

# RIVERSIDE RAMBLINGS

Issue 30

June / July 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

**Jo Hatcher**

Level 4

**Brigitte Daniel**

Level 3

**Jennifer Smith**

Level 3

**Michelle Gardner**

Level 1

**Andrew Lobb**

Level 1

**Louise Crossman**

Professional Groomer

## MAGGIE'S MIAOW

Well hasn't it been so cold and wet lately. It is great that we have had rain but it really isn't very good "cat weather". I have been forced to stay indoors most days which I really don't like but luckily I can find a nice warm place to curl up and sleep behind the computer screens.

Kate has been away for the last few months in Queensland with her fiancé Adam, working on the new Baz Lurhmann film "Australia". It really has been a lot of hard work as well as being able to mix with all the stars! We have all been missing her terribly and are looking forward to her return in September.

While Kate has been away we have had a new veterinarian Silvia Sugiyama, working with us as well as Sandy Harbison helping out every few weeks. You can

learn more about Silvia later in the newsletter.

Mandy is still hard at work with her post graduate study in Feline Medicine and recently attended a weekend workshop in Sydney which she enjoyed. Jo and Katie also attended a surgical nursing seminar in May and Katie is off to the UK in June for her brother's wedding.

Happy Birthday to Jennifer who turns 21 on the 24th of June and will be having a big party to celebrate. Congratulations Jen!

Until next time keep yourselves warm and dry!

Purrs and miaows

Maggie

**"Dogs come when they are called, cats take a message and get back to you"**

Mary Bly

## Pre Anaesthetic Blood Testing and Intravenous Fluid Therapy support for surgery patients

When your pet requires surgery at Riverside whether they be young or "young at heart" we will recommend Pre-Anaesthetic Blood testing prior to anaesthesia and also intravenous fluid therapy for support during surgery and recovery.

Pre Anaesthetic blood testing is recommended to all animals even if your pet appears to be healthy as some problems can not be detected by a physical examination alone. The blood test aids us in giving an overall picture of your pet's health and if something abnormal is detected we are then able to treat them accordingly. If the results show no abnormalities then we know what the normal values are for your pet which can be helpful for the future.

Intravenous fluid therapy is advised as anaesthetics can cause a drop in blood pressure which can cause problems in your pet. Fluid therapy helps to maintain blood pressure during surgery as well as aiding your pet in metabolising the anaesthetic faster therefore greatly improving recovery.

If you would like to know more about Pre-Anaesthetic blood testing or intravenous fluid therapy support, please speak to our staff.

### 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)

**STAFF PROFILE—DR SILVIA SUGIYAMA**

Silvia originally hails from Slovakia (formerly Czechoslovakia) and has been living in Australia with her veterinarian husband Taka for 3 years. She studied Veterinary Science at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Kosice, Slovakia and graduated in 2000.

Silvia previously worked in small animal practices in Victoria and Adelaide before taking some time off after the birth of her daughter Hannah in September 2006.

Silvia is a very caring veterinarian who has a special interest in dermatology and internal medicine. She has three domestic cats at home called Bubu, Shoga and Nelly.

**IS YOUR CAT OVERWEIGHT?**

It is estimated that 25– 33% of cats are overweight or obese. Overweight cats can develop many health problems such as joint problems, diabetes, urinary tract disease, skin problems and have a shortened lifespan.

Obesity in cats can develop due to factors such as their age as older cats tend to be less active and therefore require less calories. Desexed cats also require less calories as they don't burn them up as quickly. The amount of food fed and type can also contribute to obesity. Cats that have food left out constantly for them tend to be overweight more than those that don't. Cats are generally opportunistic feeders who will pester you for food just to see if they can get it!

If your pet is overweight we can help them to loose weight. They may require a special diet and encouraged to exercise. It is important to remember that cats loose weight slowly and not in large amounts. A bodyweight loss of 15% in 10 weeks is a quite reasonable amount. For example a 9kg obese cat to loose 15% of its bodyweight would be only 1.35kg. This might not sound like much but for a cat this is a huge amount. For some humans if we lost 15% of our bodyweight that would equate to around 10.5kg which is a very significant amount!

If you would like more information regarding weight-loss for your cat please ask on of our staff.

**WINTER CARE TIPS FOR YOUR PETS**

At this time of year it is important that we do things to make our pets more comfortable. Older pets in particular can have a hard time coping with the colder weather. Here are some tips to make the winter months easier to cope with.

**Bedding:** Warm comfortable bedding is a must. Ideally beds should be raised off of the ground with a good amount of padding. Heat mats and pads are available to buy which work in a similar way to electric blankets. Any heating device should be used with care to prevent burns. Hot water bottles can also be used but be careful not to use boiling water in case your dog chews it! For older animals sleeping inside where it is warmer is best. If your pet stays outdoors ensure that they have a warm and dry area that is safe from the wind and rain.

**Senior Pet Checks:** Arthritis can be a very uncomfortable condition that often develops in older pets. Arthritis often worsens in the colder months however there are treatments available. Having a senior health check can aid in the early detection of diseases and gives you an opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have with our veterinarians.

**Health Care:** It is important to keep up with worming and flea treatments over winter. You may not think that fleas survive over winter but they can live and breed in warm houses. If this occurs come summertime you will have a very major flea problem!



"A man's soul can be judged by the way he treats his dog."  
-- Charles Doran

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.