



## CANINE PARVOVIRUS IS PREVENTABLE

Parvovirus. It's a disease that causes dread in just about every dog owner. There's no known cure, it survives all sorts of disinfectants and environmental conditions and the most likely prognosis of infection is death.

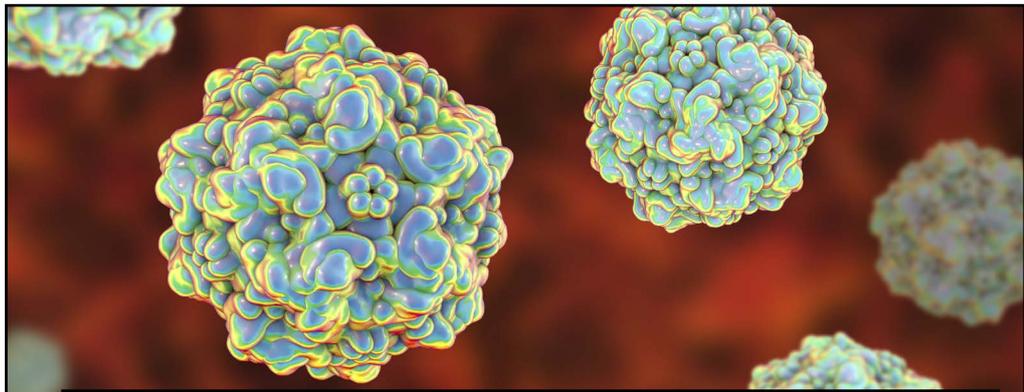
But parvovirus is preventable!

Each year in the northern suburbs of Adelaide we see outbreaks of Parvo.

While normally spread from dog to dog via contact with faeces, the virus' near indestructible nature means that it can survive in soils for a year or more and can attach to footwear, clothing, bedding, water bowls or toys and spread from there.

Only strong bleach or broad spectrum disinfectants can kill it, and when it strikes the consequences can be devastating.

Parvovirus attacks the lining of the intestines and bone marrow. While the virus destroys the lining of the gut it also prevents the bone marrow from producing white blood cells to combat it. There is no known cure for parvovirus, but



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animals can be saved if they receive early treatment to address the symptoms, have a resilient immune system and are very, very lucky.

But treatments are expensive and have a very low success rate. The overwhelming result of infection is euthanasia.

If a dog contracts parvovirus it will take up to a week for the virus to develop. Then symptoms such as excessive lethargy,

abdominal pain and lack of appetite start to become apparent, before the virus moves into the final rapid stages where vomiting and bloody diarrhea occur. By this point treatment is virtually ineffective.

But after these horrible descriptions of the virus, here's the good news:

Parvovirus is preventable.

A C3 vaccine is available which provides protection for your pet and gives you peace of mind during the yearly outbreaks of parvo in the northern suburbs.

So, what to do to protect your pooch?

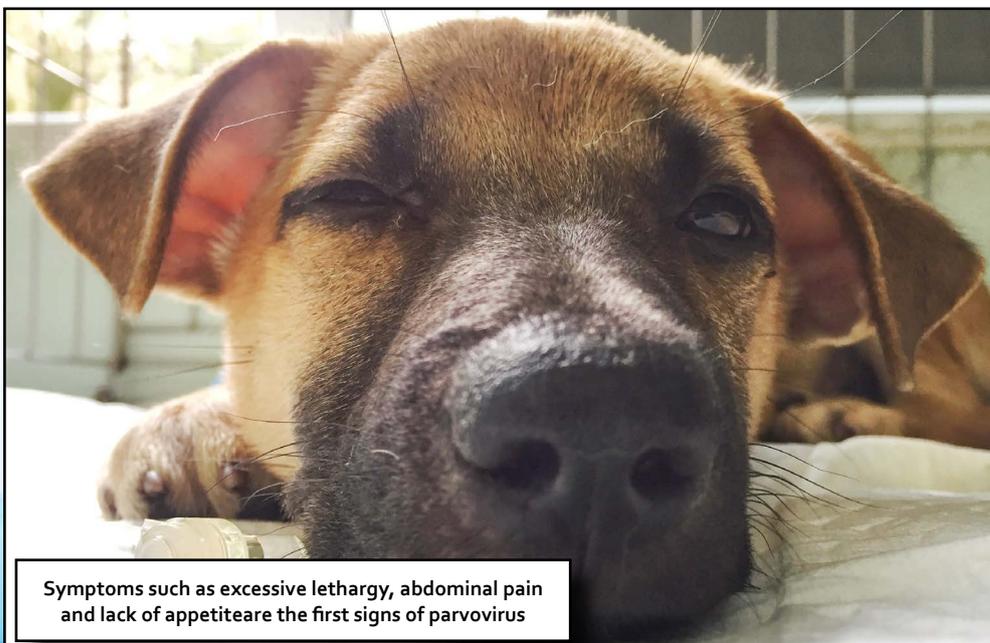
If you've got a puppy, get them vaccinated on schedule at 6-8, 10-12, and 14-16 weeks of age, and be wary of where you take your puppy until the vaccination program is complete and they are fully protected.

If you've got an older dog that either hasn't been vaccinated or has missed a booster – get it done now!

Vaccination is the only protection against parvovirus.

At GVS we often talk about how prevention is better than a cure, but in the case of parvo it is the only option.

Call us, call another vet, just call a vet, and please, please make sure your dogs' vaccinations are up to date.



Symptoms such as excessive lethargy, abdominal pain and lack of appetite are the first signs of parvovirus

# DON'T PANIC, BUT CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!



## Tips for handling fireworks!

- Make sure your pet is exercised and fed before the night begins
- Keep your furry friend inside (or at least in an escape-proof room). Don't tether them, this could cause issues if they panic
- Maintain your composure, be calm even as they get nervous or anxious
- Distract, distract, distract: play games and keep their mind off the noises
- Consider medication if your pets' fear gets really bad. Talk to your vet early if you think you'll need to go down this path

## PRESENTS FOR YOUR PETS!!

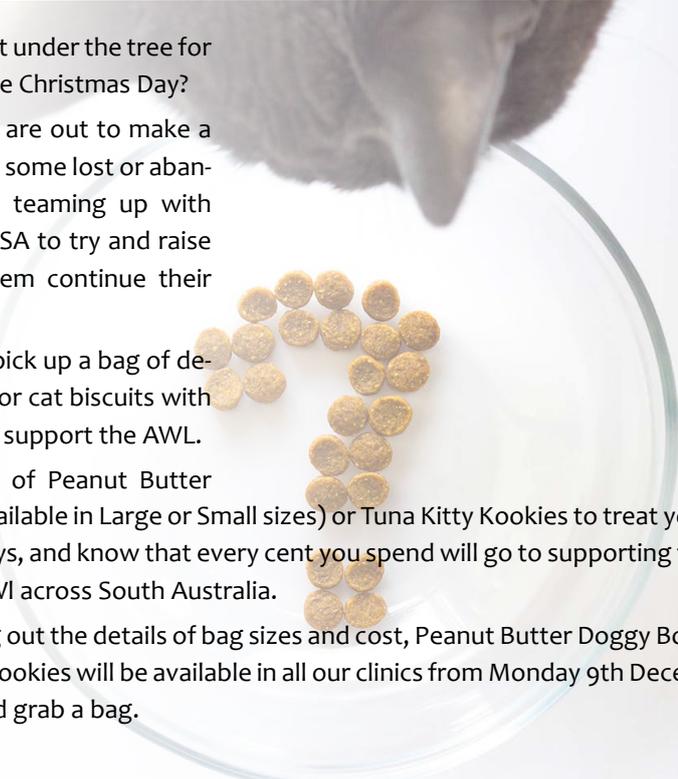
Looking for a treat to put under the tree for your puss or pooch come Christmas Day?

Well this Christmas GVS are out to make a difference to the lives of some lost or abandoned animals. We're teaming up with Animal Welfare League SA to try and raise some funds to help them continue their great work.

This Christmas you can pick up a bag of delicious home-made dog or cat biscuits with all funds raised going to support the AWL.

You can pick up a bag of Peanut Butter Doggy Bone Biscuits (available in Large or Small sizes) or Tuna Kitty Kookies to treat your furry pal over the holidays, and know that every cent you spend will go to supporting the fantastic work of the AWL across South Australia.

While we're still working out the details of bag sizes and cost, Peanut Butter Doggy Bone Biscuits and Tuna Kitty Kookies will be available in all our clinics from Monday 9th December. Why not drop in and grab a bag.



## Be Prepared for the Holidays

There are a few things you can do to be prepared for the holidays

1. **Check your chip:** If your pet decides to take a bit of a wander from the holiday destination or get scared by fireworks knowing that you'll be contacted as soon as they're found can be a huge stress relief. Drop in anytime to one of our clinics and we'll help make sure your pets' microchip details are current and correct.
2. **Make sure vaccinations are up to date:** Whether you're taking your pet with you or leaving them in a kennel or cattery make sure their vaccinations are up to date - it's the only way to keep them safe. Don't run the risk of letting your pet get sick while you're trying to enjoy your break. Give us a call at any of our clinics and we'll let you know if you need to book in for any catch-up needles!
3. **Check medications:** If your pet takes any regular medications, make sure you are stocked up for the holiday period, you don't want to run out on Christmas Eve while camping, so check your supplies, and give us a ring if you need to be prepared.



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## DON'T WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE

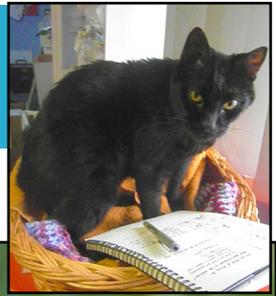
The holidays are nearly here!!

BEFORE YOU GO, DON'T FORGET TO

- Check the microchip
- Ensure vaccinations are up to date
- Check the supply of regular medications

The vets your pets would choose

# THE KITTEN KABOODLE WITH HUGO



We cats are fantastic hunters, so good in fact that we hunt and kill around 2 billion native animals a year, and this, my human friends, is unsustainable.

It's estimated that there are between 2-6 million feral cats in Australia (more in good years when there's lots of prey, fewer in the dry years when there isn't), and each one kills about 750 native animals a year. In addition there are also around 4 million pet cats in Australia and they are responsible for killing an average of about 75 animals a year. This takes a huge toll on native wildlife.

Currently in Australia cats are recognised as a threat to 35 species of birds, 36 species of mammals, 7 reptile species and 3 amphibian species. We have to do something to stop our natural instincts

Now from discussions I've held with other cats, I'm pretty certain that we felines aren't just going to change our behavior – we're relying on you, dear human, to help us change our ways.

But to do this you need to understand why we hunt; only then can you work out effective strategies to reduce our impact on the environment and the furry or feathered critters that suffer at our paws.

First, we cats are specialised solitary hunters. In the wild before we were domesticated we needed to hunt most of the day to find enough food, and after we came to live with humans we were primarily kept as pest controllers. We hunt to live and live to hunt, it's part of our DNA!

Second, we hunt for food. A hungry cat will always rely on its natural talents to find a meal when there's no other food around.

Third, we hunt for variety. Despite our reputations as fussy eaters, generally speaking we do actually like to try new



there are billions of furry and feathered critters out there living in fear of me and relying on you.

things and enjoy some variety in our diet. If our owners don't provide it we'll look for it elsewhere.

Finally we hunt when there's opportunity, not just when we're hungry. In fact, because of the difficulty of hunting, and the low success rate, a wild cat that waited until it was hungry to hunt could quickly end up starving. So we'll take to the hunt whenever we see the opportunity.

To summarise, we hunt because it's what we do, we hunt for food, for variety and because we have the opportunity, and knowing this can help you humans take some steps to change our behavior. Steps like:

Make sure we're well fed (but don't overdo it, you don't want us to get fat). Probably the single biggest reason for the discrepancy between how many critters feral cats kill compared to domestic cats is that you humans feed us.

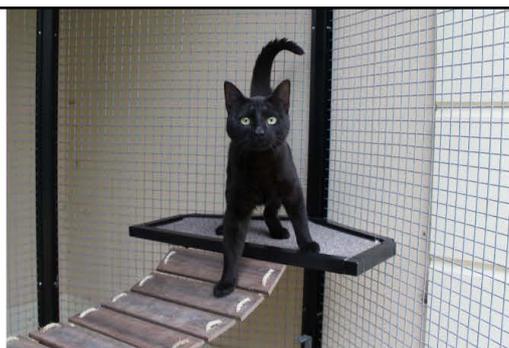
Give us some variety in our diet. If we're interested in what is going to go into our

food bowl we'll be less likely to go seeking variety by hunting native wildlife. Mix it up, give us some different flavours

You can restrict our opportunities to hunt. That doesn't necessarily mean keeping us indoors all the time, but you could limit our outdoor time, especially around dawn or dusk when we're more likely to hunt. Or you could invest in a locally made cat-run that lets you moggy access the outdoors, but keeps them away from opportunities to hunt native critters.

Finally, we'll need enrichment, exercise and stimulation to make up for that which we lose when we don't hunt as much, and the best way to get this is for you to play with us! Grab some cat toys, get us chasing and jumping and running – it'll help keep us fit and healthy as well as satisfy some of our hunting instincts.

So help our native wildlife by helping change your cats' behaviour, there are billions of furry and feathered critters out there living in fear of me and relying on you.



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Royal  **Feline**

# VETS ON PARADE!

Have you heard? We've applied to be in this years Barossa Christmas parade on Friday 6th December.

Our theme will be "Santa's Little Helpers", because Santa would surely love animals as much as we do!

We're going to get as many of the kids from the families of staff involved as we can and join in all the Christmas fun.

Look out for our "float" (i.e. the tinsel decorated farm ute) that will carry our display down Murray St on the night, and who knows, you and the kids might even score a lollipop.

It's a great night out for the kids, the family and the whole region, so come on into Tanunda on Friday 6th December, and enjoy the Christmas cheer!



## Get your pup fit with local parkruns

If you've got a dog there are lots of ways to get fit, and one of the best is to join in your local parkrun - whether your run or walk at a more gentle pace.

Regular running or walking exercise is great for your dog, and helps keep their heart, lungs, joints and circulatory systems working in top condition, plus exercise can help limit those not-so-fun behaviours caused by excess energy and boredom - like chewing, biting or digging.

But it's not just your dog that benefits. Health studies have shown conclusively that regular exercise (with or without a dog) helps people to boost their mood, lower blood pressure and improve general fitness.

It's a win/win situation for you and your pet!

If you're sounding interested there are a few places near our clinics you can join in a parkrun and get you and your doggy some exercise.



You could join in the Nuriootpa parkrun, So now that the weather is improving why not Gawler parkrun or the Stebonheath take your pooch out for a run or walk, enjoy the sunshine, the fresh air and the chance to bond with your pup. Join a local parkrun!

Exercise helps both you and your pet stay healthy and at the top of your game. There are Parkruns in Gawler, Nuriootpa and Stebonheath, so why not get involved while the weather's good!



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Friendly, professional, local staff

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We focus on prevention that improves quality of life and saves you money

Our 3 Clinics have your pet's health needs covered from Elizabeth to Eden Valley

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THE VETS YOUR PETS WOULD CHOOSE