

# Gilbert St Gossip



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## Patient of the Month



### Visitors of the 2 Legged Kind!

Recently, the Our Lady of the River's Reception class community inquiry, took them to RivaPetz.

The 13 students, pretending to be patients, were checked in by Jaymee and

had fun being weighed on the large scales and using their clipboards. Mary, using her teaching skills, gave them a tour of the clinic and then spent time in the cattery where they met the boarders. Toffee, Dr Jenni's furry companion, had a great time meeting and playing with all the children. Dr Jenni displayed Toffee receiving a health check and stressed the importance of brushing your teeth amongst other things. Thanks to Bec for making up the goodie bags which they all enjoyed.

It was a terrific visit!

*"Thank you to Jaymee, Mary and Dr. Jenni. Thank you for spoiling us with our goodie bags. We discovered that the friendly staff at Rivapetz Pet Care, not only care for pets, but they take very good care of people as well. We can not thank you enough." Rosie Perre, Our Lady of the River Reception teacher.*

### Vomiting and diarrhoea and when to see us!

**Vomiting and diarrhoea** are two words most people don't want to talk about, let alone have to deal with when it comes to their pet. Thankfully, we have a summary of what you need to know so you don't have to dwell on these words for too long!

Most dogs and cats suffer from either (or both) of these at some point in their life. A common cause is 'dietary indiscretion' which is just our way of saying your pet ate something he shouldn't.

If your pet has a vomit or a bout of diarrhoea you should withhold food for a few hours (gastric rest), offer fluids for rehydration and feed a bland diet for a few days. After this, your pet will most likely recover without a problem.

Unfortunately there are times when vomiting and diarrhoea become a little more serious and that's when you need to call on us.

#### You should seek advice if your pet:

- Vomits more than once
  - Has multiple bouts of diarrhoea
  - Seems lethargic or is off his food
  - Might have ingested something he shouldn't
  - Has been losing weight recently
- If you have a puppy or a kitten with diarrhoea or vomiting we recommend you get them checked with us no matter what as their little bodies don't have much reserve and they can go downhill very quickly.



It's best to ask us for advice if you are concerned about your pet. We might not be able to clean your carpet but we can help put your mind to rest!



Pretty Boy is a beautiful Alexandrina parrot. He was adopted when his original owner could no longer keep him, and after a few weeks of grumpiness he fell in love with his new owner. He is doted upon and is very happy at home, but he is an escape artist. He just wants to see the world! Unfortunately the world is not always safe, and it is far better for Pretty Boy to stay in his own house and his own back yard.

He needs to have his flight restricted to keep him safe. He gets the flight feathers on one of his wings clipped. This means that he can still fly well enough to land safely from a height, but cannot fly up high to escape the back yard!

Pretty Boy handles his wing clips really well with his owner holding him still and talking to him. This is really helpful, considering the size of his beak!



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## What you need to know about pancreatitis!

Pancreatitis is a painful and potentially life threatening condition and requires veterinary attention as soon as possible.

The pancreas releases enzymes to help digestion. These enzymes usually don't start to work until they reach the small intestine but if a dog has pancreatitis, these enzymes become active as soon as they are released. This causes inflammation to the surrounding tissue and organs. In severe cases, the enzymes start to digest the pancreas itself causing extreme pain.

Knowing the signs can enable us to start treatment quickly and effectively and help reduce the severity of the condition.

### Watch out for:

Hunched back

Vomiting

Lethargy

Appears uncomfortable or bloated in abdomen

Diarrhoea

Not wanting to eat

A high-fat diet is a major cause of pancreatitis, especially for a dog who gets a large helping of fatty food in one sitting (such as human left overs or a rich marrow bone).

Obesity, hypothyroidism, diabetes and certain medications or other toxins can also predispose a dog to pancreatitis. Some breeds such as miniature schnauzers are also more susceptible indicating there may be a genetic component.

Treatment involves intensive fluid therapy, anti vomiting drugs, gastric rest and then reintroduction of a low fat food, often for life. A dog that has had a bout of pancreatitis is much more susceptible to repeat attacks in the future so diet management is essential.



## Can my dog eat that?

Are you aware of some of the potential doggy dangers out there? We've compiled a quick list for you below.

This list is not complete and these are just a few of the hazards we find people forget about or are not aware of.

**Grapes, sultanas and raisins:** induce kidney failure in some dogs

**Macadamia nuts:** cause weakness, vomiting and diarrhoea

**Avocados:** lead to a stomach upset and the pip can also cause an obstruction if ingested

**Onions, leeks, garlic and chives:** ingestion leads to destruction of red blood cells

**Chewing gum:** contains Xylitol and this can cause weakness and seizures

**Apricot, cherry and peach pips and apple seeds:** contain cyanide and may cause poisoning

**Corn on the cob:** the corn might be digested, but the cob may lodge in the small intestine causing a blockage

**Chocolate:** you've probably heard this before, but remember chocolate is toxic to dogs and ingestion of just a small amount can be fatal - cooking chocolate and dark chocolate are the most dangerous

**Rodent bait:** can lead to blood clotting problems 3-14 days after ingestion

**Snail bait:** can cause seizures and even death

**Stockings, undies, socks:** are all attractive to dogs and can cause a nasty intestinal obstruction

*If you think your dog might have ingested something that's on this list you should seek veterinary advice immediately.*

