



HALL VET SURGERY

Newsletter



Summer News

Feline Greenies

Feline Greenies are back! After many months of being unavailable, Greenies are back on the market with all new flavours and just in time to give your cat a special treat for Christmas! Greenies clean your cats' teeth and freshen their breath, all in a healthy and great-tasting snack.



**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!**

**All of us at Hall Veterinary Surgery
wish our clients and patients
a happy holiday season!**



Skin Care Info Night

Hall Vet Surgery held its second annual information night in October. This year we focused on pet skin care and problems.

Speakers recommended quality pet foods and shampoos that have been specially formulated for pet skin to maintain optimum skin health. The audience then quizzed them about itchy dogs and allergies.

Helen Purdam discussed the diagnosis and treatment of lumps and bumps. She emphasised that a vet should check mystery lumps or spots as soon as possible to ensure a positive outcome.

Information stalls and posters on foods, pet toys, our plucky patients and skin care lined the walls of Hall Pavilion. Thanks to all who attended and made the night such a success!

Check out www.hallvet.com.au for more news, fun stuff and lots of info on pet care.



Ask Ronald

Dear Mr Ronald,

Since daylight savings started my family has gone on a mad fitness kick. That's fine for them but why drag me into it?

Anxious Alex the Airedale from Ainslie

Exercise is a vital part of any weight loss programme, Alex. You must increase the number of calories you burn as well as reduce your calorie intake with a special diet.

Exercise is so much fun and time spent playing with your family is its own reward!

Start off slowly. As your level of fitness improves you can exercise for longer each day. Remember that it is better to exercise for 10 minutes a day than for an hour a week.

Walking every day improves your overall health. I bet you will feel more relaxed and less bored if your owner is away at work all day, too.

Start off gently by walking around the immediate neighbourhood. Increase the length of the walk and then the level of difficulty. Walking in sand or water will give you a real work out!

Obstacles such as jumps or tunnels are a buzz. Your local dog club might run an agility course that you could attend.

Persuade your family to throw or kick a ball around the back yard and play tag games with you. They could hide some healthy treats around the back yard for you, too.

If you are a more mature dog, Alex, and suffer with arthritis, then swimming, massage and gentle stretching may be more suitable. A veterinary physiotherapist recommended by your vet at Hall could give you some gentler exercise options, also.

Remember that it is important to exercise in the cooler parts of the day during the summer to avoid heat stress.

Go to it Alex and have a great time!! Woof!



Gel's Training Tips and Tricks

Keep an eye on this spot each edition for training tips and neat tricks. Your dog's new skills will impress your family and astound your friends. For fun, ideas for dealing with problem behaviours and general obedience training watch this space.

TAKE A BOW

Equipment Needed:

1 Dog

1 Bag of dog treats (yummy ones like chicken, liver, or frankfurt)

Step 1

Squat or kneel on the floor next to your standing dog. Face your dog's side. Put one of your hands under his belly, palm down, no pressure. You don't need to make contact but should stop his rear end from dropping to the floor.

Step 2

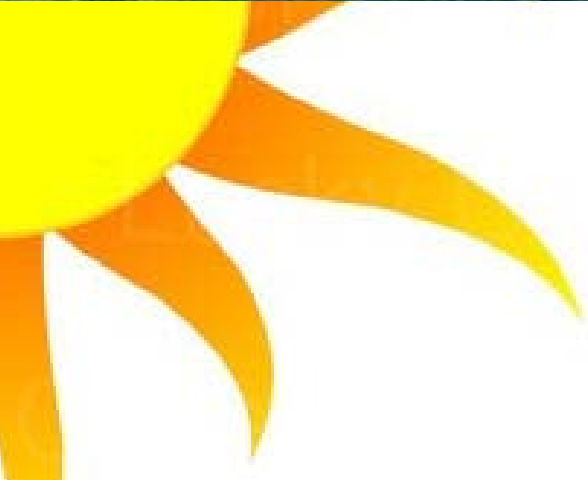
Grab a tasty treat in your other hand and show this to him to stimulate his interest. Hold it directly in front of his nose so that he doesn't have to move forward to get it, but not so close that he can steal it.

Step 3

Getting him to follow the treat, lower the treat slowly towards the floor, between his front legs and towards where his chest will be on the floor in a curtsy. Be patient and wait until he drops to his elbows. Quietly say 'bow' or 'curtsey'. Give the reward treat and gently praise him. Your hand under his belly will prevent him lying down completely.

Step 4

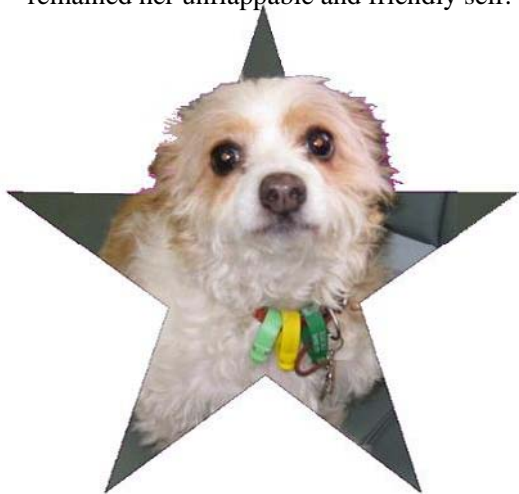
Gradually add the 'wait' or 'stay' command and increase the time before you give him the treat and he will progress and become steadier and able to wait longer.



Star Pet

Lola has diabetes. Every day she braves two insulin injections. Although her dose is stable now, she has spent many days in hospital with her vets and nurses getting it right. Her vet ordered the loss of 2kg. With a strict diet and lots more walks Lola has achieved the loss in three months.

Lola is a patient and forgiving dog. Through all the blood tests and hospital visits she has remained her unflappable and friendly self.



Summertime perils

Summer is a great time to share with our pets. However, it is a season that brings certain increased risks. Be alert to the following situations or risks, and call us if you are concerned:

- Fleas - *always more active in summer*
- Ticks - *especially if you visit the coast*
- Grass seeds - *the rain will make lots*
- Ears - *yeast infections love the warmth*

Fleas

Fleas love warm, wet weather. Their pupae wait in shady and protected areas like carpets or leaf litter for a dog or cat to pass. Vibration causes the pupae to hatch and jump onto their hairy gravy train.

Adult fleas are a few millimetres long. We see them racing across pets' bare bellies or find reddish-brown flea dirt above the tail base. Many dogs can be crawling with fleas and never scratch. Other dogs are allergic to them and bite and scratch, particularly over the rump, even though they don't seem to have many fleas.

Adult fleas feed on blood and lay eggs, which drop off in kennels, on sofas and beds, in the carpet or under trees and bushes. Flea numbers can build up rapidly in a wet spring or summer, even in Canberra.

The fleas on your pet are only the tip of the iceberg. We miss the bulk of the flea population that are in larval and pupae form if we only kill the adult fleas actually on our pets.

Fumigation of the house is essential to flea elimination. Because pupae have thick shells they may not be killed by the first spray. A second spray 3 weeks later when they are ready to hatch is usually necessary.

Regular vacuuming of carpets and furniture will pick up fresh eggs and larvae although treatment of your pets to kill adult fleas will stop egg production. Bedding should be washed weekly during summer also.

Elimination of fleas from the garden or dog run is less easy. Fleas thrive in dust so a concrete run reduces numbers rapidly. Raking up leaves and reducing the build-up of bark and branches where your pets like to rest minimises flea hideouts.

Many convenient, safe and effective flea treatments for dogs and cats are available from Hall Veterinary Surgery. Please ask any of our staff to recommend the most suitable one for your pet.

Babies - *interactions with babies should be well supervised*

Allergies - *summer grasses will be big this year*

Heat stress - *some water play can cool a pet down. Make sure that shade is always available*

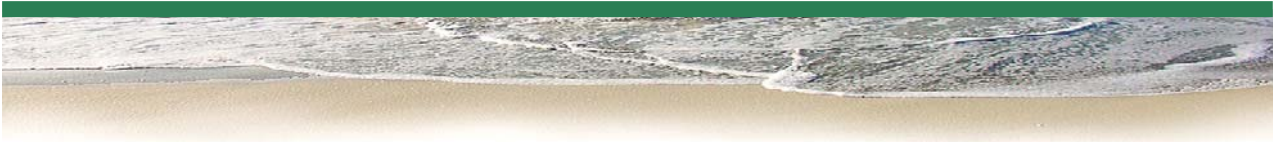
Hot cars - *they can reach 60°C in 5 minutes!*

Chocolate - *is still a no-no even for Christmas treats*

Snakes - *take care with the more rustic off-lead areas*

Have a safe and happy holiday!





Jimbo Jack Russell, Nurse Extraordinaire

Jimbo is a lively Jack Russell Terrier who enjoys liver treats, Frisbees and his owner, Marie's company. After nine years of darting about the house, protecting the yard from four legged foes and preferring to sit at his post near the front door rather than on Marie's lap, he suddenly slowed down.

One Monday evening Jimbo sat at Marie's feet and watched her intently for hours. He didn't leave her side even when Tom, the ginger cat from next door, strolled past the glass doors. Instead of exploring his backyard domain next morning he followed Marie around the house, watching her every move.

Jimbo's unprecedented attentions continued through the week. On the Friday Marie went to work feeling a bit strange. At lunchtime she phoned her doctor. By Saturday morning she was in hospital and the doctors suspected that she had leukaemia.



Marie was in and out of hospital for many months having blood tests and chemotherapy. Whenever she was home Jimbo sat with her. When Marie was too sick to talk, Jimbo lay with his head on her hand. When she watched television, Jimbo sat on her lap. If she needed a drink Jimbo skipped off to find Marie's mum. Jimbo provided the constant company that no human nurse could.

As Marie grew stronger Jimbo encouraged her outside. At first she threw the ball from her chair and he chased it, brought it back and dropped it on her lap. After a week or so he bounced it on her toes. Finally he had her up on her feet catching the ball.

Gradually they resumed their daily walks. At first Marie barely made it around the block. Jimbo would sniff grass, rocks and telegraph poles, one eye on Marie. He would sit and take the air whenever she flagged. As the weeks passed he reveled in walks around the lake and finally a short climb up Mt Ainslie.

One day Marie noticed that Jimbo left on his daily round of the yard without her. She busied herself in the kitchen. That evening he took up his post at the door instead of sitting by her in front of the television. He saw Tom off the premises with gusto and curled up in his own bed for the first time in months.

Jimbo had resigned from his nursing duties. Marie thought that she was feeling well enough to go back to work. After a few tests her doctor gave her the thumbs up. However, Jimbo had decided she was better well before the medical world had given her the all clear.

This is a true story. Our pets often sense changes in our bodies and emotions before we notice them. More significantly they stick by us through the difficult and sometimes prolonged business of treatment and recovery. Jimbo read Marie's need for company and quiet, and sensed when she was ready for more activity. He never got sick of being with her and loved her without reserve when everyone else was too busy, too tired or too worried.

Hall Vet Surgery
33 Victoria St
Hall ACT

Ph: (02) 6230 2223
Fax: (02) 6230 2307

www.hallvet.com.au

Opening hours for consults:

9am-6pm
Monday to Friday
8.30am-2.30pm
Saturdays

By appointment