



Adelaide **Veterinary**
Behaviour Services
Animal Behaviour Consultations

February 2017 NEWSLETTER



Hi Everyone, we hope you're enjoying our monthly newsletters. It's our way of keeping you all up to date with what's happening at AVBS, both in the clinic and on the road.

This newsletter will touch on what we've been up to in the month of February and what we have planned for the months ahead.

We've been extremely busy over the last month, hosting a visit from **Dr Kersti Seksel**, welcoming our new vets **Dr Emma Vermeeren** and **Dr Tegan Hadley**, both consulting on a part time basis and doing a fantastic job. It's heart-warming to have such passionate people join our team. We've also welcomed a new receptionist **Mikaela Bandiera** who is doing a wonderful job on our busy reception desk. We certainly have been inundated with referrals, enquiries and consults which is so pleasing and we thank you all for your support. It's great that the 'Behaviour' word is spreading and vet clinics are on the same page with behaviour issues, referring their clients to us for that 'special care' needed for many suffering animals.

The clinic has had a refreshing paint job during February and we are ready to hang our beautiful canvases of our animal clientele. We will provide photo's in the March newsletter.

Also our **new website** will be up and running in the coming weeks. It proves to be a hub of AVBS information, workshops, webinar recordings and more....

Thanks again, Tracey Henderson and Tracy Irons

Get in touch!



Ph: (08) 7480 0597
Fax: (08) 7480 0596



E: info@avbs.net.au



Consulting rooms:
184 Main Road
McLaren Vale SA 5171

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS.....



Thank you to Dr Kersti Seksel and to everyone who attended her seminar on Behaviour Triage and Medicine. We were really pleased with the turn out and appreciate all the positive feedback we have received. Another fun and informative evening. Kersti will be back in May so we will keep you all informed of her next visit. A recording of this seminar will be placed on our new website soon.



Dog Wellness Expo Sunday 12th February

What a great opportunity it was for us to showcase our passion and our services. The fabulous **Tracy Irons** presented a 45-minute talk on **Animal Behaviour and Anxiety** which was extremely well received and attracted several enquiries at our booth and at the clinic with people being able to relate to issues with their dogs and/or cats. **Anxiety is a really big issue** and many animals go **undiagnosed and untreated** which is really sad so we will keep working hard to spread the word and help animal owners identify behaviour issues in their pets and seek the appropriate assistance for both owners and more importantly their beloved pets.



AVBS WORKSHOP NEWS



PUPPY PRESCHOOL WORKSHOP UPDATE

We are currently revising and updating our program for this workshop. The new look workshop will consist of a comprehensive one day workshop with an additional and optional half day Master class.

The 2017 schedule will be available on our new website in the coming weeks.



DOG BITE PREVENTION WORKSHOPS BY TRACY IRONS

This workshop is aimed at anyone who comes into contact with unfamiliar dogs i.e. **security patrols, SAPOL, Australia post workers, courier drivers/delivery, lawnmowing franchises, tradesmen, aged and disability carers, dog groomers, vets, vet nurses etc.**

By attending this workshop, you will **learn how to safely work with, and around, unfamiliar dogs**, including:

- o how to identify if a dog is likely to bite
- o what to do if a dog is likely to bite
- o safe handling techniques
- o new tactics for interacting with unknown dogs



ANIMAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER WORKSHOPS

BY TRACY IRONS

Aimed at Council Animal Management Officers/Rangers

This is a comprehensive workshop which addresses dog behaviour and body language, approaching, handling and transporting, escaping and barking dogs, dangerous dogs and dog behaviour assessment.

Councils: if your officers/rangers have not yet attended a workshop or need to do a refresher workshop, please contact us. We can travel regionally or interstate to conduct workshops if attendee numbers permit.

Contact us at the clinic for more information or email: events@avbs.net.au

Whats on....

AVBS WEBSITE UPDATE Our website is currently under maintenance, and will be transferred to a responsive platform in the coming week containing many new features and functions, including script/medication ordering, workshop list & registration, online training courses and of course our comprehensive webinar recording page where people can access and view our broad range of information topics. We will advise once all is functional.

Information presentation recordings for our website – many of the AVBS team are busy recording PowerPoint presentations to place on our new website to further educate the broad community. The list of topics that will soon be available include:

-
- Thunderstorm, Fireworks & Noise phobia's
 - How to speak Cat
 - How to speak Dog
 - Common Cat Problems
 - Common behaviour issues in dogs
 - Recognising Anxiety
 - Vet Ready – Advice and helpful tools to assist your anxious pet/s with visits to the vet clinic
 - Behaviour and Handling
 - Puppies – Surviving the first 18 months
 - Important advice on purchasing a new puppy/dog
 - Behaviour issues in Birds
 - Behaviour issues in Rabbits
 - How to prepare your pet for the arrival of a baby into the household
 - Behaviour Triage
 - Euthanasia – Why/How/Process/Options
 - Common behaviour issues in dogs
 - **Just to name a few.....**
-

Vet Nurse Behaviour Triage seminar Tracy Irons is in the process of constructing a seminar for Vet Nurses and Clinic staff. The seminar will provide practical tools to assist with client enquiries related to pet behaviour issues. As vet nurses and receptionists are the first point of contact at the clinic they need to be well equipped to ask the right questions and provide the right answers to clients seeking assistance with behaviour/anxiety related issues for their animals. We have hosted seminars in the past aimed at Vet Behaviour Triage but have been asked to conduct one for Vet Nurses/Clinic Staff so we hope to run this in the coming month, again this will be outlined on the new website coming soon.

Small Animal Behavioural Medicine Conference Dr Tracey Henderson and Ana Costa from the AVBS team attended this conference in Sydney last week, both reporting that it was extremely worthwhile and both have brought back some new and innovative ideas to implement at the clinic. Our team are always learning and always increasing our knowledge to be able to provide the best possible service to our clients and the general community.

Handling workshops at the RSPCA Tracy Irons is currently conducting several workshops for staff and volunteers at the RSPCA animal shelter at Lonsdale. Staff and volunteers are always at risk of dog and cat bite so these workshops will provide them with practical tools and knowledge in the hope of avoiding injury when dealing with dangerous dogs and cats.



EDUCATION PAGE

Euthanasia.....

By Dr Tegan Hadley Bsc (Hons), DVM

Behaviour problems represent one of the leading reasons for euthanasia in companion animals.....

For the vet inevitably facing this situation, it can be extremely challenging, both ethically and emotionally, to know that the decision that's made is best for both the owner and patient. As a vet community, it's therefore crucial that we create an open and dynamic discussion about this topic. This will allow us to be fully aware of our options for dealing with such a situation, ensuring that we provide the most appropriate and compassionate care we possibly can. We hope that the following points, which we consider to be key considerations for a vet dealing with these kinds of end-of-life situations, will facilitate discussion of this topic within your clinic:

- **Is the issue caused by a behavioural problem or a mental health disorder?** For example, is the patient a dog which digs due to lack of training, or an animal that suffers from separation anxiety in the absence of its owner? There is a big difference between the two, and this will definitely influence your decision as to whether or not you advocate euthanasia. If you are unsure, please refer. We are always available for referral and discussion of treatment options.
- **Are you comfortable performing the euthanasia?** If not, please discuss this with the owner prior to them attending the clinic, and ensure that they are aware of alternative options (e.g., referral, management or relinquishment). Remember that the owner's decision to euthanize their animal is the hardest thing they have had to do (irrespective of whether you agree with their decision), and declining that service once they are physically in your building can be extremely distressing for both themselves and your staff.
- **If you have chosen to perform euthanasia, are you using all of the tools in your toolbox?** As these patients are often stressed, always sedate beforehand. This will help to ensure that the process is not complicated by an uncomfortable and unpredictable patient. Sedation can start at home with the owner and be topped up in the clinic to allow easy catheter placement. Please do not just muzzle and pin down a patient in their final moments, they deserve more respect than that.
- **Are you being compassionate?** This relates to your treatment of all involved; the client, the patient and yourself. If left unmanaged, a true mental health disorder is a welfare issue. The world can be a distressing place for an animal suffering from such a condition, and the owner may feel powerless to intervene, instead having to watch a member of their family suffer every day. So be kind to all involved, and remember that euthanasia is not the enemy, but may actually be the kindest thing you can offer.



Staff News....



Dr Chalette Brown

The lovely Dr. Chalette Brown will commence maternity leave on Friday 10th March. Once again, we wish Chalette and her husband Chris all the very best for the birth of their first child and for the months ahead. We look forward to meeting the new member of the AVBS team and of course welcoming Chalette back to the clinic later in the year.

Good luck and all the very best Chalette!!

New Team Members...



Both Emma and Tegan are settling in well, studying hard and doing a fantastic job. Behaviour is a passion for both and we are thrilled to have them join our team.

Dr Emma Vermeeren grew up on Kangaroo Island where her parents are both veterinarians and as such, becoming a veterinarian was a natural career path. Emma has a menagerie of pets and has been involved in dog and horse training since she was young. She used to help run the local dog obedience club and in 2016 completed her Delta Certificate IV in Companion Animal Training. Emma graduated the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at the University of Adelaide in 2013 and has since worked for her parents for 6 months at the Kangaroo Island Veterinary Clinic, and more recently at Bordertown Veterinary Clinic where she still practices part-time as a general practitioner. In 2017 Emma is undertaking the CVE Behavioural Medicine course. Emma has two Miniature Schnauzers, Karma and Shelby, both of which have special needs.



Dr Tegan Hadley was born and grew up in Darwin, N.T. She moved to Adelaide in 2007 to commence studying Animal Science at the University of Adelaide. She graduated from this degree with first class honours in 2010, completing a research project that focused on animal behavior, demonstrating her early interest in this area. Tegan subsequently entered the veterinary program, going on to graduate with the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 2015. Since graduating, she has worked as a general practitioner within the Adelaide Northern Vet Group. Tegan has commenced post graduate studies in animal behavior and seeks to sit her membership exams in the years to come. Tegan currently has one fur baby, a cat named "Albert" and will be growing her fur family in the future.



A big welcome to our new receptionist Mikaela Bandiera, who is currently studying at Flinders University, finishing off her final year in a double degree of a Bachelor of Science (Animal Behaviour) and a Bachelor of Environmental Science. She has completed her Certificate II in Animal studies and previously worked in a dog day care. She has worked on various conservation led research projects with wallabies, wombats, seals and penguins. She has however, decided to follow her passion in learning more about dog behaviour and positive training methods, and is about to begin her Certificate IV in Companion Animal Services through the Delta Society. She currently has a 14 year old Jack Russell Terrier, and a pet turtle and cockatiel!

Tracy and Ana will still be assisting on reception but have now taken on other roles with education, consults and training.