



*"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened"*  
- Anatole France

# Spring is Here!

**Spring into action! Now that spring has sprung, ensure your pet is prepared for the warmer weather**

## **GROOMING**

**New grooming days! Tuesday to Saturday!**



Have you noticed the tumbleweeds of cat and dog hair starting to waft over the floor lately? It's a sign that you need to get into our grooming salon to make your pet more comfortable. It will also prevent future fur balls making a mess in your house.

Now is the time for you to start grooming your pet on a daily basis to remove the remains of their winter coat. The dry winter coat can cause matts and tangles if left to fall out on its own. Gentle regular brushing also helps to restore oils to the new coat and stimulates the skin.

For long-haired pets or those with thicker hair, now is a good time to have them professionally clipped. They will feel so much more comfortable after the removal of their hot coat. Clipping will allow them to cool down much easier as the temperature starts to increase. It will also remove those horrible matts of fur that trap foreign bodies and pinch your pet's skin.

## **FLEAS AND TICKS**

Now that the weather is warming up, fleas and ticks are organising their assault on your pets!

Did you know that ten fleas can multiply to 7000 in just a fortnight!! At this rate of population growth, it is important to be on top of your pets' flea and tick prevention so they don't end up covered in the little nasties!

Thankfully, there is a large range of flea and tick control products available which are effective and safe. We would be



happy to help you select the best one for you and your pet.

## **PARASITES**

More fleas biting increases the chance, of your pet contracting tapeworm (which is spread by fleas). The warmer weather also sees an increase in the number of cases of dogs and cats with roundworm and hookworm, as well as dogs with whipworm.

The beginning of a new season is always a good time to double check that your pet is up to date with their worming treatments.

Spring also means that mosquitoes are returning and they are ready to spread heartworm disease. Making sure your pet has been receiving their routine heartworm preventative is a priority!

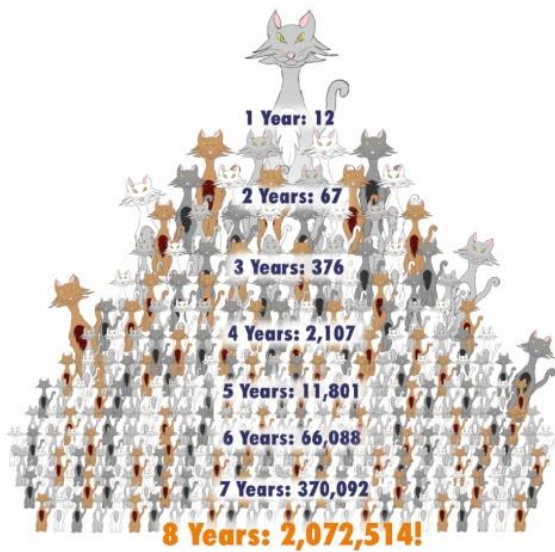
## **HORMONES**

With spring comes longer days. The sun comes up earlier and stays up longer and this increasing day length alters with cat reproductive hormones. Kittens grow up to be adult cats pretty quickly and before long, kittens start making kittens of their own.

Remember too that it's not just other cats that you need to be worried about. An undesexed female cat can become pregnant if she lives in a household with an entire male, even if the male is related to her. It's not uncommon to see entire male cats getting their daughters pregnant or even female cats became impregnated by one of their own male offspring. So don't just think because your female and male cats are related they won't go there... because they will!



All in all, the reproductive cycle of the cat makes the species a pretty efficient breeding machine. That's one of the reasons that desexing cats is so important. So if you haven't had your cat spayed or neutered yet, it's time to think about getting that done pronto!



## **OUTSIDE**

Dogs and cats tend to be more active in the spring when the weather is mild and prolonged exercise outside becomes possible. Be sure to provide your pet with plenty of fresh water, and refill the water daily to keep the water tasting good and free of debris.

Now that your pet will be outside more, it's also a great time to check their collar, name tag and council registration tag. Be sure that the collar is snug enough not to snag on a branch and come off and that your telephone number on the dog tag is up to date.

## **What about your pet's microchipping details?**

If you are unsure if your pet's details are up to date, our nurses are happy to check for you. Just let the nurses know your pet microchip number (or if you don't know it, bring your pet in and we can scan it), and they can find out and point you in the right direction of how to change the details.

## **Is your cat or dog registered with the council?**

Council Registration is different to microchipping and dogs and cats need to be registered annually.

For information regarding registration for your pet, call the council on 1300 878 001 or go to <https://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/payments-rates-and-permits/payment-options/animal-registrations>

## **QUEENSLAND DOG BREEDER REGISTER**

The Queensland Government has introduced new laws to promote the responsible breeding of dogs. In Queensland if you breed a dog on or after the 26th of May 2017, you must be registered as a breeder and receive a Supply Number.

This means that even if your dog has an unplanned litter or you are only planning to breed once, you must register as a breeder.

People who are buying a dog are encouraged to check the breeder's Supply Number and contact the breeder if they any questions about where the puppy originated. For further information please go to <https://qdbd.daf.qld.gov.au/information/>

## **ALLERGIES**

While humans suffer hay fever in the form of sneezes and runny noses, dogs will usually become itchy all over as the histamines are released in the skin. The skin plays a very important role for our pets. It is our pet's external defence, helps reduce excess water loss and maintain body temperature. With spring now here, there are many irritants that can work to upset our pet's skin, and many dogs can show signs and symptoms of a skin allergy.

Irritants include: fleas, mites, pollens, grasses etc.

Symptoms include: red, itchy and inflamed skin. Chewing, licking or scratching.

Good pet hygiene can help to minimise the itch. Bathing your dog regularly helps to remove dirt and pollens and other irritants, as well as offering a soothing effect on itchy skin. Medicated shampoos can help to heal mild dermatitis that can occur secondary to allergies. We stock a range of medicated and soothing shampoos that can make your pets allergies more manageable.

Also, Royal Canin produces a skin range of dog food that can help to reduce the clinical signs of allergies. The food contains a patented combination of vitamins and minerals to help increase the skins barrier function and reduce inflammation which helps reduce itchy skin and hair loss.



However, treatment for severe itching needs to be sought by a veterinarian, so if your pet is scratching itself silly, then make an appointment before both you and your dog go crazy.

## **DOG AND CAT URINARY ISSUES**

Have you noticed your cats or dogs standing in the litter tray or garden for a long time trying to go to the toilet but not really producing any urine? It may be a sign of a urinary issue in your pet. Some other signs of urinary tract issues to look out for are blood in the urine and urinating in places they normally wouldn't.

Dogs and cats can have a variety of urinary tract issues, including but not limited to, urinary crystals, bladder inflammation, bladder stones and prostate issues. These can make it very difficult and painful for your pet to urinate.

If you suspect your pet has a urinary issue, it is recommended to make an appointment with a Vet as treatment for these issues can require medication or an exclusive diet to alter the pH of the urine. However, every case is different so your Vet will need to examine your pet and possibly perform a urine analysis to find what the problem is.

## **DID YOU KNOW!**

We all wish we could sleep our days away sometimes. Who doesn't love the occasional long, lazy nap or sleep in on the weekends? Cats, however, take this desire for sleep to a whole new level. If you have a cat, you know they spend the majority of their time lounging about, basking in the sun, or sleeping out of sight. There is a reason they call it a "cat nap."

However, humans don't often realize just how much cats sleep. Cats actually sleep 70% of their lives, which equates to about 16 hours a day. They sleep more than any other mammal besides bats and opossums. There are a number of reasons that cats sleep so much.

As natural predators with few enemies, they can afford to sleep a lot. Also, the need for sleep increases proportionally to the amount of energy required. When cats are actually hunting (or pouncing on that toy mouse you leave out for them), they use enormous amounts of energy.

## **Hammett Street Vets Trading Times**

**Monday to Friday 8.00am to 5.30pm**

**Saturday 8.00am to 2.00pm**

## **Grooming Trading Times**

**Tuesday 9.00am - 4.00pm**

**Wednesday 9.00am - 3.00pm**

**Thursday 9.00am - 4.00pm**

**Friday 9.00am - 3.00pm**

**Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm**

**Please call to book an appointment or message us on our Grooming Facebook Page**

## **Spring Public Holiday Trading**

**Closed Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 (Queens Birthday)**

**If you have an emergency over the public holiday, please ring JCU Emergency hospital on  
4781 3600**

## **Other Information**

**Email:** [admin@hammettstreetvets.com.au](mailto:admin@hammettstreetvets.com.au)

**Website:** <http://www.hammettstreetvets.com.au>

Or you can find us on **Facebook**

## **Some Helpful Contacts:**

**RSPCA – (07) 4774 5130**

**Townsville City Council – 1300 878 001**

**NQ Wildlife - 0414 717 373**

If you have found sick, injured or orphaned wildlife, please call the Townsville and local surrounds Wildlife Number.