



## SUMMER 2020

### Our rescue mission—how we're giving back this Christmas

Christmas is a time for giving and what better way than to give back to our local charity organisations in the Hunter region. As most of our clients know, we do a lot of work with animal rescue groups from vaccinating and desexing abandoned animals, to treating their illnesses. This December, we have multiple charity campaigns designed to raise money for our selected animal groups. Flip to page 4 for all the details. Also in this edition, we detail why pet insurance is even easier now for our clients, have some in-depth information about weight loss in dogs and announce our new nurse weight loss consultations. There's info about a new food to hit our shelves and more.

## PET INSURANCE MADE EASIER

### IS PET INSURANCE IMPORTANT?

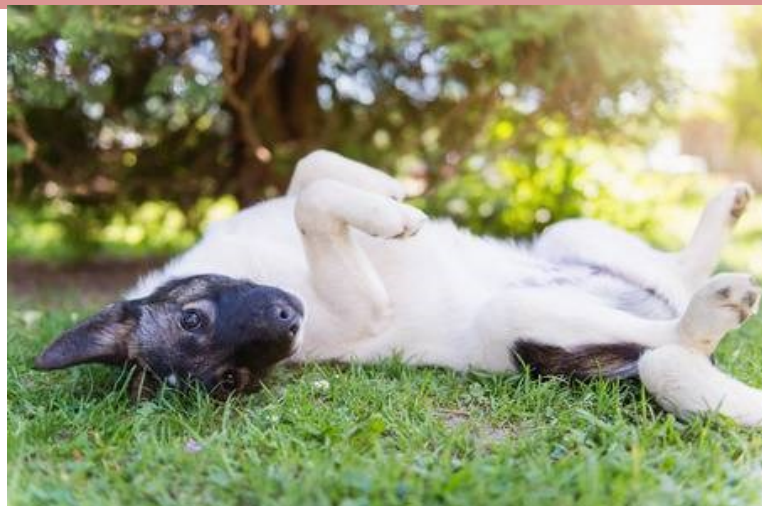
Pet insurance intends to cover the cost of medical care for your dog or cat, and more and more Australians are seeing the value in protecting their pet.

Accidents and illness are usually unexpected, and treatment is often needed urgently. Pet insurance offers financial support at those critical times and gives you reassurance that your pet can receive the best possible treatment when they need it.

### HOW WE CAN HELP

Now, pet insurance claimed through our clinic is made even easier for you. Petsure is the primary hub of Australian pet insurance companies. If you are signed up to one of the leading pet insurances available, there's a high chance Petsure partners with them. Visit [www.petsure.com.au/our-partners](http://www.petsure.com.au/our-partners) to check. Through Petsure we are now able to submit your claim electronically directly to your insurer. There is no paperwork to complete or sign and it is all done in a matter of minutes.

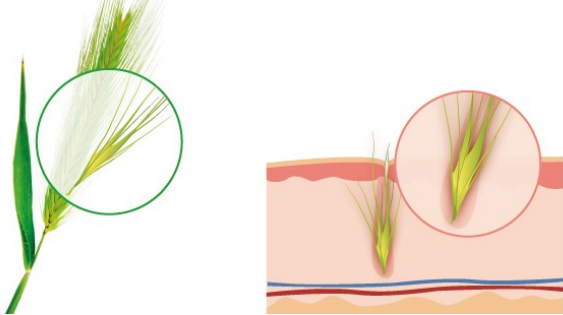
When you are next in for a visit, let us know if you have pet insurance and would like to submit a claim. We are happy to assist.



## GRASS SEED INJURIES

### 1| WHAT ARE GRASS SEEDS?

Grass seeds are awns from grasses that are shaped like darts. They usually come from meadow grasses.



### 2| HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY PET HAS ONE?

If your pet has a grass seed, you may notice different signs depending on the location. If in the ears, they may shake their head or scratch at their ears, or walk with their head at an angle. If in the eye, their eye may be watery or inflamed. A common area is in the nose as they sniff along the grass. You may notice sneezing or discharge. In the skin, look for a swelling, redness or an area that is sore-to-touch.

### 3| ARE THEY DANGEROUS?

Grass seeds can easily be trapped in dogs' coats as they have bristles that can cling to hair. The pointy end easily pierces the skin and becomes embedded deep inside, unable to escape. This can cause them to migrate to the lungs, brain or other life-threatening areas, causing infection and illness.

### 4| HOW TO PREVENT INJURY?

You can avoid meadow type grasses and stay close to pathways and sidewalks during spring and summer. Have your pet clipped regularly to avoid long fur for seeds to become trapped in. Check them regularly after walks.



**DID YOU KNOW:** We do dog and cat hair cuts? If you would like to book your pet in for a clip, please call us on 49556670.

## NEW HILLS GI BIOME FOOD

Introducing the brand new food from Hills Pet Nutrition: Hills GI Biome. This food is specially formulated for disorders of the digestive tract, including diarrhoea, vomiting, constipation, stress-related upset and more gut issues. These could be caused from dietary issues, inflammation, infection or stress. So how does it work?

### THE ROLE OF THE MICROBIOME

Your pet's gut microbiome is the ecosystem in the digestive tract containing billions of various microorganisms. By using nutrition to balance the microbiome, you can influence the transition between acute or chronic GI disease and health.

### DOES IT WORK?

In their studies, Hills found that a perfect 100% success rate was found for patients who were suffering from a chronic GI disorder, improving their symptoms within just 24 hrs.

Let us know if you would think this food could work for your pet, or if you would like to know more about it.





## LET'S TALK ABOUT WEIGHT, POOCHY...

### OBESITY IN DOGS

Obesity is a very common problem in dogs, and often goes unnoticed by pet owners. Not only is obesity not often identified, it carries some serious health risks that can significantly reduce the lifespan of your pet if it is not managed appropriately.

Obesity is closely associated with a number of disorders, including:

- Bone (orthopaedic) disorders
- Heart and respiratory system problems
- Diabetes mellitus
- Pancreatitis
- Liver disorders & decreased liver function
- Skin conditions
- Urinary tract disorders
- Heat stroke
- Complications under general anaesthesia

Instigating a weight management plan is vitally important for an overweight pet to reduce the risk of developing these conditions or to better manage them if they are already present.

### SO, IS MY PET OVERWEIGHT? HOW DO WE TELL?

Sometimes to owners, it isn't always obvious if your pet is overweight or not. Veterinary professionals use a grading system to establish the severity and help monitor obesity in dogs and cats – rather than focusing on weight measurements.

### WHY IS MY PET OVERWEIGHT?

The most common reasons why animals become obese is through **excessive food intake** (overfeeding) or **reduced energy requirements** (decrease in activity or changing life stage). However, there are a number of other predisposing factors, including breed predisposition, medications or endocrine disorders.

If your pet is having difficulty losing weight sometimes these diseases need to be investigated as an underlying cause. Desexing status – neutered pets are at an increased risk of weight gain as their energy requirements are decreased after desexing.

1	<b>Very Thin</b> More than 20% below ideal body weight		
2	<b>Thin</b> between 10 and 20% below ideal weight		
3	<b>Ideal Weight</b>		
4	<b>Overweight</b> 20% above ideal weight		
5	<b>Markedly Obese</b> 40% above ideal weight		

**OUR WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC**—If you are worried about your pet's weight, our nurses are now available to perform in depth weight –loss consultations. Here we can assess your pet's weight, determine their weight score, calculate their ideal weight, and develop a diet plan to get them to a healthy size. Contact us to make a booking, either online or via phone.



## OUR RESCUE MISSION THIS CHRISTMAS

As many of our clients know, we work hand-in-hand to support rescued animals from around the Hunter region, performing work from desexing and vaccinating to treating their illnesses. As Christmas is a time for giving, we are hosting a range of campaigns this year designed to raise money for local charity group Hunter Animal Rescue. Summer is a busy time for rescues, as spring sees new litters born and many young animals abandoned. Foster homes are full-to-the-brim and resources are often low. We feel privileged to be able to help this worthy organisation and thank our clients for their support, too! Below are the charity campaigns we're running this December.



### SANTA PHOTOS

Bring your furry-friend in to meet Santa Claus (aka. Dr. Paul).

**When:** Saturday 14th December  
1pm-3:30pm.

**Cost:** \$5 email or \$10 print & email.

Funds donated to rescues! Bookings essential. Book online at [www.fletchervet.com.au](http://www.fletchervet.com.au)



### ROUND UP FOR RESCUES

Round up your vet bill to the nearest dollar during December and all the rounded-up funds will be donated to Hunter Animal Rescue!

Just let our staff know when making your payment that you would like to RUF, RUF, Rescues!



### PATIENT CALENDAR

Last year we created a calendar of our patient success stories from the past year and it was a great success. This year we are doing the same—collating 12 of our patient stories from 2019 for a great 2020 calendar.



Calendars will be sold for \$20 with all profits donated.

2019 December						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 CLOSED	25 CLOSED	26 CLOSED	27	28
29	30	31 CLOSED	1 CLOSED	2		

## CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Here are the changes made to our usual opening hours over the holiday period. For all other dates we will be open as normal between 8:30am—6:00pm weekdays and 8:30am—12:30pm Saturdays. We refer to the Animal Referral and Emergency Centre for after hours visits. They are located at 4 Lang Road Broadmeadow, (02) 49577106.

Our staff wish you all a very Merry Christmas and safe & happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2020.