

Gilbert St Gossip

celebrating a new year...

As 2015 zoomed past at an amazing rate, we now welcome 2016 and wish everyone a Happy and Successful year ahead.

As you are planning your New Years resolutions, please keep in mind resolutions to help your pet have their happiest and healthiest year yet. Prevention is always a great way to keep your pet healthy, so come and ask us if you need a parasite prevention or wellness plan. On the hot days all our pets can suffer from heat stress. It is important in this hot weather to make sure your pets have access to plenty of

water and shade, make sure their water bowl is in the shade all day and it is not a stainless steel container, which can heat up very quickly. If your dog is very active and needs to be walked, take him out very early in the morning for a walk or better yet a swim. Make sure he has cooled down properly before you leave him again. If it is too hot for you to go for a walk in bare feet - then it is also too hot for your dog to go for a walk.

Stay cool,

Jenni, Carolyn, Sarah, Bec, Paige, Helen, Sharon & Mary.

what to do if your pet feels the heat

Our pets can't sweat all over their bodies like humans can. They rely on panting to get rid of the hot air and only produce a small amount of sweat through their footpads. This makes them **extremely susceptible to heat exhaustion** in hot and humid conditions. Heat exhaustion can be particularly dangerous and even fatal so it's important to be able to recognise the signs and know what to do.

Watch out for:

- Excessive panting
- Exaggerated and noisy panting
- Lethargy
- Drooling
- Weakness or collapse
- Vomiting

What to do if you suspect heat exhaustion:

Bring your pet to us immediately (or seek emergency veterinary care). On your way here you can cool your pet by applying wet towels to hairless parts of your pet's body (groins or paws).

Place your pet in front of the air conditioner or a fan while you are in the car.

If you are **ever** worried about your pet in the heat call us for advice.

snakes about!

Dogs and cats are curious creatures and at this time of year they can sometimes be found harassing a snake.

Different species of snakes possess different types of venom so if your pet is bitten, signs can appear anywhere from 15 minutes to 24 hours after a bite.

The early signs of snake bite include:

- Enlarged pupils
- Salivation
- Vomiting
- Hind limb weakness
- Rapid breathing

How can you help your pet survive a snake bite?

Seek veterinary attention immediately.

Keep your pet as STILL AS POSSIBLE - this is critical to help reduce movement of the venom around the body.

Try to keep the bite site below the level of the heart and remove your pet's collar.

Even if you only **suspect** your pet has been bitten by a snake you should see a vet. **It is better that your pet is checked over rather than wait and be sorry.**

DO NOT try treatment options such as cold packs, ice, tourniquets, alcohol, bleeding the wound and trying to suck out venom in place of getting your pet to the vet - they are a waste of VERY precious time.

Please never attempt to kill, handle or capture the snake - you could also end up getting bitten.



Hachi's thick coat has made it challenging to handle the Riverland heat this summer. He has been having hotspots (Pyotraumatic Dermatitis) every now and then throughout the year, but now that Summer is here the hotspots have become unbearable. To help resolve the problem Hachi was admitted to hospital for a full body clip (Something had to be done to combat Hachi's problem once and for all - by having his thick coat off completely!) We were very surprised by the state of Hachi's skin underneath all the fur - there were hotspots almost everywhere - on his tail, legs, back and chest. As he was clipped, all the hotspots were cleaned and scrubbed thoroughly with diluted anti-septic solution to get rid of all the dirt and bacteria on the skin surface. Hachi was then set home with medication, shampoo and cream to help the hotspots heal. Even though he looked completely different, Hachi was feeling much cooler and more comfortable without his coat. He is now also on flea prevention, which is very a important part in preventing further occurrence of hotspots. Hachi will definitely be keeping his cool this summer!

