



# PET NEWS

## AUTUMN

278 CHURCH STREET, HAMLIN HEIGHTS, VICTORIA, 3215

### HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY

THE YEAR WAS 1985 AND AT THE CORNER OF CHURCH AND VINE STREETS STOOD A BP SERVICE STATION.

Former Geelong Football Club player Rod Blake had retired from his long footie career in 1983 (176 games and 113 goals). He decided to convert the BP into a veterinary clinic and so began a long-standing history of helping Geelong's pets and their owners.

The clinic has since been through various changes in ownership. In the late 80's a young Sally Adams completed work placement at the clinic while in her final years of university. She went on to become the owner in 1993 and remained so for another 16 years.

### "SO BEGAN A LONG-STANDING HISTORY OF HELPING GEELONG'S PETS AND THEIR OWNERS."

In 2009, another local, Sally Upham, purchased the clinic and was responsible for renovations and updates. She oversaw an amazing transformation of the clinic with clients loving the new look and feel of the clinic.

In 2014 the clinic passed into new hands, this time to three co-owners. Husband and wife team Chloe McGillivray and Bryan Benschopf, along with Narelle (Nev) Hooper have taken on the challenge of running the clinic.

Chloe grew up on a dairy farm in the small town of Gunbower, Victoria, and attended the University of Sydney. There she met Bryan, a Texan, who was also studying veterinary medicine. After graduation they spent five years living and working in Austin, Texas, before settling permanently in Geelong.

Nev is from South Gippsland where her father was a dairy cattle Veterinarian. She pursued her veterinary degree at the University of Queensland finishing up as the dux of her year and with a University Medal. She has achieved membership of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in small animal surgery.

So you can see there have been many changes at the clinic throughout the last 30 years but the one thing that has remained constant is the quality of care that has been provided. Chloe, Bryan and Nev hope to continue providing the very best veterinary care in Geelong for many years to come!



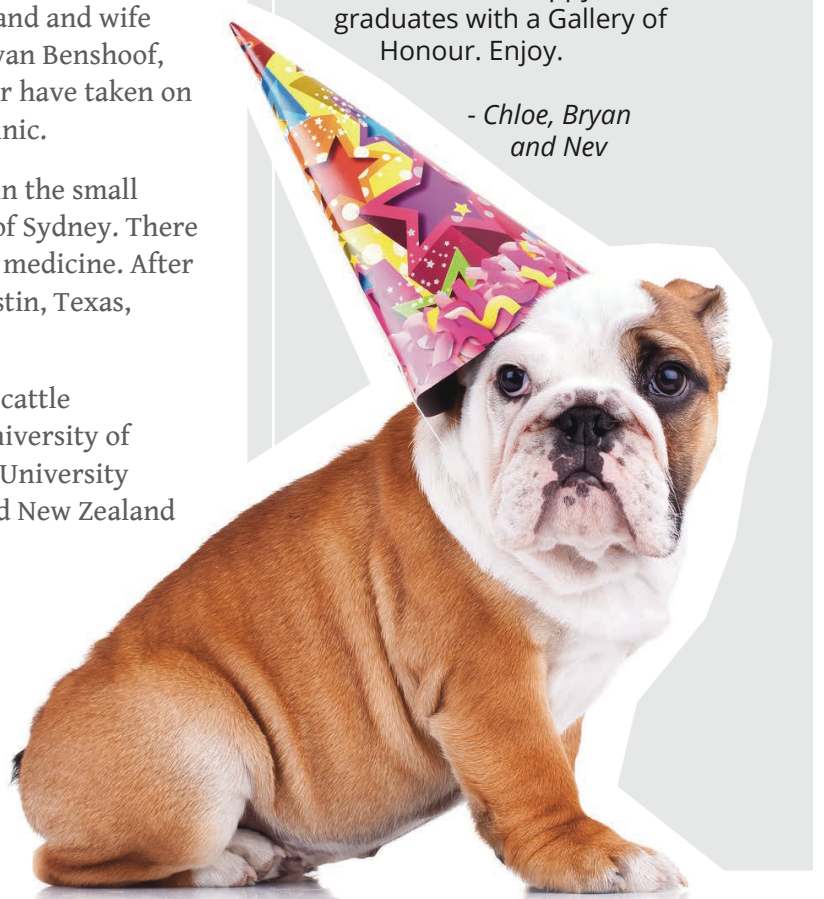
## WELCOME

TO THE FIRST OF OUR SEASONAL newsletters in which we will update you on interesting news and tid bits relating to animal care and the health of your pet.

In this edition, we revisit the history of the clinic, and introduce ourselves as the new owners and partners in North Geelong Veterinary Clinic. We're excited about the future of the clinic and look forward to helping take care of your pets.

We also take a look at an interesting case study of an amputation (!), look at the basics of ultrasounding for pregnancy, and celebrate our Puppy School graduates with a Gallery of Honour. Enjoy.

- Chloe, Bryan and Nev



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## CASE STUDY

# TAIL OF TWO AMPUTATIONS

'PANIC' IS A 7 YEAR OLD DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR CAT WHO CAME TO AUSTRALIA FROM THE UK IN 2013. SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN A VERY HEALTHY AND MOSTLY HAPPY CAT.

**A**round Halloween last year her owner came home to find what looked like a murder scene - there was blood all over the floor and up the walls! The big question was where the blood came from, as Panic is an indoor cat and would not have had access to playing with mice or birds. Her owner pondered this as she dutifully took out the mop, cleaned up the evidence and settled down for the evening.

The answer to the mystery came later that night as Panic cuddled into bed and her owner felt something warm and wet drip over her arm: the blood was coming from the tip of Panic's tail! After fishing out the cat carrier, her owner made a quick dash to Geelong Animal Emergency Clinic to organise pain relief, antibiotics, a bandage and a buster collar. The following morning Panic had a small portion of the end of her tail amputated at North Geelong Vet Clinic. The original cause of her injury remained a mystery.

## SHE CONTINUED TO ACT AS IF HER LEFTOVER TAIL WAS IN FACT A RATHER ANNOYING SERPENT

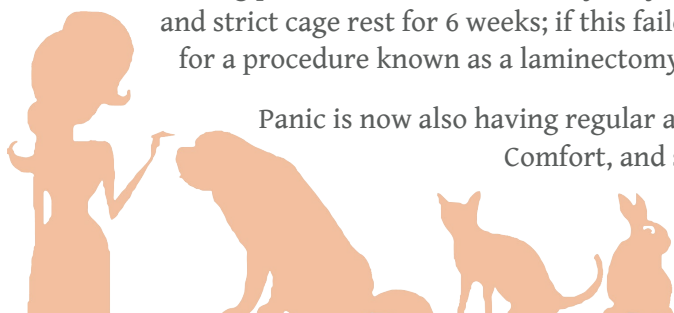
Everything went well until ten days after surgery, whereupon Panic decided to take matters into her own hands and remove her tail bandage - and some more tail. Her owner was again met with bloody floors, but also found that Panic had chewed off the piece of her own tail and vomited it back up!

Panic was taken back to North Geelong Vet Clinic and her tail amputated further. The road to recovery from the second surgery was unfortunately very rocky. She had to be confined to a buster collar 24/7 and take lots of strong painkillers. Despite this, she continued to act as if her leftover tail was in fact a rather annoying serpent rather than a part of her own anatomy.

After two months Panic's owner decided that this level of continued distress was unacceptable, and that the underlying reason for her tail aggression had to be sought. She referred Panic to the University of Melbourne's Veterinary Neurology Service for an MRI scan of her spine. At a bill of \$2100, Panic's owner was incredibly happy that she had taken out pet insurance!

The MRI scan revealed a slipped disk that was causing pressure on Panic's spinal cord and most likely sending shooting pains down her tail. The mystery had finally been solved! The neurologist prescribed painkillers and strict cage rest for 6 weeks; if this failed to solve the problem the next step was going under the knife for a procedure known as a laminectomy, which takes pressure of the spinal cord.

Panic is now also having regular acupuncture sessions with Dr Kim Lim of Geelong Creatures Comfort, and seems to be showing signs of improvement. We are keeping our fingers crossed that she doesn't have to go for surgery, and are wishing her the best for a speedy recovery!



# FAQ PREGNANCY ULTRASOUND IN DOGS



## HOW SOON CAN YOU TELL IF MY DOG IS PREGNANT?

Confirmation of pregnancy by ultrasound is possible as early as 3 weeks after breeding. However, because in bitches the breeding date can differ significantly from the ovulation date, we recommend an ultrasound examination 4 weeks after the breeding date. If this initial examination is negative for pregnancy we'll repeat the ultrasound a week later at no additional cost.

## CAN YOU TELL WHEN THE PUPPIES ARE DUE?

Yes – approximately. There are a number of measurements such as diameter of the gestational sac or diameter of the foetal head that can be used to calculate the stage of pregnancy. Features of the pregnancy such as whether the hearts can be seen beating or whether the bones are calcified also help determine the stage of pregnancy.

## CAN YOU TELL IF THE PUPPIES ARE OKAY?

We can tell if the puppies are alive by identifying heart beats and foetal movement. We also get an indication of whether a puppy is developing normally for the stage of gestation however we cannot pick up subtle defects such as cleft palates. We can't determine the gender of the puppies – there have to be some surprises.

## CAN I BE THERE FOR THE ULTRASOUND SCAN?

Absolutely. Puppies are exciting and we would like you to be involved. Your dog will feel reassured if you are there too. You may take photos of the ultrasound screen or we can email you the pictures later.

## CAN YOU DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF PUPPIES?

You cannot accurately count the number of puppies with an ultrasound machine because it is typically impossible to fit them all in the scanning plane and therefore be sure you are not counting the same puppy twice. The more puppies there are, the harder it is to be accurate. The best time to “guess” the number of puppies is between 28 and 35 days of gestation when the puppies are small. If it is important to know the exact number of puppies prior to whelping then an x-ray of the bitch's abdomen, taken at day 50 – 55, which shows the skeletons is the best option.

## WHAT PREPARATION IS REQUIRED? DOES MY DOG NEED TO BE SEDATED, CLIPPED OR HAVE A FULL BLADDER?

Most bitches are happy to stand on the ultrasound table in the dimmed lighting and watch the screen while we look for puppies. We would never sedate a potentially pregnant animal for an ultrasound scan incase this jeopardized the pregnancy. We do not usually need to clip any fur from the abdomen. Typically, wetting any fur down and applying ultrasound gel gives us a good enough picture to make a diagnosis of pregnancy. Fortunately, a full bladder is not required but it can be helpful if your dog has passed a bowel motion to minimize gas shadows in the area of interest. Do not worry if this doesn't happen.

## CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?

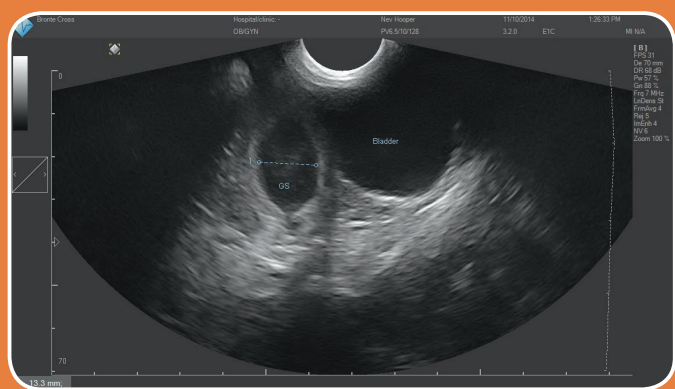


IMAGE 1: Ultrasound image of early pregnancy

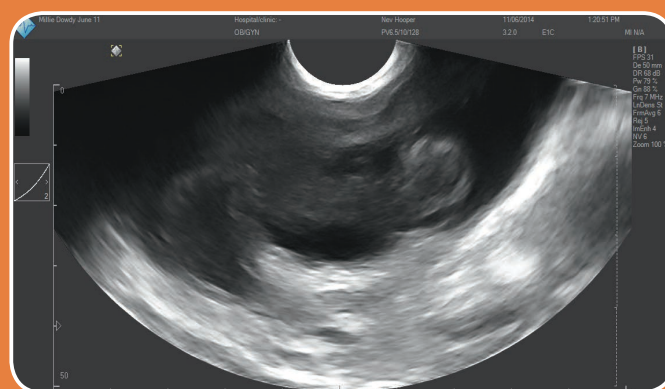


IMAGE 2: Ultrasound image of mid pregnancy

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# PUPPY SCHOOL GRADUATION



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR 'STUDENT' DOGS (AND THEIR OWNERS) FOR GRADUATING FROM PUPPY SCHOOL!



BOMBER



ARNIE



MATER



MILLIE



BILLIE



RILEY



MADDIE



ZIGGY



JAXSON



PIPPA



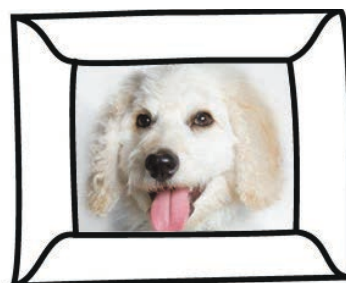
LENNY



COCO



BASIL



MAC



BELLA

GIVE YOUR DOG THE SMARTS SIGN THEM UP TO PUPPY SCHOOL TODAY!



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