

# MOORONG VETERINARY CLINIC

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## CLINIC HOURS

Consultations are by appointment during the following hours:

**Monday to Friday:** 9 – 11:30am and  
2 – 4.30pm

**Saturday:** 9am – 11am

**Sunday:** Closed

After hour emergencies – at night, on weekends and Public Holidays – will be attended by the rostered Vet from this practice. Call the main clinic number and a recorded message will direct you.



# YOUR VET SPRING 2020



FREE!!  
TAKE ME  
HOME

## Save your puppy from Parvovirus

*Canine parvovirus kills thousands of puppies in Australia every year. Are your dogs safe?*

Canine parvovirus (CPV), which is more commonly known as 'parvo', is a highly infectious disease with often fatal consequences. It's a viral illness that impacts a dog's villous atrophy and intestinal lining and causes vomiting, weight loss, bloody diarrhoea, dehydration and sadly, often death.

In a national survey by the University of Sydney involving over 500 Australian vets, it was found that over 20,000 dogs were diagnosed with CPV each year. Out of those affected, nearly half resulted in death.

The survey also revealed that significant numbers of parvo cases commonly occurred in lower socioeconomic areas of Australia, rurally, and in remote areas. The Northern Territory saw more examples of parvo than anywhere else. While cases in cities were common, they were often on the outskirts, not in built-up areas.

The condition affects puppies between the age of six weeks and six months old, and it's passed on through the faecal matter of dogs that have parvo. Because the bacteria can live in the ground for up to a year, almost any unvaccinated puppy is at risk in an area that has been frequented by dogs within that period.

Parvovirus is a killer, but there is a highly effective vaccination available that can significantly reduce the risk of it affecting

your puppy. A vet can administer your dog's first vaccination at between six and eight weeks old, another at 10-12 weeks, and a final one at 14-16 weeks. Within two weeks of the last parvo vaccination, your puppy will have full immunity.

Technology for canine vaccinations has grown in leaps and bounds in the last four decades, which means that pet owners can have full confidence in their vet to provide preventative measures.

While you wait for your dog to become fully vaccinated by 16 weeks of age, there are also things you can do to reduce your puppy's risk of catching the viral illness. Limit their exposure to other puppies or unvaccinated dogs, and change your clothing and footwear if you are around other dogs before you head home to your dog. On wellness trips to the vet, carry your puppy in your arms, and on your lap while you wait for your appointment.

Common signs of parvo in young puppies include vomiting, foul-smelling diarrhoea, tiredness, and disinterest in play. If you notice any of these signs, or you have genuine concerns about the illness, seek vet care immediately.

Parvovirus is not a condition to take lightly as it claims thousands of puppies' lives in Australia every year. If you are thinking about welcoming a new puppy into your home, make an appointment with your vet to get the vaccination process underway. A few quick vet trips could end up saving your dog's life.

Keep this newsletter in a handy place at home

## The dos and don'ts of a dog's dinner

*Many dogs will eat almost anything, but that doesn't mean they should. Here's what makes a decent dog's dinner.*

Domesticated dogs are carnivores, but the average dog needs a well-rounded and high-quality diet to keep them in peak physical condition.

The foundation of a dog's diet should be a vet-approved dog food that caters for their stage of life. For example, you would typically start a puppy on puppy food before you move them on to adolescent, adult, and senior.

Every dog is different and has specific needs, so consult your vet for advice based on your dog's history and requirements before you start a new type of food. You can then feed them a quantity based on their size, age, exercise level, breed and health.

It's also okay to feed your dogs treats from time to time, such as fresh and raw human-grade meat and raw, meaty bones. Once again, check with your vet to make sure such treats are suitable for your dog.

The RSPCA recommends that pet owners who wish to include raw meat in their dog's diet choose human-grade meat. Some

pet-marketed food contains preservatives, which can be detrimental to their health. Ensure any commercial food you purchase complies with the Australian Standard for the Manufacturing and Marketing of Pet Food AS5812-2017.

If you take pleasure in seeing your dog's eyes light up at the sight of a bone, then ensure you choose a dog-friendly one and offer full supervision. While some bones can be beneficial for teeth and gum health, not all of them are safe.

Uncooked bones such as raw lamb ribs and flaps can be a treat for your furry friend, but make sure they're big enough to prevent accidental swallowing. Avoid chop bones, T-bones, knuckles, length-sawn bones, and marrow bones, as some of these can cause cracked teeth and other injuries. Never feed your dog cooked bones which can splinter and cause serious health problems.

*'We can advise you on the best diet to keep your pet in optimum health'*

Variety is the spice of life, so expand your dog's horizons with occasional treats of tinned fish in water, cooked vegetables, and boneless broiled chicken or lamb.

Your dog's diet can be extensive and varied, but it's also all about moderation. Talk to your vet about portion control, foods you should avoid (such as chocolate, garlic, onions, and grapes), and how to spoil your dog with different options while keeping them safe and healthy.



## Pedalling with pooches

*Biking can be an excellent form of exercise for dog owners, but is it the right one for your dog?*

There are endless ways to exercise your dog. You can take them swimming, on walks, to a local dog park, or engage them in a game of fetch. Cycling with your dog running beside you can also be fun, but not all dogs are suited to this more strenuous form of exercise.

### SHOULD I TAKE MY DOG CYCLING?

Before you hit the city streets with man's best friend by your side, there are a few factors to consider. Most importantly, your dog's health, age, and breed. Dogs that are overweight, young, old, or brachycephalic – short-nosed with flatter faces – may not be up to the demanding task of running alongside your bike.

Young dogs are still growing, and strenuous exercise such as running can affect their bone growth. Older dogs are at risk of degenerative joint diseases, such as arthritis, which means that jogging or running may not be the best exercise for them. While they might show enthusiasm for the adventure, they may display signs of stiffness and soreness later.

Brachycephalic dogs such as pugs, French bulldogs, English bulldogs, and Boston terriers, are not suitable as running buddies. Brachycephalic dogs can have breathing issues – even slight exercise can leave them struggling for breath.

Also, overheating can occur quickly as they're unable to pant efficiently enough to regulate their body temperature.

Consider regular short walks with older, overweight and brachycephalic dogs in your household.

Even if your dog appears to be in good health and has the energy and stamina to keep up, have a quick word with your vet. You can then have peace of mind before you begin your biking routine.

### THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

A standard dog leash is suitable for walking, but may not prove convenient or safe for biking. Consider getting a reflective harness, and a dedicated bike leash that will maintain distance between your bike and dog, for their comfort and safety. Water for the journey is definitely a must.

### GETTING STARTED

If you believe your dog is ready and able to go biking, consider some basic training to get them prepared. Get them used to walking next to the bike first, especially if they've never

been around one before. It might take a few outings before they're confident with the moving wheels and motion.

Use simple cues while walking, such as sit and stop, to help them learn what to expect from you when the time comes to go biking. Treats can also be an effective tool for teaching actions such as turning and waiting. Most importantly, work up slowly to running and distance. Observe your dog's behaviour at all times. If they appear tired, uncoordinated, or are panting or drooling, then stop and rest.

If you're unsure about biking with your dog, consult your vet. Remember; walking, swimming, and socialisation at dog parks are also excellent ways to ensure your dog gets all the exercise and stimulation they need.



# WORD SEARCH

- ALLERGEN
- ALLERGIC
- ARTHRITIS
- BIKING
- BRACHYCEPHALIC
- CARNIVORE
- CAT
- CREPUSCULAR
- DANDER
- DOG
- DROOLING
- GROOMER
- HARNESS
- HEALTH
- HOOF
- IMMUNE
- LAMINAE
- LAMINITIS
- LEASH
- METABOLIC
- PANT
- PONY
- POUNCING
- RSPCA
- SEPTICAEMIC
- SPLINTER
- THYROID
- TRAUMA
- VETERINARIAN
- XRAY

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## Laminitis and what to do about it

*Laminitis is a painful condition that's all too common in horses and ponies. What is it and what you can do to prevent it?*

Laminitis, or founder, is a condition that affects the laminae of the foot – the soft tissue structures that attach the pedal bone to the hoof wall. Not only is it excruciating, but it can lead to separation and rotation of the pedal bone.

Laminitis is an entirely preventable condition, but one that is not curable once your horse has it. Failure to manage it can result in death.

Symptoms for laminitis are often easy to spot. Your horse may not want to move, or will try to distribute the weight of their feet to the least-affected ones. If the pain is too severe, they will lie down and may not let you pick up a hoof to investigate.

The soft tissue around the top of the hoof (coronary band) and the hoof wall will be warm and digital pulses rapid and strong. If your vet tries to assess the hoof pain with a tester, it can be very painful for the horse.

In severe, ongoing cases, the symptoms can be more serious. The hoof wall will be slipper-shaped with long toes, and there can be laminitic rings which show the horse has had the condition before. There may also be a bulge in the sole where the pedal bone has rotated in the hoof.

Overfeeding is one of the leading causes of laminitis. Ponies, in particular, are susceptible, especially during spring. After rainfall, there is an increase in soluble carbohydrates in grass and clover. When your pony or horse eats it, metabolic changes can occur, resulting in altered blood flow to the laminae of the foot.

While spring feed is a common cause; overfeeding grain, retained placentas in post-foaling mares, obesity, and septicaemic illnesses may also cause laminitis. Trauma from incorrect hoof trimming, working unshod horses on hard ground, and lameness can also be to blame.

As soon as you suspect laminitis, seek veterinary care. If laminitis is diagnosed they can get right to work on a treatment plan. Care options may include X-rays to find out the severity of pedal bone rotation, removal of the cause, anti-inflammatories, hoof care, and dietary changes.

Prevention is paramount. Feed a balanced diet, restrict lush pasture access, and get regular hoof care.

Always consult your veterinary clinic if you have any questions or concerns.



## Is your cat a night owl?

*A cat storming around the house in the middle of the night is no pet owner's idea of fun. How can you keep your cat on your schedule, not theirs?*

Cats commonly display crepuscular behaviour, which means they're more active during low light – such as at dusk and dawn. They may dart around the house and play with toys, or try and engage with their owners through pouncing, nibbling, and scratching.

While these are natural cat behaviours, they're not the most conveniently timed ones. How on earth are you supposed to sleep soundly when your cat's a night owl?

A trip to your local vet can rule out medical causes such as thyroid disease, pain, or glandular issues. You can then work on your feeding routine and daily play. The goal is to adjust the times when they're the most active.

Feeding smaller meals more often may reduce the number of times your cat wakes you for a snack during the night. Consider

a small amount in the early evening, then a little more when you're getting ready for bed.

You can also make mealtimes more fun and active by hiding dry food in paper bags, toilet rolls, and with their toys around the house. Working for their food can use up some of their pent-up energy.

Plenty of play in the early evening can also help to meet some of your cat's social and behavioural needs. The more interaction they get the more tired and contented they'll be.

Pet owners can also try tools such as scratching posts, hiding areas, safe toys, and jungle gyms. The more they have to keep them entertained – whether you're home or not – the more they can keep themselves happy and busy without disturbing you.

Cats are naturally more active at night, but a few modifications to their routine and the addition of fun activities may just be the answer. If you suspect a medical problem may be contributing, consult your local veterinarian for advice.

## Is your pet making you sneeze?

*One in five Australians has a pet allergy, but having a pet-free home can be unthinkable for some. Is there a way you can both live under the same roof?*

Pet allergies are more common than you think – especially in the mild to moderate range. Urine, saliva, and pet skin flakes (dander) can all cause a sometimes surprising immune reaction.

Many people can be allergic to their pets without even realising. Even after being around your pet, you may not associate your stuffy nose, sneezing, coughing, itchy skin, rash, or irritated eyes with them.

So while those who experience severe reactions may not be able to have pets, there are management techniques for people with mild allergies who can't bear the thought of not being able to have one.

Medicines from your GP may help to get a handle on your coughing, sneezing, and general irritation. Talk to your doctor to see what they recommend.

There is also a myriad of things you can do in the home to lessen the impact your pet has on your allergy.

Modern cleaning products and appliances now offer plenty of ways to remove allergens from your home. You may like to invest in special allergen-removing filters for air conditioning units and vacuum cleaners.

Limiting your pet's access to your home can help reduce allergens. Provide them access to the areas they need for food, warmth and shelter, but consider closing off hallways to prevent entry to areas such as bedrooms. Keep them away from soft furnishings that can harbour allergens.

If your pet sheds a lot, it's worth looking for a groomer; less pet hair may result in fewer allergens.

Often, people don't know they're allergic to pets until they have one, but symptoms are usually manageable. If you would prefer to keep your pet, and you don't have a life-threatening allergy, then these tips may be able to reduce your discomfort.



**Disclaimer:** The information provided in this newsletter is for educational purposes only, and is not intended as a substitute for sound health care advice. We are not liable for any adverse effects or consequences resulting from the use of any information, suggestions, or procedures presented. Always consult a qualified professional in all matters pertaining to your pet health.

## NEW LOGO AND WEBSITE

We are excited to announce that after many years Moorong Veterinary Clinic has developed a new logo and website for our Clinic. We would like to thank Cristy from Embarkeeting - Marketing, Graphics & Websites Wagga for all the hard work she has done, we would never have achieved such an amazing outcome without your hard work. Please check out our new logo and website at:

<http://www.moorongveterinaryclinic.com.au>

Our new website has numerous informative information such as: Healthcare services, Surgical services, pet care services, a digital copy of our newsletter and you can meet our lovely clinic staff members.

## INSTAGRAM UPDATE

We now have Instagram! Please check out our latest cases on <https://www.instagram.com/p/B5mMDHcHE3/>

We also have Facebook please go to [www.facebook.com/moorongvet](http://www.facebook.com/moorongvet) and like our page!

## EQUINE FROZEN SEMEN PROGRAM

We have had great success this breeding season with positive pregnancy ultrasound results in horses bred in our frozen semen program. We are continually trying to improve our reproductive technology and now offer a wider range of services for our clients. Please contact the clinic should you have any questions or enquires about our new equine frozen semen breeding program, to prepare for the next reproductive season.

## BLOOD DONORS

We at the clinic are very thankful to our regular blood donating patients. We keep a blood bank on hand at the clinic for patients who may need a blood transfusion for treatment. Cases such as snake bites, severe haemorrhage, rat bait toxicities or poisonings can often result in a patient needing an emergency blood transfusion. If you would like to know more, or put your pet on the donation list please feel free to contact the clinic. Both cats and dogs can donate blood, although conditions do apply, for example age and sizes of the animals will affect whether they can become donors.

Can you find all the words in our **WORD SEARCH?**