

Autumn Time

Easter Eggs

The Easter Bunny is on his way bringing chocolate treats for all (except the pets!!!).

Did you know that chocolate is toxic, and sometimes even fatal for animals?



The reason for this is that animals find it difficult to break down and excrete the Theobromine and Caffeine found in chocolate. These drugs cause constricted blood vessels, rapid and weak heartbeat, and stimulate the nervous system. Dogs are most commonly affected by chocolate poisoning due to the fact that they are more likely to help themselves to your chocolate stash and rapidly consume large amounts. Although dogs are the most susceptible, the toxin has been known to affect or kill cats, birds, rodents and reptiles as well.

If your pet has consumed chocolate it is best to contact us immediately. Your pet may start vomiting and have diarrhoea, 2 to 4 hours after intake and chocolate in the vomit may be obvious. Nervous system stimulation leads to hyperactivity, tremors, and seizures. The heart rate becomes increasingly rapid and irregular. Excessive urination may result from the diuretic (water clearing) action of the chocolate. Advanced signs include stiffness, excitement,

seizures, and extreme response to noise, light, and touch. Heart failure, weakness, coma, and death can occur 12 to 36 hours after intake.

Therefore, it's very important around Easter time to keep all your Easter chocolate treats stored somewhere where your pet can't get to. It's a great idea to explain to children that chocolate isn't for animals and they must not share them with the household pets. Additionally, you might like to buy some treats especially designed for your pet so they don't feel left out, or you can make your own. We have included a recipe below.

RECIPE - Making Easter eggs for dogs.

Don't be tempted to share your Easter eggs with your canine friend as chocolate is toxic to dogs. Follow our step by step guide to making your dog an Easter treat that is safe for him.

You will need

- Doggy choc drops (you can purchase these from any pet store)
- Dog treats
- An Easter egg mould
- A saucepan
- A bowl Spoons
- Water

Step 1: Place the chocolate drops into a heatproof bowl. Fill the saucepan with water and place the bowl on top. Warm the water gradually and stir the melting chocolate.

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Step 2: Lightly grease the egg mould and spoon the melted chocolate evenly around it. Place the mould in the fridge.

Step 3: Once the two halves have set, fill one side with some of your dog's favourite treats.

Step 4: Spread melted chocolate around the edge of one half of the egg and stick the second half in place.

Step 5: Once cool, trim away any rough edges and wrap the egg in cellophane and tie with a ribbon. You could also make an extra egg for a friend's dog too.

REMEMBER! Dog-safe chocolate is a treat and should only be fed to your dog in small amounts at a time.

Get Ready for the Chill!

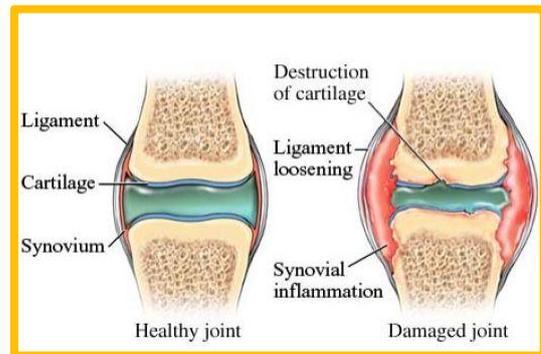
Autumn is sometimes referred to as a "transition" season, spelling the end of the hottest time of the year and introducing the upcoming coldest time of the year. Although in Townsville the temperature doesn't usually drop all that dramatically, we still use these three months to get ready for winter.



After the mass eating and relaxing we all seem to do around Christmas, it's a common complaint that after the festivities are over, we find we need to lose a few kilos. Some people make New Year's resolutions to get fit and start eating better and others start getting back into their health routine that was put aside for the holidays.

Have you ever thought that maybe your pet may benefit from losing a little Christmas pudding too?

Like us, as our pets get older, their joints get weaker and stiffer from the constant usage that day to day living requires. And just like us, if your pet is carrying a few extra kilos, this adds extra pressure to those already tiring joints. Throw into the mix the temperature drop we are about to get, and you have a recipe for mobility issues, joint pain and inflammation.



This is why we encourage all pet owners to start getting their pets back into optimal shape now, before the chill hits and causes those poor old joints to get stiff and sore. Let's face it, when the mornings and evenings are cool, you and your pet will be less likely to get out and be active.

Starting an exercise routine now will get you and your pet in good practice and may help you to keep up the good work when your cosy, warm beds feel like the best place to be.

We all know that eating the right food goes hand in hand with exercise and losing weight. Just as you are trying to eat better, why not get your pets eating better too. We stock and recommend Royal Canin diets. We would be happy to help you select the right food for your pet's individual needs. You can also join our free in clinic weight loss program, which gives you details on how much food to feed your dog and what percentage of body weight needs to be lost.

This is the Townsville City Council website for the off leash areas:

<https://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/community-support/pets-and-animals/off-leash-areas>

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Puppy Preschool

Puppy preschool is a great opportunity for puppies to socialise with other puppies during their critical socialisation period. We also cover basic obedience training. Puppies aged from 6 to 16 weeks are able to attend, with the requirement that the puppy has had their first vaccination. It is held indoors and is cleaned to make it safe for puppies without full vaccinations to attend.

Puppy preschool sessions run for 3 weeks on a Wednesday night from 6pm to 7pm. The cost of each class is \$20.00 per class or \$60.00 for the set of classes and is payable prior to or on the first class.

Bookings are essential. Please call us on 47257691 to book your pup in for the next class.



Puppy's First Groom Packages

Getting your haircut can be a scary experience when you are very young and this is no different for puppies. This offer is for puppies under 4 months of age that have never had a groom before. Puppies can feel frightened when experiencing new things so we like to take our time with them to make sure that it is as enjoyable and relaxing as possible.



Learning to be groomed at a young age can have a positive lifelong effect and will make future grooming appointments enjoyable and stress-free. Please call us on 47257691 to book your pup in for their first grooming appointment.

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Autumn Public Holiday Trading

MARCH

Thursday 13 th April 2017	Normal trading hours
Friday 14 th April 2017	CLOSED
Saturday 15 th April 2017	CLOSED
Sunday 16 th April 2017	CLOSED
Monday 17 th April 2017	CLOSED
Tuesday 18 th April 2017	Normal trading hours

In 2017, this holiday will be celebrated with Good Friday on 14 April and Easter Sunday on 16 April.

APRIL

Tuesday 25 th April 2017	CLOSED
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ANZAC day is a national day of remembrance to honour not only the ones who have fallen, but all the men and women who have participated in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations for our country and New Zealand.

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*

LEST WE FORGET



MAY

Monday 1 st May 2017	CLOSED
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Labour Day is a public holiday that celebrates the eight-hour working day; a victory for workers in the mid-late 19th century. The argument for the eight-hour day was based on the need for each person to have eight hours labour, eight hours recreation and eight hours rest.

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