and lethargic or has a reduced appetite or diarrhoea you should call us for advice.

Pets who are chronic (long term) vomiters or are losing weight should also have a check up to rule out other diseases.

**If you ever have a hunch that something's not quite right with your pet, you should phone us. We are always happy to examine your pet for peace of mind.**

## patient of the



## month

Emma is a delightful 8 year old Australian Cattle Dog Cross. She has led a happy and healthy life since being adopted from a shelter years ago. A month ago she was suddenly not her happy, bouncy self, and was seen to be bleeding from the vulva. She was brought into the clinic straight away.

One of the diseases that is not uncommon in older female unsexed dogs is pyometra. This is seen after she has been in heat. The uterus becomes infected and fills up with pus, which is as bad as it sounds. The dog can become very ill with toxins in the blood, and there is a risk of the uterus rupturing. Pyometra is a life-threatening emergency.

Emma had surgery the following day. The surgery is very different than a standard desexing, because the dog is very ill, and the tissues are fragile and infected. It is a high risk surgery. Thankfully Emma's surgery was a success. She went home the day after and was feeling so good that she trotted out wagging her tail and tried to jump into the car!!! Once home, however, she refused to eat despite recovering really well from the anaesthetic and the surgery. This was a concern because she lost 2kg quickly. Emma was kept separated from the other dog at home for her recovery because she needed to be kept quiet, but she really pined for the other dog. Once they were

