



Sydney Mobile Vet Service

Welcome to the second newsletter from [VETaround](#). It gives me great pleasure to bring you news from our travels around Sydney. Firstly, thanks to you, our clients, VETaround has received a [Service Excellence Award](#) from the [Australian Excellence Awards Centre](#). The award is based on feedback from clients and we scored one of the highest scores they have seen! I am really proud to have received this award



especially as one of my most important goals is to bring the highest quality veterinary care and customer service into your homes. I have set up my van and services to try to minimise any compromise and anything that cannot be done in your home can be managed at my associated veterinary hospital.

So let me tell you a little about what I've been doing. I had

a wonderful experience presenting and chatting to the Year 1 students at Emanuel School in Queens Park and I hope to get around to as many schools as possible to bring fun and educational activities about pet care and welfare. Check out the [Emanuel Newsletter page 5](#) for

cute pictures and a short article.

Another great event VETaround participated in was the [Puppies In The Park](#) day

at Christison Park run by Woollahra Council. VETaround sponsored first prize for the "Best Trick" giving away two home consultations to the best two tricks. See our [news article](#) for more cute pics and info.

Also checkout the new [Pet Care](#) page which completes the website, and I hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter.

Inside this issue:

- Featured Pet
- Behaviour - Leadership is key
- Arthritis - The Winter Affliction
- Home euthanasia

Featured Pet:

Introducing Bodhi....

Bodhi began life as a breeding tom locked in a cage except to mate. He stopped eating and naturally became very depressed and dishevelled finally being dumped at the Cat Protection Society (CPS) by the breeder.



Along came Jade and Steven. In his state, lovingly they took him home while others looked him over. The CPS was surprised anyone even showed interest. Despite being warned he was likely not to recover J and S enthusiastically adopted him. Never having seen so much space and feeling terrified he spent the first few weeks hiding in the (continued page 2).....

BEHAVIOUR - LEADERSHIP IS KEY

Not only must we take care of our pets' physical health but we need to be responsible for their emotional health too. Emotional wellbeing is often overlooked possibly because it is a complicated area involving both the behaviour of the pet and the behaviour of the "parent", which are intrinsically linked. We also need to understand the mental condition of the species eg. dogs are pack animals and need to learn respect and trust in their owner so they don't have to feel



responsible for their human family. What we often believe are problem behaviours we now understand is anxiety and is often due to "leadership issues". Consistency and boundaries are crucial for your pet to feel safe and we must be careful not to transfer our "baggage" onto our pets - if possible!

Behaviour is complex requiring in-depth review. I'm happy to discuss and manage anything with you and to work along side behavioural trainers and specialists if you need more help.

ARTHRITIS - THE WINTER AFFLICTION

Colder weather has set in and many dogs and cats are demonstrating signs of arthritis. Arthritis is one of the more common afflictions in our pets. Just as for us, they can be badly affected showing various signs: stiff gait, difficulty standing up, reluctance to jump or walk down stairs, behaviour changes and decreased interest in exercise and appetite. Lying around or sleeping in our older pets is sometimes misinterpreted as “aging”. Traditionally arthritis in cats was not given any credence but partly this may have been due to the lack of medications that were available to manage arthritic cats.



personal preferences. A good diet and normal weight is imperative. We usually try courses of non-steroidal anti-inflammatories which can be very useful and give a new lease on life. We have similar safe medications for cats now which often make a big difference. We also have a 4 week course of injections which improves joint function and decreases pain. Anecdotally people say glucosamine and chondroitin supplements can help and now we’re also trying omega

3&6 supplements which is believed to make a difference. Finally acupuncture has certainly been shown to help improve mobility and decrease pain so this is worth consideration as well.

Take Home Message
Signs of arthritis can be confused with aging and considered “normal”. Don’t hesitate to discuss any concerns with us so we can assess if any treatment trials are appropriate.

Breeds that can develop arthritis include labradors, german shepherds, rottweilers and many large breeds but any breed can be afflicted.

There are many treatment options. Some of which are scientifically proven while others are more anecdotal. It all depends on your experience and

Newer procedures such as stem cell transplants from fat into joints are showing promising results in some pets but very little data in our companion animals is available at the moment.

HOME EUTHANASIA



One of the most important times in our pets’ lives is the end of their life. We all try not to think about it but unfortunately euthanasia is a decision that almost every pet owner has to face. We don’t let our pets suffer through intolerable pain and discomfort and we want them to live with dignity and respect. This is why we also want them to die with dignity and respect. You never quite believe the decision is right because it is so final. But for most of us the decision is made out of love and our pets know this.

I take euthanasia consultations very seriously. In fact it is probably the most important consultation that I do. My goal is to facilitate a dignified, peaceful and loving transition from life to death and whatever lies beyond. I am there to support the people left behind and give them encouragement that they are, despite what they may feel, acting in the best interests of their companion and out of love. As a mobile vet I can provide people the option of giving their beloved family member a comfortable, loving, pain free and most of all respectable end to their life and prevent further suffering.

If you would like to discuss this sensitive topic with me please feel free to call.

BODHI’S STORY CONTINUED.....

bathroom or any dark corner he could find. Slowly he began to eat and gained weight. With his growing confidence he began to venture out and started grooming himself again. He started to trust, developing a connection with J & S that began to grow into a beautiful relationship. Now, several months later, his favourite game is playing fetch with scrunched

up paper thrown across the room which he then soccers back to start again. No more hiding.

In J’s words “Light shines deep in his eyes and he has oceans of affection and spirit. Hard to believe he’s the same cat we brought home”.

In John Lennon’s words.....“All you need is love”!