



## Winter 2009

### Puppy Preschool Reunion

58D Grantham Street  
Wembley  
Ph: 9387 2144  
www.petwellness.com.au

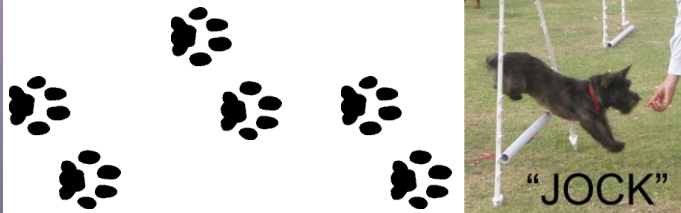


On a fine Sunday afternoon in mid March a group of proud owners and their dogs gathered together. The Puppy preschool reunion was on, with an open invitation to all previous Puppy Preschool graduates from the past 2 years, as well as present preschool attendees. The afternoon was filled with fun and games, socializing and health care discussions.

Qualified Dog Trainer Kerry Clapton, along with Dr Paul Davey hosted the event, with help from Sarah and Katherine. The afternoon started off at around 3.30pm with a health discussion by Dr Paul Davey, followed by a chat from the Town of Cambridge Council ranger on local laws and registration of dogs. The ranger also talked about the importance of identification and micro-chipping your pet. Janine Ellis from P & G Petcare "Eukanuba & Iams" food company spoke about the advantages of feeding a premium quality diet and provided plenty of samples for the canine companions to try.

Kerry Clapton who runs our puppy preschool classes then took to the stage to chat about:

- The importance of training your dog.
- Basic training tips.
- Canine body language and signs of dogs.



Kerry used class attendees to show various body language signs, and showed the importance of knowing what to do and what not to do in confronting situations.

It was then time for the fun and games to begin. After construction of a small agility circuit, attendees divided into teams and the games were underway. Crawling through tunnels, going through hoops and over small jumps were a few of the new tricks learnt. Some dogs even surprised their owners and took each challenge in their stride. There were definitely some champion agility dogs in the making!

After the games were over and various prizes rewarded, there was plenty of time to relax enjoy and the sausage sizzle and nibbles that were available for the human owners and their canine companions.

The day finished up at 6pm and by then there were plenty of worn out puppies that needed to go home to bed. All in all the Puppy Preschool Reunion was a big success and thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. We look forward to the next reunion.



### ATTENTION: Changes to Vets Roster

Recently at Grantham Street we have been working on some internal restructuring, ultimately aiming to improve our service to you, our valued clients. We are going to be introducing a structured vets roster designed to continue to meet clients needs but in a more organised format. Dr's Paul Davey, Cameron Murray, Joanne Sawyer and Jeneane Power will all now have designated consultation and surgery timetables. Paul Davey and Cameron Murray will also undertake administration and management timeslots.

When booking in your next appointment you will be asked if you would like to see a preferred veterinarian, if so we will make every effort to ensure we can book you in to see your preferred vet.

## THE DANGERS OF HUMAN PILLS AND OUR PETS

By Dr Joanne Sawyer

With Easter just behind us, we are all fairly aware of (and have hopefully avoided!) the dangers of chocolate consumption by our pets. However, there are a number of other household items which can be toxic to pets, particularly some over-the-counter and prescription pharmaceutical medications.

Poisonings most often occur when curious pets have easy access to medications left on bedside tables or kitchen benches. This is especially a problem when medications are flavoured for a more pleasant taste, or packaged in aluminium foil which is incredibly attractive to the playful puppy!

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, such as Nurofen, Voltaren and Naprogesic exert their effects via different mechanisms than the veterinary anti-inflammatory formulations. Large doses of these drugs can be toxic to both dogs and cats, causing bleeding of the stomach and damage to the liver and kidneys. Signs to watch for include vomiting (which may contain blood), abdominal pain and lethargy.

One of the most dangerous drugs in the feline world is Paracetamol (Panadol). Only one quarter of a standard tablet is enough to kill most cats. Cats are far more sensitive than dogs because of the way they metabolise the drug, and the toxic by-product targets cats' red blood cells. This leads to difficulty breathing, a drop in body temperature and swelling of the face and paws. If treated within 12 hours with a specific antidote, some cats can survive paracetamol poisoning.

Pseudoephedrine, a drug found in many cold, cough and flu preparations can also cause problems if ingested by animals. Early signs include excitation, high heart rate, shaking and may progress to seizure activity.

So if you find your pet has been rummaging through the first aid kit, seek veterinary attention immediately! If intake of the drug occurred reasonably recently, your vet may induce vomiting to try to eliminate the drug from your pet's body. However, if more time has elapsed it may be necessary to try to stop the drug's absorption with activated charcoal, as well as intravenous fluids and specific antidotes if required. As with all things though, prevention is better than cure, so not only should you child-proof your medications, but make sure you pet-proof them too!



## THE RECESSION BLUES

As a nurse here at Grantham Street you experience some pretty extraordinary things. Allow me to elaborate! On Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of April we had a small Cavalier called Mishka pay a visit to Dr Murray. Mishka arrived with a sore tummy, was reluctant to eat and had a very sad look on her face. Dr Murray decided it was best if we took an x-ray to explore any chance that she may have swallowed something odd. I quickly organised all the relevant equipment and an abdominal x-ray was taken. Dr Murray had one quick look, concluded that Mishka had swallowed something she shouldn't have and was unable to digest it. Within 30 minutes we were in surgery and Dr Murray was performing an Exploratory Laparotomy. This is where an incision is made over the abdomen and the intestines are then exposed and explored. Two hours later and Mishka was awake and possibly not as wealthy as she was before. She had swallowed one earring, 3 twenty cent coins and 1 fifty cent coin. Mishka went home on some strong pain relief and some much needed TLC. Some of you may remember Mishka having a special mention for her money hungry ways. She was admitted in spring 2005 for swallowing 16 twenty cent coins. Can you believe it! Even Mishka is aware of the global financial recession! Thankfully she was more than happy to donate her savings to her owners as a small down-payment toward the bill.



## The Life in the day of a Nurse

### WHEN MUM'S AWAY ITS TIME TO PLAY!

Chloe the much loved Golden Retriever also payed us a very similar visit this month. She arrived at our clinic on a Saturday afternoon. Andrea her owner had noticed she was attempting to mow the lawn by eating small patches of grass all over the yard, vomiting and reluctant to eat. Andrea did make special mention that she had been away for the week and her mother was looking after Chloe so she may have perhaps gobbled down some of the cat's food. Dr Murray did a thorough examination and decided to take an x-ray given the possibility of a foreign body. Considering she hadn't eaten for two days, Dr Murray noted on the x-ray her stomach was beyond full. She was admitted there and then for an Exploratory Laparotomy. Dr Murray retrieved one metre long of tough plastic, a small piece of Andrea's doona and the missing legs and ears of a stuffed toy! Chloe being the entrepreneur she is decided to show mum how smart she was by eating as much as she possibly could while she was gone and all the cool toys she was allowed to play with! Chloe was sent home to her loving family with some pain relief and strict instructions to rest for a short period of time. Who knows what Chloe's next endeavour may involve but let's just hope she will be seen here next at Grantham Street for her weekly hydrobath.



Katherine Dielesen and Laura Taylor

## Grantham Street Helping Educate for the Future

The staff at Grantham Street have volunteered their practice to work with Murdoch University on a new external teaching program that places final year students in the clinic two days a fortnight. The students are aiming to gain invaluable extra skills in the consultation room, and will be performing the examination of pets from willing clients under direct supervision by our vets.

Grantham Street is one of only 5 practices who have been invited to participate in this exciting new program, and Paul has attended a number of workshops to ensure his teaching skills are cutting edge in preparation.

So please say "hi" to the scared-looking souls if you see them in the clinic. Practice makes perfect, and hopefully Grantham St can do its bit for the next generation of vets to serve you and your pets.

## STAFF NEWS CORNER

### Welcome ~ Kaisha Benton



All the staff at Grantham Street would like to say a big welcome to Kaisha. Kaisha joined our team in June and is going to be undertaking a Veterinary Nursing Traineeship via correspondence, so she gains the benefit of hands on learning. In the past Kaisha has attended University for two years, and worked at Jay Jays, Boost Juice and Pooltime. From this previous work you can see that Kaisha has had a range of customer service experience. At Grantham Street we pride ourselves in our high standard of customer service, and we are confident Kaisha will exceed this expectation in every way possible.

Kaisha has many pets including a black Labrador named "Stella", a Maltese named "Henry", a Papillion named "Heidi" and a cat named "Matilda".

Be sure to say a hello to Kaisha next time you visit the clinic.



**STELLA**

## Life is a Marathon

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, Paul again pitched himself against 2000 other competitors with two of his friends from University as part of a team entry in the Busselton Half Ironman event. Comprising of a 1.9km swim, 90 km cycle, and 21.1km run, the trio of vets managed to improve on their 2008 position and slipped into 12<sup>th</sup> overall, and 8<sup>th</sup> position in their category from over 300 finishing teams.

Paul said the very warm conditions made for a pretty arduous run, and he struggled to maintain the pace he had trained at, but he was very happy to have maintained a similar time to his previous attempt, and was satisfied that he had finished with absolutely nothing left in his tanks, particularly given a few hockey-induced ankle injuries in the lead up to the race.

Dr David Mundy started the swim, and finished with a terrific time of 31 minutes. Dr John Rees took on the cycle course and completed it in 2 hours, 22 minutes and in the top ten cyclists overall. Paul rounded off the team performance with a run time of 1 hour and 36 minutes. The overall completion time for the team was 4 hours, 36 minutes.

Paul will now turn his attention to the hockey season, and training for the City to Surf in August, to which all staff at Grantham Street Vets are entering this year.