



## PUPPY INFORMATION

Socialising your puppy is a very important process of making your puppy fit for society, both human and animal. You should try to introduce your new puppy to as many different people and animals as possible. The puppy needs to learn to interact in a friendly, confident fashion and to take and cope with whatever happens in its stride.

The best time to socialise your puppy is from 3 - 14 weeks. After 14 weeks if your puppy has not been socialised he or she will find it harder to adjust to new people and animals and unfamiliar experiences. It does not mean they can not be socialised, it just means it may take longer.

A good and safe way to introduce your puppy to other dogs is through Puppy Pre-school. These classes are for socialisation and basic training. It is usually lots of fun for the puppies and owners. If you are interested in these classes, contact the Surgery.

## NOTE MT MORGAN CLINIC - DAY CHANGE

This is for all of those clients who visit the vet in Mt. Morgan. We did send out a notice to as many clients as we could but if you did not receive one please note the day change below. The venue and time is the same - The Community Services Hall on Morgan Street between 5pm - 7pm. These hours may be extended to 8pm if normal hours are booked out. This day change commences in January, 2005.

New Clinic Times:-

Mt Morgan Clinic  
Community Services Hall  
1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month  
5pm - 7pm

Please ring for an appointment. House visits can be made with prior arrangement. Small dogs and cats can be taken back to Rockhampton for surgery by prior arrangement.

For all bookings and inquiries, please call - 49 228138

## THE SPIDER WEB

67 Alma Street  
Rockhampton Q 4700

Phone: 4922 8138  
(all hours)

Welcome again to another newsletter from the Alma Street Veterinary Surgery.

Well, we managed to successfully negotiate the move to our temporary premises next door to the old surgery and we really quite enjoy it. A bit more space and a lovely waiting room for us to sleep. Now Greg tells us we are moving back again into a new premises with even more space for us to sleep and get into mischief - so we are looking forward to that.

There is plenty of great things to read in the newsletter - some tips on dental care; the new FIV cat vaccine and 'Whats New' in the world of veterinary medicine.

Well we hope to see you all at the new premises at 67 Alma Street. No doubt you will see us lounging around somewhere. Bye for now.

Spider and Webster  
The Surgery Cats



## THE NEW ALMA STREET VETERINARY SURGERY

Tom McLaughlin originally built the Alma Street Veterinary Surgery. It was a great surgery but just became too small to meet the increased demand for our services.

So we have built another veterinary facility which is not only larger, but also better equipped allowing us to keep pace with the changing needs of our patients. Our aim is to continually strive to provide excellent service and care for our patients and their carers.

Some of the facilities which help us to achieve this include:-

**Waiting Area** - Separate Dog and Cat waiting areas will make things less traumatic for our feline friends.

**Reception** - A larger desk will allow us to provide more prompt, efficient service.

**Operating Theatre** - This room is for sterile surgery only, allowing us to provide a clean, sterile surgical area.

**Hospital Wards** - We now have 3 separate hospital wards.

**Cat Ward** - Cats can be comfortable in their own ward, without being disturbed by some of those noisy dogs. We have new, comfortable heated cages, all separated with solid walls.

**Dog Ward** - New comfortable cages with solid sides, mean dogs are completely separated from other dogs.

**Large Dog Ward** - This ward has dog 'Runs' for the comfort of larger dogs.

All the wards have separate air conditioners to provide ideal recovery conditions for our patients.

**Imaging Room** - A room especially designed for ultrasound and x-ray facilities.

If you would like a tour of the new facilities please ask the girls at reception when you next visit.

## PUZZLE

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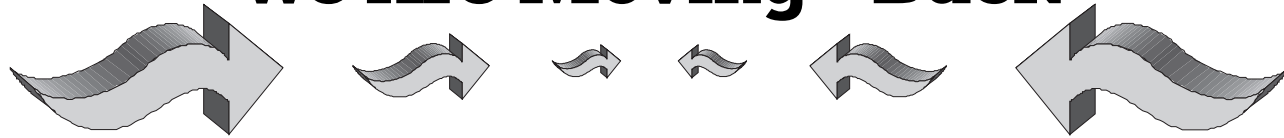
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1. Like a deer and runs very fast
2. Has a mane and roars
3. Small and squeaks
4. Small social insect
5. Long and slippery, some are venomous
6. A large cat with stripes
7. Small rodent
8. Australian bird on the fifty cent coin
9. Spikey covered mammal
10. Lives in a shell
11. Large bird, has no feathers on its head
12. It is grey in colour and has a trunk
13. A breed of horse
14. Has wool and says Baa Baa

ANSWERS: 1. ANTELOPE, 2. LOIN, 3. MOUSE, 4. ANT, 5. SNAKE, 6. TIGER, 7. RAT, 8. EMU, 9. ECHIDNA, 10. TURTLE, 11. VULTURE, 12. ELEPHANT, 13. THOROUGHBREED, 14. SHEEP.

# We Are Moving - Back



Our new surgery is finally complete and we are ready to move in. We will move the surgery on Saturday, 29th January, 2005. Our opening hours will remain the same and we hope to keep disruption to a minimum.

## Hours:-

Saturday 8.00am - 12.00pm  
Temporary Surgery, 65 Alma Street

Sunday 9.00am - 11.00am  
New Surgery at 67 Alma Street

It will then be business as usual in the new Surgery at 67 Alma Street, Rockhampton.

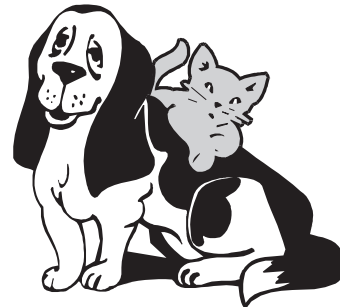
## Our Normal Hours are:-

Monday - Friday 8.00am - 6.00pm  
Saturday 8.00am - 12.00pm  
Sunday 9.00am - 11.00am

For appointments or inquiries please ring 49 228 138.

For After Hours Attention ring 0418 196 717.

## Dental Care



Teeth are a very important part of our pets health - just like with people. While we brush our teeth daily, it is an area we tend to neglect with our pets.

Infected teeth not only cause discomfort, but can also lead to infections in other organs such as the kidneys and the heart.

Some tips on keeping teeth clean include:-

### BONES

Feed fresh meaty bones. Chicken wings and necks are good for cats and small dogs. Brisket bones for larger dogs.

Avoid cooked bones and bones with sharp points eg T-Bones. Bones should be given at least twice a week.

### CHEWS

There are several chewy treats available to give teeth a good workout. These include Dentabones and Porky Chews.

These should be given at least twice weekly.

### TOOTHBRUSH

A soft junior brush can be used alone or preferably with some animal toothpaste. A brush which sits on the end of your finger can also be used. This should be done daily.

### MAXIGUARD

This is a gel which is applied to the teeth to dissolve the plaque. This is similar to, but easier than brushing. It should be done daily.

### HILLS T/D DIET

This is a dried food especially designed to give teeth a good workout. This should be fed at least once daily.

These foods are designed to keep your pets teeth healthy, but just like us, they may need to be cleaned thoroughly with a dental scaler from time to time. A yearly dental check is recommended.



## WHAT'S NEW

Some new products on the market include:-

**ADVOCATE** - Advocate is a new 'Top Spot' product. Applied monthly to the back of the neck, it controls fleas, heartworm, mites and most intestinal worms. Available for both cats and dogs.

**Z/D DIET** - An ultra low allergy diet available for both dogs and cats. Used for animals with allergies associated with diet.

**FIV VACCINE** - This vaccine is now available. Please read the article below.

### Feline Immunodeficiency Virus Vaccine

A new vaccine is available for our feline friends against the Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV virus).

#### What is FIV?

FIV is a virus which gradually destroys the cats immune system, leaving them susceptible to infections.

#### How does my cat contract FIV?

FIV is spread by biting, and is generally contracted during cat fights. Therefore outside cats which fight are most susceptible.

#### What problems does it cause?

The signs of FIV infection are variable. Many cats may not show signs until several years after infection. Signs include getting infections (eg. Infected teeth), losing weight, wasting away and nervous system problems. These can all cause eventual death of the cat.

#### How can I tell if my cat has FIV?

A blood test is performed to test for FIV

infection. This is performed at the clinic, and takes approximately 10 minutes.

#### How can I prevent my cat getting FIV? Prevention falls into 2 categories;

- Prevent your cat fighting - as the virus is spread from biting, preventing your cat from fighting means they will not get the virus. Desexing your cat reduces fighting. We also recommend keeping your cat indoors, or in enclosures, especially at night.
- Vaccination - The new FIV vaccination is about 80 - 85% effective in preventing FIV infection. The initial course requires 3 vaccinations and then a yearly booster.

## ASK THE VET

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**QUESTION** - This question came from the Whiting Family.

Our dog Mozart goes everywhere with us and last year we were able to take him on the plane with us. During our journey our ears were constantly popping. We all wondered "Do dogs ears pop?"

### ANSWER

This is a great question. Dogs ears have a similar structure to human ears, with a tube which goes from the ear to the mouth to equalise the pressure in the ear. That's why we swallow when our ears pop, to open that tube. As dogs ears are similar to our own, I suspect their ears do also 'Pop'.

Unfortunately we can not tell our dogs to swallow, so it may make them a little uncomfortable on the way down, but it does not cause any lasting problems.