



Rupert the Schnauzer

Rupert is a male Schnauzer who visits the clinic regularly. He has been diagnosed with primary hyperlipidaemia which means that the levels of fat, called lipids, in his blood are too high. This problem most commonly occurs in Schnauzers and is due to a problem with how the fats are broken down and used by the body. Primary hyperlipidaemia can also be seen in Beagles, Shetland Sheepdogs, Dobermans, Rottweillers, Briards, Rough-coated Collies and Pyrenees Mountain Dogs but Schnauzers are most common.

In Rupert's case he had a build up of fat molecules in his eye, leading us to investigate why this had happened. Hyperlipidaemia can occur due to some hormonal disorders, as a result of some medications, due to obesity and some cancers. Rupert didn't have any of these problems and so his condition was determined to be a primary problem, not related to another condition.

Hyperlipidaemia can cause other problems such as pancreatitis, liver disease, atherosclerosis (buildup of fat in the arteries) and seizures. Since Rupert has been switched to a very low fat prescription diet he has had no further hyperlipidaemia problems and has been doing really well!

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Buying a Puppy or Kitten



The world has changed with respect to purchasing pets! Now it is very easy to buy a pup or kitten from anywhere in Australia. But is this a good thing? In some cases it is not and it is important to carefully consider a few things first.

Buyers need to be wary of who they are purchasing from. Gone are the days of buying locally, visiting the babies and getting to meet mum and dad in some cases. In these situations you get to bond with the pups and kittens and choose the one that best suits you. You get to assess the personality of the parents, you get to see the environment and the condition of your new family member.

When buying online or through social media you have to trust the breeders exclusively and unfortunately this doesn't always work out well.

There are a number of ways to try to avoid problems. Try to seek out a breeder that is registered with Dogs Victoria (or equivalent depending on the state). As of July 1st 2020 all sellers of dogs and cats, including those advertising give aways, are required to have enrolled on the pet exchange register and will be issued a source number.

Please ensure you are given this number when you pick up your furry friend.

Ask what options are available should you find the pet not suitable or if it arrives unwell or not what you expected. You should always have the option to return the pet or discuss further options with the breeder.

Please feel free to ask for further assistance from our friendly staff at any time.



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Canine Vestibular Disease

Canine vestibular disease is commonly called geriatric vestibular disease, idiopathic vestibular syndrome or peripheral vestibular disease. A strange but common condition, this disease can occur in old dogs overnight. Some dogs go to bed normal and the next day are so wobbly that they can't walk. They also usually have a significant head tilt to one side and may refuse food or vomit. Often their eyes flick or jerk from side to side, called nystagmus, however this can be difficult to see unless the head is held still.

The vestibular system is located in the brain with components in the inner and middle ear and is responsible for maintaining balance. There are a variety of causes of vestibular disease including inner or middle ear infections, drugs toxic to the ear, trauma, cancers or hypothyroidism. This condition can also be idiopathic, which means we are unable to find an exact cause, and it is a process of elimination. This is the most common cause and it can be frustrating to not know why this is happening to our pet.

In most cases treatment involves supportive care with medications to decrease nausea and encourage eating, pain relief (particularly for patients with arthritis that already find movement difficult) and helping them move to go to the toilet and stop sores from lying in the one position for extended periods.

For information about more interesting conditions such as this one check out our website for older newsletter editions and a collection of handouts.

Top Tips: Parasite Control



Parasite control is a really important part of pet care for both you and your pet. Did you know that we can catch many of the parasites that affect our pets? How gross! Parasites can also affect our pets health and make them uncomfortable so prevention is the key.

There are many different products available so it is important that you pick one that suits your lifestyle and your pet. Here are some options:

- Spot on treatments: These products are small pipettes of liquid that are placed on the skin of the pet. Many protect against multiple parasites. Most do not prevent tapeworm infestation though so it is important to keep this in mind. Spot on treatments are really great for pets that are very difficult to give tablets to.
- Chews: These are flavoured, soft tablets that many pets like the taste of. Some take care of just worms or external parasites like fleas and ticks. Others cover internal and external parasites at the same time.
- Tablets: Most people have heard of worm tablets. Some cover most worms, others only tapeworm. Tablets are also available that prevent fleas. These can be the most difficult to give for some pets. Hiding them in food can help, particularly if they are broken up first into smaller pieces.
- Collars: Flea and tick collars have previously been commonly used for external parasites. It is important that they are changed at the right time and to only use good quality products or they do not work.
- Washes: Flea and tick washes usually kill the parasites that are on the pet at the time. They do not continue working in the coming days like some of the other products available. Up to 95% of the flea and tick population can be found in the environment where the pet lives, not on them, so these are of limited use.

All of these products need to be repeated at different intervals so it is important to check the packaging and mark it on the calendar. If you need help deciding on a product to use our team are more than happy to help and can give/ apply the products if needed.

Clinic News!

With the new section of the clinic open and in use we also have some new staff members to help us use the beautiful new space! Keep an eye out for them and say hi if you see them around!

With the new year upon us our puppy playschool will also be back up and running so if you have a puppy make sure you get on the list and into our next class.

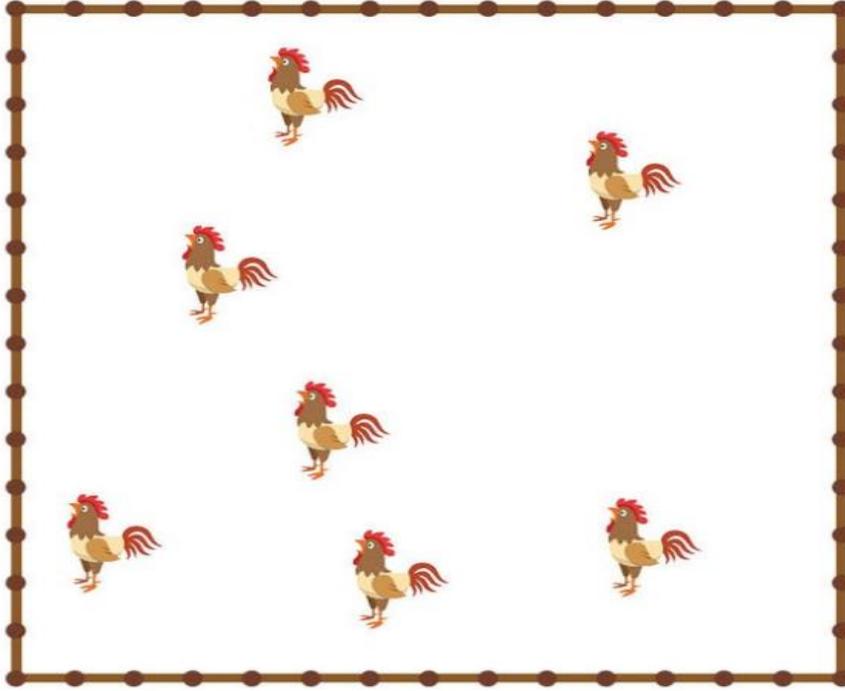


29 O'Callaghan Parade
Horsham, Victoria
Ph: (03) 53811996
www.yourfamilyvet.com.au

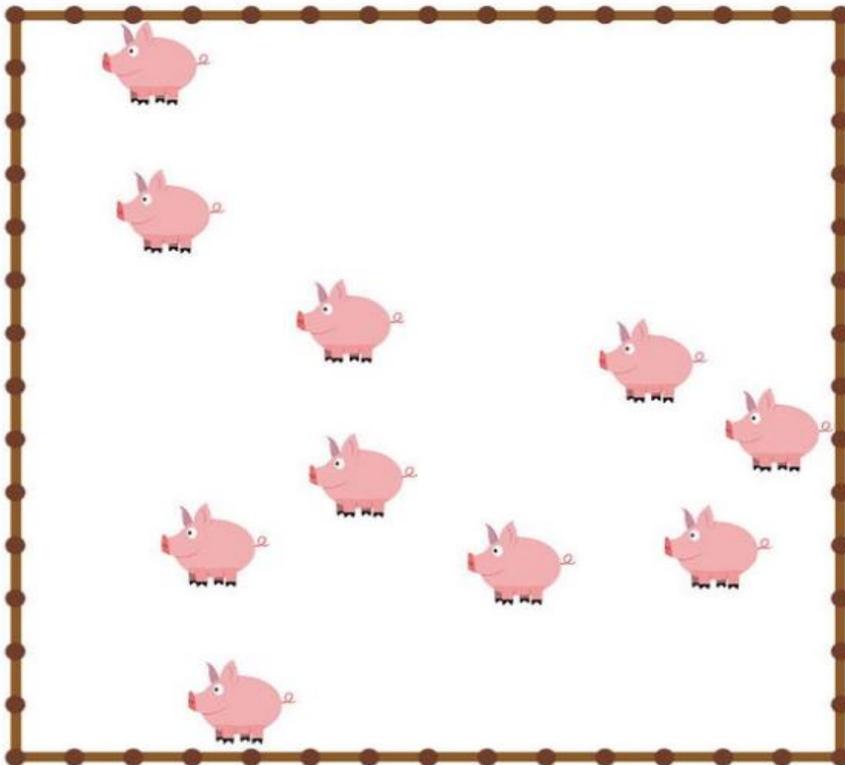
Opening hours
Monday- Friday
8:30am-5:30pm
Saturday
9:00am-12:00noon

Puzzles!

Can you draw 3 straight lines to separate each of these roosters into their own pens?



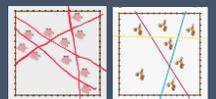
Can you draw 4 straight lines to separate each of these pigs into their own pens?



Joke of the Month

What happened to the frogs car when in broke down????

It got toad away!!!



ANSWERS: