



creature comforts

all the latest news from hampton park vets
spring 2018



hampton park veterinary hospital

helping local pets and their
owners with our full range of
pet care and health services
for over 20 years

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Saturday - 8.30am-3pm

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From Dr Cameron

The Power of Pets: Our pets are often the lynchpin to family life. Growing up, between my sister and I, we almost had one of everything! I have many childhood memories of bringing home the waifs and strays. My parents got used to the stories that kittens would often just follow me home!

Trixie the pony was a standout pet for me (she lived in our suburban garden). I still remember the vet visiting us there (she had sore feet). What I did not know then was this vet was later to be a mentor and have a profound effect on me becoming a vet. Thanks Rod!

We went through the gambit that is the childhood rodent collection. Having Billy the budgie Mk 1, 2 and 3 and off course enjoying the company of Squish the cat, who successfully avoided any accident for over 20 years. An honourable mention goes to Fat Cat the Border Collie who dexterously stole peoples' milk deliveries from their doorsteps. Of course it was a different time but, the positive impact of pet ownership is still as valid today.

From a young age, pet ownership teaches us to relate and care for another. We learn responsibility, however small our contribution is. Not every day is happy and when we lose a pet we learn about grief, compassion and gratitude

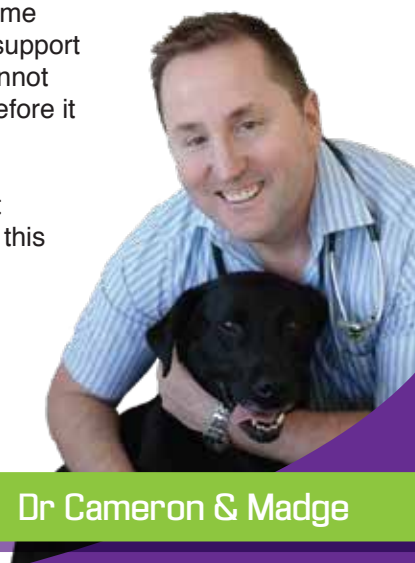
Our pets give us so much in return. They comfort us when we are sad and they make us laugh. They are our sound counsel when we get home after a challenging day. Sometimes they are the relentless personal trainer, uncompromising in their desire to exercise their owners. This is just the tip of the iceberg. Some superstar pets are genuine heroes acting to support us. They see when we cannot, listen if we cannot hear, and even detect early signs of illness before it happens.

A large part of my drive is to preserve our pet relationships. The veterinary hospital reflects this passion. Whether it's caring for the pet or pet owner we are always here to help.

One word of advice in hindsight. I don't encourage a horse in the back garden, they play havoc with the roses!

Dr Cameron

Dr Cameron & Madge



(03) 9702 8811 (all hours)
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caring for life.

CatsqCorner – know the risks of the great outdoors

Does your feline friend like to go out and about? Whether it's just relaxing under a tree in the back yard, or going to visit the neighbours, getting out can be a lot of fun for your cat. However it's not without risks. One risk is other less than friendly cats – neighbour's cats or strays. If your furry friend gets bitten by an infected cat then they're at risk of catching **Cat AIDs/Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)**.



This disease is similar to human HIV infection (thankfully humans cannot catch it). FIV causes suppression of your cat's immune system. Once their immune system is suppressed, they can get sick very easily from diseases that they would normally be able to fight off. It can even kill them. Just one bite can be enough to cause infection.



Dr Jacqueline & Belle

Can you tell if your cat has FIV? In the early stages you can't! The only way to tell is by performing a blood test to look for the disease. It's not until the latter stages when they get very sick that they begin to show signs. The symptoms often vary depending on what the secondary infection is, but may include weight loss, lack of appetite, fever and lethargy.

FIV does not have a cure. Medical treatment for infected cats is limited, aiming at supporting their immune system to fight off incidental infection and being very thorough with preventative care, such as vaccinations and flea and worming treatment.

Whilst the FIV infection rate is around 20% in the general population, it is still a risk (particularly if your cat crosses path with strays). Our advice is to ensure your cat is protected if they go outside. The good news is you can protect your cat against FIV with vaccination, it's included with your regular vaccination.

keep your cat
safe when
they're
outside

Any questions or concerns please call us.

Save a family member's life

Prevention is the only cure. Many diseases we vaccinate for are fatal and have no cure. Who's at risk? Age is no excuse! Everyone is at risk.

protect your pet
for as little as
25c a day

What do we protect or cats against?

Cat Parvovirus (likely fatal) which attacks the gut causing bleeding from the bowel.
Cat Flu a group of infections which causes infect the mouth, throat, nose & eyes. This can lead to pneumonia. Once infected, cats can become life long carriers suffer relapses.
Cat AIDs/Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).

What do we protect or dogs against?

Parvovirus (likely fatal) results in life-threatening bloody vomiting and diarrhoea, brain and heart disease.

Canine Distemper (fatal) attacks the whole body spreading. It might initially just seem like a runny nose initially, but things escalate rapidly and result in death

Infectious Canine Hepatitis (fatal) attacks the liver. Dogs have severe abdominal pain, vomiting/diarrhoea and blood clotting disorders.

Canine Cough Think of it like whooping cough for dogs. An infected dog coughs to the point of retching because their wind pipe is so sore. It is very common and can develop into pneumonia.

Cutting to the chase, for as little as 25 cents per day your pet can have a health examination and vaccination. A small price to pay for the satisfaction of knowing they are protected against some nasty diseases. It's never too late to protect them. Check page 4 to see how we can help.



Puppy Parenting

Welcome to puppy parenting. As with human babies, puppies don't come with an instruction manual. Here are some tips to get you started with puppy training.

Make training a positive, happy experience. How would you like to be told off or worse still, smacked when you are learning a new task and get it wrong. Ban the smacking!

Celebrate when your pet gets it right by rewarding them. Food is generally a strong motivator and reward.

Accompany food rewards with praise. Tell them they are the best dog in the world!

Make rewards immediate so have your training treats at hand. A bum bag works well as a treat container

Once the training basics are down pat continue to **give food rewards intermittently** but keep the praise up. This keeps your pet guessing. They seem to work that little bit harder at training as they just don't know when the next treat will arrive.

If you adopt the 4 P's- **Practice, Patience, Persistence** and **Praise** you and your new fur baby can have a long, healthy and most importantly happy life together.

At Hampton Park Vets we pride ourselves on helping you have the best behaved puppy at the park with our amazing Puppy Preschool! After just 4 weeks of classes you can have a well behaved pup!

You also get the latest information on puppy care and leave with the lifelong confidence of being able to look best look after the newest member of the family. Our Puppy Pre-School is awesome for first time puppy parents!

Oh, and second best thing about puppy preschool...complete all 4 weeks of classes and 100% tuition fee will be credited to you for use within Hampton Park Vets. This makes puppy preschool FREE!

ENROL NOW!

Hi, I'm Miss Charli and this is Penny. I'm a qualified vet nurse and your puppy school teacher. I'll help you and your puppy get a great start in life.

Puppy preschool runs every Wednesday 6-7pm



You be the Vet: ditch the itch

The weather's getting warmer, flowers are blooming and everyone's getting allergies.

Did you know our pets can suffer from atopy or pet hayfever?

Hayfever can appear in our pets the same way in humans, but it's far more common for pets with hayfever to get itchy and red skin. There are many possible causes - pollen, grasses, insect, mould and dust mites, literally 1000s of things floating in the air could trigger hay fever. Left unchecked our pets itch, rub and lick causing skin trauma and infection. The skin becomes even itchier resulting in more damage. Before you know it, the itchiness snowballs out of control.

Imagine how distressing it would be to have an itch you couldn't relieve! Is your pet affected?

Look for redness of skin especially in the armpits and groin. Allergies can sometimes affect one location or all over.

Signs of ear infections: itchy, smelly or red, crusty ears.

Feet licking or chewing. Excessive licking will cause saliva staining of the feet. Everyone has seen those 'white dogs' with rusty coloured toes.

What to do?

Don't ignore the signs. Act early! Nowadays there are some excellent treatments to make your pet happy and itch free.



caring for life.

Brave Pet: Jessie the Wonder Dog

Meet Jessie, she is an adorable 13 year old Jack Russell and a long term favorite HPVH. Early this year, her owners received the news that no owner wants to hear□ Jessie has lymphoma, a cancer in the intestines.

Her owners have never waived and decided to have treatment. We first performed surgery to remove the mass. She then required some intensive medical treatment to get her well enough for chemotherapy. For the past five months we have been treating her with chemotherapy.

For most of her treatment we have been able to treat her in HPVH. Our laboratory allows us to get immediate blood test results to adjust her medication. It has been a collaborative effort from our vets and nurses, who closely liaise with Jessie's oncologist in NSW. It's a relief to be in familiar surrounding for Jessie and her parents.

A highlight of our week, is seeing Jessie strut into the practice. In true Jack Russell fashion, her tail never stops wagging, she looks like she is smiling. Jessie is so used to being at HPVH that she does take some cheeky liberties like sleeping in the office and getting that extra love from all the team.

Jessie has gained weight and is enjoying life. On the outside you'd never know anything was wrong. So different to five months ago. Such a brave pet and pet parents.



Meet Vet Nurse, Erin

Hi, I'm Erin! I'm actually not that new, I first started my vet nurse training right here with Dr Cameron some seven years ago.

Veterinary Nursing has enabled me to see a bit of the world. After my training, I moved to a clinic that looked after large animals: horses and cows. A bit different to the cats, dogs and rabbits that I was used to. This was an amazing experience, especially since I have two horses myself.

I volunteered at a veterinary clinic in Hoi An, Vietnam. A challenging and often confronting time. Here I mostly nursed very sick and injured cats and dogs. I worked closely with the people in the surrounding villages, educating them on pet health and welfare.

For a long time it was just Brian and me. I have added to my menagerie. Now I have three miniature goats - Kevin, Gary and Penny (they are all sisters, but that is another story for a different day!) and my two horses.

If anyone wants a rewarding career that is transportable 'round the world', I can vouch for becoming a veterinary nurse.

I am a bit of a boomerang having returned to the comfort of HPVH. It's great to see the improvements, reacquainting with familiar faces and meeting new ones.

I look back and never thought, as a new trainee I would do what I have done. Power to what you can achieve when you love your job.



Erin in Vietnam

It's never too late to protect your pet

If your cat or dog has never had a vaccination or it's years since we saw gave them a vaccination here is your opportunity to protect your pets' well being.

At HPVH we feel vaccination is so important we're running a vaccination amnesty this Spring

We'll vaccinate your unvaccinated/lapsed vaccinated adult pet with a full vaccination course for the price of a booster.
(F3 /C5 vacc only)

A massive saving and peace of mind you will not lose them to preventable disease.

Feel free to share this offer with a friend that may need help.

SO what are you waiting for, book today!

Promotion while stocks last

Act now - vaccination special offer