

# Gilbert St Gossip



## Celebrating a New Year...

As we start our New Year we would like to celebrate all our amazing patients and acknowledge that they are all special pets to their family's and hope they all stay healthy and happy during 2017.

On a sad note, we will be farewelling one of our veterinarians, Dr Sarah Zhang at the beginning of January. Sarah has been an awesome part of the RivaPetz Team for the last two years.

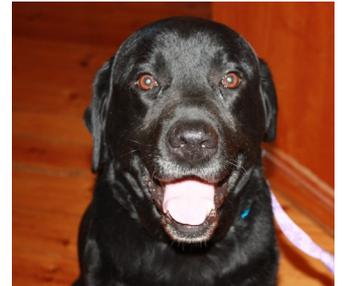
We wish Sarah all the best in her future endeavours and look forward to hearing from her in the future. Sarah is moving on to the big bright lights of Melbourne to work in a Veterinary Emergency Hospital.

Happy New Year!

Stay Cool,

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

## Patient of the Month



## Avoiding Heatstroke!

The heat is on and as we battle our way through summer, spare a thought for your pet.

Our pets are super susceptible to heatstroke. They can't sweat all over like humans do and they only produce a tiny amount of sweat through their footpads. The only way they can attempt to cool themselves down is through panting.

Heatstroke (also known as heat exhaustion) can be very dangerous and even fatal. It doesn't necessarily need to be really hot or humid for heat exhaustion to occur so it's important to be able to recognise the signs and know what to do.

**Keep an eye out for:** Excessive panting, Exaggerated and noisy panting, Drooling Weakness or collapse.

If you are worried about your pet, *bring your pet to us immediately* (or seek emergency veterinary care). It's best to place your pet in front of the air conditioner or a fan while you are in the car. You can also place wet towels on hairless parts of the body (footpads and groins).

### Tips to help prevent heatstroke:

Don't leave your pet in the car - the internal temperature of a car can become like an oven in minutes (even on a mild day)

Avoid exercising your pet in the heat of the day

Consider clipping your pet's coat to help them stay cool

**If you are ever concerned about your pet in the heat you can always call us for advice**



Max is a beautiful Labrador who comes into the clinic regularly for his vaccinations, heartworm prevention and worming. Max came to see us with an increasing irritation between his toes on his right front paw. It was suspected that there may be a grass seed between his toes, which feels irritating, causing dogs to constantly lick.

Grass seeds are very common in the spring/summer weather, and can get caught between the toes, in ears, noses and eyes of dogs. Max was then admitted for sedation and grass seed search between the toes of his paw. An entry wound was found between his toes and was flushed with diluted antiseptic solution. Finally, after several flushes a grass seed was found! Max's paw was then bandaged and he was sent home with antibiotics and pain relief. He has recovered well and enjoying a grass seed-free Christmas.

Grass seeds cause a lot of problems for our pets. If they don't get removed when they're stuck somewhere there's more chance of them going deeper into the tissue, resulting in pain, inflammation and infection. We recommend checking your pets daily for grass seeds, especially between their toes and in their ears.

## Attention all Dog Owners!

We are often asked: why is it necessary to vaccinate against kennel cough even though my dog isn't boarding?

**Here are the facts.** Kennel cough's *correct name* is **canine cough**. It is commonly spread via water droplets through the air and can be transmitted between ANY dogs. It is often incorrectly referred to as 'kennel cough' and this is simply because the boarding kennels are a common place for it to be transmitted (given the high numbers of dogs in one area). But ANY dog can contract canine cough; at the park, at the groomer, doggy day care and even walking down the street! As it can be spread through water droplets, a communal water doggy bowl at your local cafe may even be a potential source.

**Vaccination is the key** as it protects your dog against the worst strains of the disease (the ones that can typically cause nasty pneumonia). It's important to realise that *dogs can still contract a cough even if they are vaccinated* but it's never as bad as if they aren't vaccinated. **If you have any questions about vaccination and your pet, we are the best people to ask for advice!**

