



WINTER 2014

[www.hallvet.com.au](http://www.hallvet.com.au)

# Hall Veterinary Surgery

A PASSION FOR PETS AND PEOPLE

winter

## VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations prevent death and illness. They are very necessary but can be confusing, so here is an explanation of what C3, C5, F3 and FIV mean for dogs and cats. While the C3 vaccination has very high efficacy, canine cough vaccine is not 100% effective, it does however, reduce the chance and severity of infections and make recovery quicker. This is the reason that dogs may still pick up canine cough, even when vaccinated with a C5, and why cats can get the flu even when fully vaccinated. The benefits are that they are generally less unwell than an unvaccinated animal, and more resistant to the development of disease.

### THE TERMS

**DOGS:** C3 = Canine 3. It protects against Parvovirus (gastroenteritis that can be fatal), Infectious Hepatitis Virus (a liver disease) and Distemper Virus (a neurological disease). This is the minimum vaccination status for dogs.

C5 = Canine 5. This vaccine protects against the C3 viruses and also the two pathogens involved in Canine/Kennel Cough (a respiratory infection). C5 is the required vaccination status for dogs attending boarding kennels, pet-friendly holiday homes, hydrobaths and/or dog training clubs.

**CATS:** F3 = Feline 3. This vaccine protects against enteritis (also known

as panleukopenia and caused by cat parvovirus) and cat flu (caused by herpesvirus and calicivirus) and is initially given at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age.

**FIV:** Feline AIDS is caused by FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) and suppresses the immune system, making cats susceptible to other diseases. The virus is spread by cat bites so outdoor cats are most at risk. Protect your outdoor cat against Feline AIDS with three initial priming doses and annual boosters.

### THE SCHEDULES

**PUPPIES:** Pups receive three vaccinations spaced four weeks apart. For example; C3 or C5 vaccination at 8 weeks, a C5 at 12 weeks and a C3 at 16 weeks then receive an annual booster C5 vaccination 12 months later.

**DOGS:** Adult dogs at Hall Veterinary Surgery are generally vaccinated with C3 every three years and have an annual canine cough vaccination. We strongly recommend an annual health examination to monitor your dog's health. At this visit your dog will also have its annual heartworm preventative injection.

**KITTENS:** Kittens need to be given an F3 at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age. Following this they require a booster vaccination every 12 months.

**CATS:** Cats over 12 weeks of age that are not vaccinated will need to have two injections of F3, one month apart.

We recommend annual checkups and vaccination reviews for all adult cats.

**RABBITS:** Pet rabbits have a yearly vaccination against calicivirus.



↑ THIS IS AN INTRANASAL VACCINATION DROPLET (NOT INJECTION) FOR CANINE COUGH. SOMETIMES THE DOGS WILL SNEEZE SOME OF THE VACCINATION OUT THEIR NOSE WHILE IT IS BEING ADMINISTERED. BE ASSURED THEY DO RECEIVE ENOUGH OF THE DOSE TO BE EFFECTIVE.

### EXAMPLE OF VACCINATION SCHEDULE FOR DOGS:

- 8 WEEKS:** C3 vaccination. Intestinal worming every 2 weeks.
  - 12 WEEKS:** C5 vaccination. Intestinal worming now treated monthly and heartworm tablet.
  - 16 WEEKS:** Third C3 vaccination. Monthly heartworm/intestinal worm tablet.
  - 5 MONTHS:** Monthly heartworm/intestinal worm tablet.
  - 6 MONTHS:** Desexing and teeth check. Heartworm SR12 injection which is repeated at 15 months then annually. Intestinal worming continues every 3 months.
  - 15 MONTHS:** C5 injection. SR12 heartworm injection. Annual health check up. C3 given every 3 years thereafter.
  - 1 YEAR ON:** Annual health check up, Canine cough vaccination. SR12 heartworm injection.
  - 2 YEARS ON:** Annual health check up, Canine cough vaccination. SR12 heartworm injection
  - 3 YEARS ON:** Annual health check up, C5 vaccination and Proheart SR12.
- NOTE:** The above schedule is one example of a typical vaccination and worming schedule. Intestinal worming is done every two weeks until 12 weeks, then monthly until 6 months then 3 monthly for the rest of the dog's life. Flea / tick preventers as required.



## KNOW YOUR PET'S GUM COLOUR

There are a range of parameters that are used to check the health of a companion animal. Gum colour and hydration are two parameters that all pet owners can check. If you regularly check gum colour and hydration status you will be familiar with what is 'normal' for your pet.

A healthy dog or cat will generally have pink gums which range in colour from a light shade of pink through to a darker salmon colour. So check your pet now, lift the top lip at the side near the canine tooth and look at the gum colour. Pop a treat in the pet's mouth to make it a good experience.

At the same time you can check the pet's levels of hydration. Slide your finger across the gums. A healthy response is wet, slick gums. A dehydrated pet will have dry, tacky

gums. Another hydration test is to pick up a fold of skin between the shoulders, if it immediately returns to normal position that is fine, if the skin stays tented for a short time it may indicate dehydration. If you are unsure speak with your vet.

### NORMAL GUMS

If your pet has black pigmentation in its mouth, look at the inside of the lower lid of the eye.

- ▶ PINK GUMS – well hydrated.
- ▶ WHITE GUMS – shock or blood loss.
- ▶ RED GUMS – can indicate high temperature (heatstroke), an illness, toxicity or could be due to dental problems.
- ▶ PURPLE OR BLUE GUMS – lack of oxygen.
- ▶ YELLOW GUMS – liver problems.



NORMAL GUMS  
PINK AND MOIST



PALE  
GUMS



YELLOW GUMS

## PUPPY TRAINING



↑ PUPPY KELLY IN CLASS

Pups that attend puppy classes generally are more relaxed about coming to the vets for the rest of their adult lives. Four weeks of fun and training means they don't panic when they come into the reception area and are okay when the vet puts them on the examination table as they have experienced this previously and they had fun. It is a worthwhile investment. Puppy classes run for four weeks and cover basic training and health advice. The classes are for pups aged 8-13 weeks of age at the commencement of classes. We have options for older pups and dogs. Call 6230 2223 for advice.



↑ NURSES LEANNE AND CASSIE WITH DR KARINA

## CANBERRA CAT VET

Canberra Cat Vet's Open Night on 25th June, 2014, was a great success judging by the milling crowds and smiling faces. Over a hundred people looked through the hospital, listened to discussions on making our homes cat friendly, the history of cats, the use of Feliway and dental disease, and joined us for drinks and nibbles. Many went home carrying prizes of food, accessories and toys for their cats.

CCV blogs: [www.canberracatvet.com.au/blog](http://www.canberracatvet.com.au/blog)

## FLEXI-LEADS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR ALL DOGS

A dog on a retractable leash bolted into traffic and was hit by a motorcycle. It was in severe respiratory distress upon arriving at the vets. While there were no external wounds, a tear in the dog's trachea was found and repaired. Wounds like you see below inflicted on the owner are another problem. So think about the size of your dog and the potential for damage before attaching one of these leads to your pal.



# OUCH !

## FLEXI-LEAD PAIN







↑ BEFORE AND AFTER  
A RECENT DENTAL PROCEDURE ON A CAT



## DENTAL DISEASE

Your pet's teeth are awash in bacteria-rich plaque, which, when combined with minerals in the saliva, will harden into tartar (calculus) that traps even more bacteria. Left unattended, your pet's gums can then become inflamed, resulting in gingivitis and ultimately, periodontal disease. This oral bacteria can enter your pet's bloodstream and cause damage to the heart, liver, kidneys and lungs.

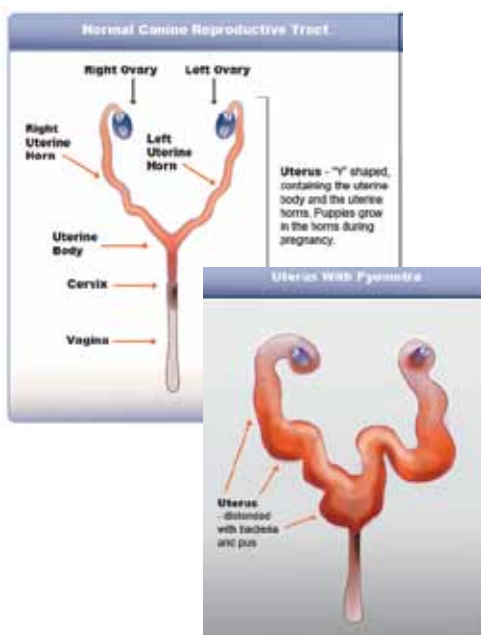
There are many ways of preventing the build-up of bacteria – the use of rawhide chews, special chews, dental bones/toys and other healthy products that work by abrading the off plaque can also help. They shouldn't be relied upon to do the whole job. The gold standard of prevention is to brush your pet's teeth. If you start gently you can teach the majority of dogs, no matter what age, to tolerate and even enjoy this procedure.

The following are signs that your pet may have a problem in its mouth or gastrointestinal system and should be checked by a veterinarian:

- ▶ Bad breath, excessive drooling, inflamed swollen gums, tumors in the gums, cysts under the tongue, loose teeth.

Cats can suffer from a painful disease known as tooth resorption. We are able to perform dental radiographs to screen for this condition in adult cats.

## DESEXING / PYOMETRA



In two weeks we have performed two emergency procedures on dogs suffering from a condition called pyometra. This is an infection (pus) in the uterus. Pyometra is a serious and life threatening condition that must be treated promptly AND it is avoidable by having your pet desexed.

Pyometra is caused by either an excessive amount of progesterone or hypersensitivity of the uterus to progesterone. Cysts develop in the lining of the uterus and release large amounts of fluid into the uterus. This accumulated fluid can harbour a secondary bacterial infection. A normal uterus in a staffordshire bull terrier should weigh around 225grams not 1.7kgs!

There are many health benefits to having your pets desexed, saving them from pyometra is just one.

## WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOUR PET WHEN YOU ARE AT WORK?

If you are trying to solve a dog barking problem or perhaps find out what is going on with storm or noise phobia conditions, consider hooking up a small surveillance camera linked to a wireless network.

With the help of some software you stream live video to smart phones and tablets to help work out what is going on. This may help work out a training strategy and gives you peace of mind while away from home.



## WARNING E-COLLARS & E-FENCES INFLECT PAIN

We have had several inquiries about the use of electronic collars to stop dogs barking and electronic fences to keep dogs contained. We do not endorse the use of these products. Not only do they inflict pain, the shock collars are illegal in the ACT and electronic fences are illegal in NSW unless inside 1.5m dog proof fence.

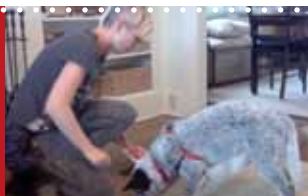
As well as being a welfare issue, electronic fences run the risk of creating other behavioural issues. For example when the dog sees another animal passing by and rushes toward it to say a friendly hello only to be hurt by the invisible fence. The message to the dog can be 'that dog caused me pain' and quickly you can turn a friendly dog into either a scared or aggressive animal. With the e-fences cost, convenience and aesthetics should never be chosen over animal welfare.

Barking should always be regarded as a symptom, not a diagnosis, and the reasons for the barking should be investigated. Training based on punishment can nearly always be replaced by positive reinforcement of desirable behaviours. We have the skills and knowledge to help you with this.

The Australian Veterinary Association and the RSPCA oppose the use of these devices, regarding them as either cruel or having the potential to cause animal suffering.

## HOW TO STOP A DOG BARKING USING POSITIVE TRAINING METHODS

[www.youtube.com/user/kikopup](http://www.youtube.com/user/kikopup)

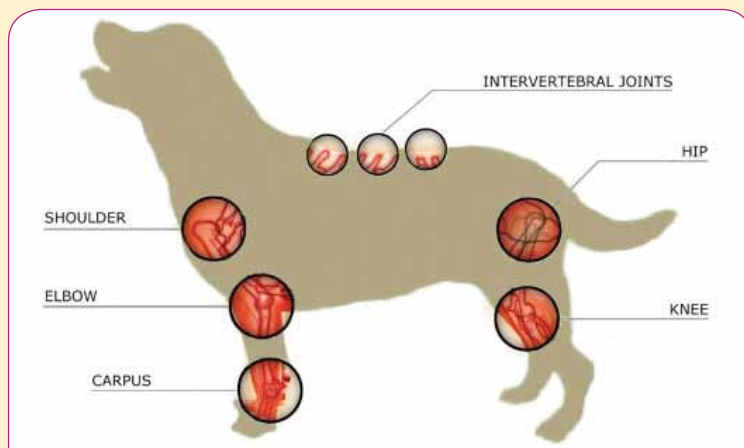


## ARTHRITIS MANAGEMENT

There are a range of types of arthritis, but the most common in older pets is osteoarthritis (degenerative joint disease). It is characterised by pain and inflammation in the animal's joint/s. Osteoarthritis is caused by the breaking down of smooth cartilage that covers and protects the bones that form a joint. Once the bones are exposed, painful wear and tear occurs. That hurts... a lot.

*Animals that have arthritis may:*

- ▶ Walk stiffly.
- ▶ Limp or favour certain limbs.
- ▶ Show stiffness or discomfort when getting up from lying-down.
- ▶ Appear to have stiff, swollen or sore joints.
- ▶ Seem to experience pain when touched in certain areas.
- ▶ Find certain positions uncomfortable or painful.
- ▶ Suffer loss of flexibility in their joints.
- ▶ Be hesitant to jump, run or climb stairs.
- ▶ May lick or chew at the joints.
- ▶ Undergo a personality change (possibly aggression).
- ▶ Have a reduced appetite.



*Some of the treatment options:*

A pet suffering from advanced arthritis is getting around on a joint that lacks cartilage, so it is bone-on-bone. Ouch! Generally they don't complain and need us to be observant and benevolent.

*They can benefit from:*

- ▶ Painkillers or anti-inflammatory medications.
- ▶ Nutritional supplements to help replenish cartilage.
- ▶ Hills® j/d diet.
- ▶ Low-impact regular exercise.
- ▶ Weight loss, if necessary.

*How you can assist your pet with arthritis:*

- ▶ Make play short and gentle.
- ▶ Place non-skid mats over floor boards or other slippery surfaces.
- ▶ Gentle massage and physical therapy - hydrotherapy for exercise.
- ▶ Place food and water bowls on a low table or crate, or in a raised feeder, to avoid neck and spine strain (unless advised otherwise by your vet).

- ▶ Assist with grooming in areas that might be difficult for your pet to reach.
- ▶ A firm, orthopedic foam bed (at least 10mm deep) up off the cold floor and away from draughts.
- ▶ Portable dog ramps for car access or other areas where the dog would otherwise have to jump.

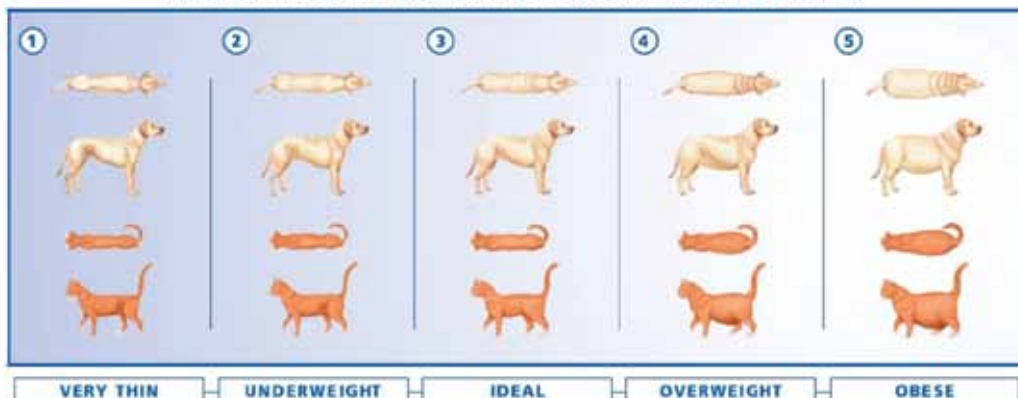
*Other treatment options you might like to consider*

- ▶ Acupuncture.
- ▶ Stem cell therapy.
- ▶ Surgical intervention.

Cats with arthritis may be reluctant to jump to previous heights and 'pour' themselves off chairs or land heavily. They may start urinating or defecating out of the litter box because it is too painful for them to jump into it. You may also notice that your cat is grooming excessively in one area.

If you notice any changes in your pet's behavior, discuss it with your vet.

### SELECT A BODY CONDITION SCORE FOR YOUR PET



Obesity is a major health concern in our pets.

A pet that is overweight has a higher risk of developing many disease states. Diabetes, osteoarthritis, pancreatitis are just a few examples. We all want our pets to have long and healthy lives and being overweight will shorten the pet's life and reduce their quality of life.

While there are feeding guides supplied by pet food manufacturers, there is an easier guide. Look at your pet. Does it have an abdomen contour? Can you feel the ribs through a light layer of fat? Use this pictorial guide to judge where your pet is on the body score and if you have any concerns please discuss this with our staff.