

# RIVERSIDE RAMBLINGS

Issue 31

August / September 07

## CONSULTING HOURS:

- 8.00am-7.00pm Mon-Fri
- 9.00am-12noon Sat
- (consultation by appointment)

**8523 1789**

## VETERINARY SURGEONS

**Dr Rob Auricht**  
BVSc (Melb)

**Dr Mandy Auricht**  
BVMS BSc (Murdoch)

**Dr Kate Van Staveren**  
BVSc (Sydney)

**Dr Scott Mersch**  
BVSc (Brisbane)

**Dr Silvia Sugiyama**  
MVDr NVE (Slovakia)

## VETERINARY NURSES & STAFF

**Gay Ammerlaan**

Level 4

**Katie Preston**

Level 4 - AVN

**Jo Hatcher**

Level 4

**Brigita Daniel**

Level 2

**Michelle Gardner**

Level 2

**Andrew Lobb**

Level 1

**Louise Crossman**

Professional Groomer

## MAGGIE'S MIAOW

Welcome to another edition of Riverside Ramblings! It has been a busy few months with lots of news to report.

August is pet dental month and we are very excited to announce that we have purchased a new dental machine which allows us to scale and polish pets teeth in a much shorter amount of time. The nurses are performing free dental checks during August and September so please feel free to take advantage of this service but be sure to book an appointment.

We were sad to say goodbye to Jennifer in June to pursue further veterinary nursing study and Silvia will be leaving us in September due to a move to Sydney to be with her husband Taka, who is currently working at the Sydney Veterinary Specialist Centre. However we are all very

pleased that Kate will be returning to Riverside in September after many months in the Kimberleys.

Rob has completed his certification for the PennHIP method of canine hip evaluation and is now a Certified Penn-Hip member. Michelle had an on-job assessment for part of her veterinary nursing studies which she passed with flying colours.

Mandy & Jo attended 5 weeks of puppy training with Mandy & Rob's Vizsla puppies Rowdy & Squizzle at Birdwood. Delta Dog Trainer Alexis Davidson gave lots of hints and helpful advice that we hope Rowdy & Squizzle took note of!

Until next time, purrs & miaows

Maggie

**"If cats could talk.....they wouldn't"** Nan Porter

## AUGUST IS PET DENTAL MONTH

August is National Pet Dental Month in Australia. Dental health is just as important in your pet as it is for you. 80% of dogs and 70% of cats suffer from dental disease from the age of three and it is the most common disease seen in pets. Signs of dental disease including bad breath, tartar on teeth, red and swollen gums, difficulty eating and in severe cases bleeding gums.

Caring for your pets teeth is an important part of your pets healthcare routine. If left untreated dental disease can cause tooth decay and gum infection which can pass damaging and potentially life-threatening bacteria through the bloodstream to the heart, liver and kidneys. It can also be very painful and uncomfortable for your pet. Imagine having not brushed your teeth in years and the plaque, tartar and tooth decay setting in and then having a toothache that you can't tell anyone about! There are ways of cleaning and caring for your pets teeth. You can brush your pets teeth with a specially formulated pet toothpaste and feed them Hills T/D diet which aids in cleaning your pets teeth and reducing plaque.

We also recommend having your pets teeth checked every year which may require a professional clean just as you may have done at your dentist. During the month of August and September we are offering FREE dental checks. Bookings are required so please telephone or speak to staff at reception to make an appointment.

### *Riverside E-Mail List*

Would you like to receive **E-MAIL REMINDERS** for your pet's vaccinations, worming, parasite prevention, health checks and our bi-monthly newsletter? Please contact the front desk on 8523 1789 to provide us with your e-mail address.

**RIVERSIDE VETERINARY SURGERY  
QUALITY COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR YOUR  
BEST FRIENDS**

170B Murray Street  
Gawler SA 5118

Phone: 08 8523 1789  
Fax: 08 8523 1785  
Email: [reception@riversidevets.com.au](mailto:reception@riversidevets.com.au)

## Fleas

With the warmer weather of late we can definitely say that summer is not too far away and with the warmer weather comes an outbreak of fleas! Fleas can make your pets life miserable causing skin irritation from itching and scratching.

It is important to use a complete flea control method which kills all stages of the flea life cycle. Flea powders, shampoos and collars are ineffective in control fleas. We recommend the use of a topical spot-on treatment Frontline Plus. Frontline Plus kills all four stages of the flea life cycle, is waterproof and lasts for one month.

When you purchase a 6 pack of Frontline Plus currently you will receive a dog or cat bowl FREE!

## PennHip Method of Canine Hip Evaluation

Canine Hip Dysplasia affects millions of dogs each year. Dogs who have hip dysplasia suffer from osteoarthritis, pain and lameness and it is most common in large and giant breed dogs but can affect smaller breeds also.

The Pennhip method of canine hip evaluation is a relatively new method of evaluating canine hip dysplasia and the possibility of the onset of osteoarthritis. Osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease is typical with canine hip dysplasia. The PennHip method assess the quality of the dogs hips and measures the hip joint degree of laxity.

Three radiographs are taken of different views of the dogs hips which are used to obtain accurate and precise measurements of joint laxity as well as information regarding the existence of hip dysplasia. The Pennhip method of canine hip evaluation has proved to measure the laxity of the hip joint much more accurately than traditional methods of canine hip evaluation. The degree of hip joint laxity measured using the PennHip method has been shown to be the most important risk factor in determining whether a dog is prone to developing hip dysplasia.

The technique can be used on puppies from 16 weeks of age so for breeds that susceptible to Hip Dysplasia we can assess them and then design a program to minimise arthritic development later in life. Dogs require a full anaesthetic for the procedure which can be done at the same time as desexing.

If you would like further information or would like to book an appointment please speak to staff at reception.

## Pet Insurance—Making healthcare affordable for your pets

Pet healthcare can be quite expensive and when an unexpected event occurs it can make life with your finances very difficult and in some cases can effect your decisions about treatment for your pet.

Pet Insurance is an easy and affordable way of taking the worry out of paying your pets healthcare bills. There are a number of Pet Insurance companies now available for pets in Australia and it will often pay to shop around for the policy that best suits your needs. Be aware that some pet insurance companies may have exclusions and not cover all pets or conditions.

We recommend Petplan Pet Insurance as they offer a number of affordable plans that can cover both dogs and cats for up to \$15 000 per year. Plans start from as little as \$28.50 per month and they will even cover boarding fees and advertising if your pet is lost or stolen.

For more information please pick up a brochure from reception or speak to staff at reception.



"A dog is the only thing on earth that will love you more than you love yourself" Josh Bill

Don't forget to keep an eye on upcoming changes to our website:

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

### Please note :

All vets in this practice are members of the AVA and all nurses are members of the VNCA. We all abide by their strict code of professional and ethical conduct of these Associations. We are committed to using our skills and knowledge for the welfare of animals and society.