

Gilbert St Gossip

Happy & Healthy Senior Pets!



As the weather cools down remember too look after your fur kids.

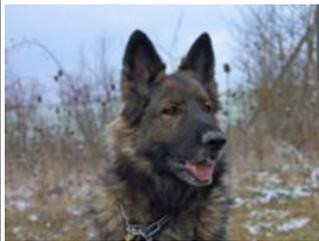
With the colder weather increasing. The icy, rainy nights and foggy, cold mornings becoming a regular event, it is certainly time to assess whether your pet's have appropriate protection from the weather. There are so many options for bedding, housing and rugging your pets. As vets

we are often asked how best to manage pets in winter, particularly our seniors!

Winter tips for the oldies:

- Create a warm haven where your older pet can curl up and avoid draughty areas.
- Elevate their bed off the cold floor, and provide extra bedding, Options are endless!.
- Maintain your pet's health and fitness by providing regular low impact exercise

If you believe your pet is in pain, ask us for veterinary advice. Advancements in veterinary medicine make treatment of age related disease very effective.



FREE Senior Checks!

SENIOR PETS NEED SPECIAL CARE- "The Winter Chills make us Creak and ACHE!"

Older pets in particular are susceptible to chilly temperatures and you may notice reduced activity and more time spent by the heater. This may be a sign of the pain of osteoarthritis.

We recommend six monthly senior pet checks.

During the month of June we are offering FREE SENIORS CHECKS with our wonderful nurses. Often our pets hide their health problems from us, particularly cats, so the nurses have some checklists that they can run through with you to help assess your pet.

Managing an older pet can make a significant difference to our pet's quality of life, and there are many options available for management. Our nurses are able to go through the available options with you and discuss the best solution for your dog or cat.

Please call us on 8582 1344 to make an appointment for your FREE Seniors Check.

Helping your senior pet!

Caring for a senior pet is an important job and your furry friends are relying on you to guide them through their twilight years.

Here are our top three tips for senior care:

1. Keep your eyes open for changes in behaviour, weight, appetite, thirst and urination. The presence of a cough, a change in sleeping habits, stiff joints, a new lump and accidents around the house can all be a sign of underlying illness. Instead of putting these changes down to 'getting old' arrange a check up with us.

2. Choose a premium diet suitable for a mature pet. These help to maintain ideal body condition and will improve longevity. Ask us for a specific recommendation for your pet.

3. As mentioned above, **a regular health check** (ideally every 6 months) is absolutely essential for your ageing pet. Your pet can experience significant changes in a single year (equivalent to 6-8 human years). A veterinary examination will allow us to pick up on any issues as soon as possible and start treatment if necessary. *Phone us if you have any questions about your senior pet, as we will always be able to give you the best advice.*



Patient of the Month—Morgan



From time to time our clinic gets to see some of our Native Australian animals such as this young Joey. He was found one evening on the road close to his mother who had been hit by a passing motorist.

Luckily for him he came into the hands of someone with experience in raising joeys, Helen, and had the necessary equipment and know how. Helen was reluctant to name him at the time and would only do so if he survived the first 48 hours. The joey was dehydrated and quickly received hourly feeds from a bottle, about 20mls at a time.

He visited the clinic the next day where we estimated him to be about 4 months old. He had a few fleas and some small bleeding spots which seemed to have closed over.

A week later and this little joey, now named Morgan because he was found in Morgan, is doing very well. Helen reports that Morgan is doing everything a joey should be doing!

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Million Paws Walk - Review 2017



A HUGE Thank you to everyone to came to the RSPCA Million Paws Walk for 2017.

The 2017 RSPCA Million Paws Walk was a glorious day of sunshine at Martins Bend in Berri.

It attracted a number of new faces along with some regulars. We have been holding walks to raise money for the RSPCA since 2004. If you would like to continue supporting the RSPCA please drop in your donation to RivaPetz Pet Care.

Thank you once again to the Riverland Dog Obedience and Training Club for bringing the agility equipment. It is always a great opportunity for the dogs to have a go and learn new things. Also to the Sing Australia Riverland Group for providing a beautiful morning tea and the RivaPetz Team for hosting a fantastic event.

Great photos of the event were taken by Grant and are available on Grant Schwartzkopff's and the RivaPetz Pet Care Facebook pages.

Remember to check out the times for the next walk in May 2018.

Is Your Pet a Senior Citizen?



Is your pet starting to age a little?

Did you know that cats and dogs are considered senior citizens after the age around 8 years? As they reach their golden years there are a few things you need to watch out for.

Obvious changes might include:

forgetting toilet training
hearing loss
stiff legs
weight loss or gain

It's crucial to arrange more regular check ups with us during these senior years.

We will monitor your pet closely for:

sore joints
new lumps
dental disease
vision changes
heart changes



We may also suggest blood tests, urine tests and blood pressure measurements to make sure your pet's organs are all healthy. Diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and arthritis can be successfully managed if detected early.

Ask us for more information about keeping your senior pet happy and healthy.