

# Gilbert St Gossip

## Merry Christmas

Thank you for sharing your family with us during 2016 - we love seeing you and your pets and treasure the moments you bring to our lives at RivaPetz Pet Care.

Give your pet lots of attention and cuddles over Christmas - it is a crazy time and your pet will pick up on this. Make sure you plan some fun pet activities on Christmas Day, give them a new toy or special treats to keep them occupied. We have some great treats and toys - ask us for ideas. RivaPetz Pet Care will be open the following hours over the Christmas period:

Christmas Day and Boxing Day - closed

December 27th - closed

December 28th - 8.30-5.30pm

December 29th - 8.30-5.30pm

December 30th - 8.30-5.30pm

December 31st - 8.30-11.30am

January 1st - closed

January 2nd - closed

Normal opening hours will resume on January 3rd, 2017



**We wish you all a joyful Christmas season - both your 4 legged and 2 legged family members - and we look forward to seeing you in 2017.**  
**Jenni, Carolyn, Sarah, Helen, Sharon, Bec, Paige & Mary**

## Patient of the Month



Stumpy is a sweet little young adult maltese cross. She became suddenly ill, and was miserable with vomiting and diarrhoea. As she was unvaccinated, one of the likely causes was parvovirus infection, so a test was performed straight away. It was positive.

Parvovirus is very common in the Riverland, especially among the unvaccinated dog population. We usually see it in puppies and young dogs, but we have also seen it in mature unvaccinated dogs as well. Affected puppies and dogs get severe gastroenteritis, and the fluid and blood loss from the body can be fatal.

Supportive treatment in hospital provides the best chance of survival, but even with aggressive treatment, some dogs die.

Stumpy was admitted into hospital for treatment. She received continuous intravenous fluids to prevent dehydration, and injections of medications to reduce nausea, control bacterial infection and relieve pain. She was also kept in isolation, and monitored around the clock.

After being in hospital for 2 days, she was utterly fed up with being confined, and prodded and poked and cleaned up every hour. BUT she was feeling a lot better and she started to eat!! This is always a good sign in any ill animal, and it makes the nurses really happy!

Stumpy went home and has continued to do well. She will come back in a few weeks to be re-checked and have a vaccination.

## Keep your pet safe this Christmas

It's fun to involve your pet in the Christmas and New Year celebrations so here are our top tips on how to keep them safe.

### Paws off the following

Chocolate, grapes, raisins and sultanas are poisonous to dogs. Always keep your pets away from the Christmas table (Christmas ham is very attractive) and secure the lids on rubbish bins. Christmas cake is definitely off limits and please don't leave edible gifts under the tree! Remember that cats should be kept away from the sweet-smelling Christmas lilies as these can cause kidney failure even if just a small amount of the plant is ingested.

### Leave leftovers off the menu

Don't be tempted to feed your pet leftovers - most are too fatty for our pets and can cause upset tummies and nasty episodes of painful pancreatitis. Never feed cooked bones and watch out for skewered meat that falls from the BBQ.

### O Christmas tree

Secure your Christmas tree so it doesn't tip or fall. Don't let your pet access tree water and keep any wires and batteries out of paws' reach. Tinsel and Christmas lights: Kitties love these sparkly "toys" but if swallowed they can lead to an obstructed digestive tract.

### Fear the fireworks

If you know fireworks are scheduled, plan ahead. Keep your dog indoors and put him in a room with a television or radio turned up. If possible have a family member stay with him during the fireworks. Make sure all windows closed and all exits secure (including your doggie door). Speak to us if you are concerned about your dog's firework anxiety, as we will be able to offer you some more helpful advice.



## Watch out, snakes about!

There are already plenty of snakes about so we are asking our clients to be extra vigilant.

Different species of snakes possess different types of venom and these can cause varying symptoms that appear *anywhere from 15 minutes to 24 hours after a bite*.

**Early signs might include:** Salivation (drooling); Enlarged pupils; Vomiting  
Hind limb weakness; Rapid breathing; Depression

### How you can help your pet survive a snake bite:

Seek veterinary attention immediately, even if you only suspect your pet has been bitten. It is better that your pet is checked over rather than wait and be sorry.

If your pet has been bitten on the neck remove his collar  
Keep your pet quiet and still - this is critical to help reduce movement of the venom around the body

**Do not** attempt treatment options such as cold packs, ice, tourniquets, alcohol, bleeding the wound or trying to suck out venom in place of getting your pet to the vet - *they are a waste of precious time.*

**NEVER attempt to kill, handle or capture the snake as you risk being bitten too.**

