

# Gilbert St Gossip



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## Is your Pet Boarding over Christmas Holidays!

If your pet is boarding over the holiday period and isn't up to date with his vaccinations now is the time to get things in order.

Most boarding facilities require cats to have a minimum of a F3 vaccination and dogs a C5 vaccination but it's best to check with the facility your pet is booked in with now - before it's too late! Sometimes a booster vaccination may be required 4 weeks later to ensure full protection.

Now is a good time to start looking for that "Happy Haven" for your pets if you are thinking about going away this Christmas. The best pet boarding and pet sitters have a raft of regular clientele that will generally get in early to secure their spot, so don't let fluffy be left out of the party fun this season by booking early whilst minimising stress with the lead up to the busy holiday season.

Don't forget to take your pet's vaccination certificate with you when you admit your pet for boarding. Worming and flea control must be given prior to admission.

**We are more than happy to discuss what your pet needs so call us today to prevent any extra Christmas stress!**



## Patient of the Month

Murray is a lovely senior retriever who came into our clinic last month for his regular grooming. His owner also noticed that Murray has been licking at a lump on his leg and they wanted it checked out as well. Because Murray had been licking at the lump, making a large area of skin very red and sore, it was hard to tell what the lump really was.

He was given anti-inflammatories and antibiotics, to settle the skin and clear up the infection. The area was also bandaged to stop Murray licking it any further. At his recheck appointment the infection had cleared up and the skin was looking healthy, but the lump was still present. Murray's owners agreed to getting a biopsy of the lump and having it sent off to the lab for analysis.

The biopsy procedure went smoothly and Murray recovered well. His results came back recently, which reveal that the lump was a benign skin tumour, common in older dogs, and very prone to being licked and getting infected. This was great news for his owners, who were concerned that it was something nasty. They are still considering whether to have the lump surgically removed or not.

## Vaccination Reminder

**Our top reasons for vaccinating are as follows:**

1. Vaccinations protect against **preventable diseases**.
2. Vaccinations are substantially **less expensive** than the cost of treatment for the diseases they protect against.
3. Vaccinations protect your pet from **transmissible diseases** in boarding facilities, at parks and even when they visit us (if your pet has to be

hospitalised for any illness, their immune system may already be compromised so you want to make sure they are protected, otherwise they may have to stay in isolation)

Your pet's health, lifestyle and where you live may affect which vaccinations are necessary and we will determine the most appropriate vaccination program for your pet.

***If you have any questions about vaccinations please ask us for the most up to date information. We are more than happy to discuss what your pet needs and why, so call us today.***

## The Silent Disease

We often refer to kidney disease as the silent killer as it can sneak up on your pet and signs may be subtle and hard to notice. This type of kidney disease is referred to as chronic kidney disease and is something we may detect in an older cat.

In other cases, kidney disease can come on quickly following an insult from a toxin, a certain drug or a disease. This is referred to as acute kidney disease and might for example occur in a dog who has eaten grapes or sultanas that contain a kidney toxin.

The kidneys contain thousands of little factories called nephrons and their job is to work out how much water should be conserved in the body. Once damaged or destroyed, nephrons do not function properly and can't regenerate. As a result, the body doesn't conserve enough water so your pet will urinate more and will drink more to stay hydrated. Surprisingly, your pet may not show any changes on blood tests until 75% of these nephrons are damaged.

**Signs to watch out for:** increased thirst, increased urination, weight loss, vomiting and lethargy

Measuring your pet's water intake over 24 hours and bringing us a morning urine sample are two things you can do to get the investigation process started. A blood test, urine testing and a measure of your pet's blood pressure may then be necessary. If we detect the kidneys are not working properly, the earlier we initiate treatment with diet modification the better.

There is also now a new medication available that can help reduce protein loss through the kidneys and can help slow the progress of this insidious disease. Ask us if your pet requires this medication.

***If you are worried about your pet you should phone us for advice.***

