

Gilbert St Gossip

Patient of the Month



Farewell—Helen's Desk!

I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye to all the amazing, wonderful, kind, compassionate caring people I have met during my time at RivaPetz Pet Care.

I am going to miss catching up with you during appointments, staff meetings or bumping into you in the various Riverland towns.

Please give all your fur babies a special goodbye cuddle from me. I wish you all the best and maybe I'll bump into you again.



Easter Bunny Alert!

As the Easter Bunny gears up to make his deliveries, it is our job to remind you keep ALL chocolate out of paw's reach. Our canine friends are specifically designed to seek out any morsel of chocolate - big or small, wrapped or unwrapped!



The problem is, chocolate contains a derivative of caffeine called theobromine and dogs have trouble digesting this ingredient. Scarily, theobromine ingestion can be fatal in some dogs. Watch out for:-

- Hyperactivity ·
- Tremors, panting and a racing heart ·
- Vomiting and diarrhoea ·
- Seizures

As a general rule, the darker the chocolate, the more toxic it is - but if your dog finds your Easter egg stash, it's best to call us immediately as ANY amount of ANY type of chocolate (white and milk included) can cause a problem.

In most cases, if we are able to make your dog vomit we can prevent any nasty follow on effects. Don't forget: sultanas and raisins can cause acute kidney failure in dogs so you'll also need to keep hot cross buns off their menu this Easter.

If you are worried about your pet this Easter you should ask us for advice.



Smudge is a lovely little kitten. He presented at Rivapetz when he was just 8 weeks old, with a closed-over eye. It was thought that he had a simple infection.

Once the eye-lids were prised apart it was seen that his eye has sustained a serious traumatic injury. It was so badly affected that the only treatment available was to remove the eye. What a start in life for a kitten!

Smudge proved to be a real little trooper. He had surgery the same day, and his damaged eye was removed. Despite being so young, he coped with everything really well. and that evening went home to a very relieved family for some TLC.

Since then, Smudge has made a steady recovery. He is a playful as any happy kitten, is developing normally, and is adapting well to life with one eye. He is a picture of resilience!

Gilbert St Gossip

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 3
MARCH 2017

Cushing's—Case Study!

Jimmy is a 9 year old Maltese cross. This boisterous little man was thirstier than normal and had suddenly started to wee in the house. His owners noticed he had a bit of a pot belly but had put this down to Jimmy getting older. A veterinary examination was just what the doctor ordered and blood and urine testing revealed that Jimmy had an endocrine disorder known as Cushing's disease



Cushing's is a common endocrine disease seen in dogs. It is slow and progressive and is caused by the overproduction of the stress hormone cortisol.

Cortisol is a normal hormone produced by the adrenal gland and is essential for normal body function. However in some animals this gland produces too much cortisol and this can have a serious impact on your pet's quality of life.

Sometimes Cushing's can be caused by an external source of cortisol, such as the long term administration of cortisone.

Common symptoms of Cushing's disease include:

- Excessive thirst, appetite and urination
- Pot belly
- Skin problems, thin skin and hair loss
- Heat intolerance and excessive panting
- Lethargy

Jimmy has now commenced daily medication and requires close and careful monitoring but he is thankfully doing very well.

This is just another reason why we need to perform regular health checks on your pet. If we are able to detect and commence treatment early we can slow the progression of diseases and help your pet live a longer and healthier life. If you have any concerns about your pet, please call us to arrange a check up.

Rat bait ingestion—what you need to know!

The poison used to kill rats and mice interferes with blood clotting. These products are just as toxic to dogs and cats, and alarmingly your pets may even seek these poisons out.

What to do if your pet finds rat bait:

If you know that your pet has eaten rat bait, have them checked a vet as soon as possible. If seen immediately, your pet can be made to vomit which reduces toxin absorption. Sometimes blood tests, or administration of an antidote may be necessary.

If your pet is showing signs of bleeding, they may require supportive care, transfusion of blood products and the antidote.

Clinical signs are usually present anywhere from 1 to 7 days after ingestion (depending on type and amount of poison ingested).

How to know if your pet has eaten rat bait:

- Your pet may be quiet or lethargic
- A cough or breathing problems (if they bleed into the lungs)
- They may collapse
- Sometimes there will be visible signs of bleeding (in urine, nose bleeds)

If you think your pet might have eaten rat bait, please phone us immediately for advice.

