



## Is your pet keeping you up at night with toilet breaks? Or suddenly drinking like it's summer... when it's clearly not?

We've had quite a few clients recently asking why their older pet is drinking more water than usual — and it's a really important question to ask.

Excessive thirst can be an early sign of a few common conditions in ageing pets — like diabetes, kidney disease or Cushing's. The good news? If caught early, many of these can be managed well, keeping your furry friend healthy and happy for longer. And in many cases, early treatment can help prevent more serious complications down the line.

We've written a simple, friendly article to explain what might be going on (and what you can do about it) - check it out on our website blog page [here](#), along with other great articles about pet health how to keep your furry family members thriving at every age.

*If you've noticed a change in your pet's drinking or toileting habits, don't wait. Book online or give us a call — we're here to help: (02) 4872 1144.*



Look who came in for a health check! This little bundle of cuteness is being lovingly cared for by a WIRES carer. Wombats are some of Australia's most iconic and beloved marsupials — and they're always full of surprises!



*The Better Pet Gazette is a monthly newsletter full of informative articles and tips on pet health as well as updates on what's happening at the practice. We hope you enjoy the read!*

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*need an appointment?*  
**BOOK ONLINE**





## Leptospirosis Confirmed in the Southern Highlands!

*A recent case of leptospirosis has been confirmed in Bundanoon, where a local dog sadly passed away. This serves as a serious reminder that this deadly disease is still a threat in our region.*

*Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that can cause severe illness, organ failure, and death in dogs — and it can also spread to humans. It's carried in the urine of infected animals such as rodents and wildlife, and can survive in soil, puddles, or other water sources for weeks.*

*Importantly, the leptospirosis vaccine (C2i) is not included in the routine yearly C5 vaccination — it's an additional vaccine we now strongly recommend, especially in light of this recent case.*

*If your dog may be at risk, please book online or give us a call on (02) 4872 1144 to discuss vaccination.*



Recently, there's been growing talk about an “early finish” approach to puppy vaccinations—where puppies receive only two doses, with the final shot given around 10–12 weeks of age. While this might sound appealing for convenience, it comes with real risks that can leave your pup unprotected. At our clinic, we strongly recommend following the full three-dose schedule, with the final vaccination given at 16 weeks or later. Here's why...

### *The Role of Maternal Antibodies*

When puppies are born, they receive maternal antibodies from their mother's milk. These antibodies are an important first line of defence, helping to protect young pups from infections during their most vulnerable early weeks. However, they can also interfere with vaccinations, blocking the vaccine from working effectively.

The tricky part? There's no way to know exactly when these maternal antibodies fade. For some puppies, they may disappear by 8–10 weeks, but for others they can last up to 16 weeks or more. If a final vaccine is given while antibodies are still present, the protection may not “take,” leaving your puppy unknowingly at risk.

### *Why Timing Matters So Much*

Studies have shown that the risk of vaccine failure is highest when the final dose is given before 16 weeks of age. This means that even if your puppy seems healthy, an early finish schedule could create a dangerous gap in immunity—right when they are starting to explore the outside world and meet other dogs. Diseases like parvovirus are still common in many areas, and they can be deadly for unprotected puppies.

### *What Experts Recommend*

Leading veterinary authorities, including the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) and the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA), agree: the safest option is to complete a 3-dose puppy vaccine series, finishing at or after 16 weeks. Many vets, including us, also recommend a booster at 6 months of age to ensure long-lasting protection.

### *Convenience vs. Protection*

We understand the temptation of fewer vet visits—it can seem easier and less costly in the short-term. But when you weigh that against the potential consequences of incomplete immunity, the choice becomes clear. A little extra time and care during your puppy's first months can mean a lifetime of better health and safety.

### *We're Here to Help*

If you have questions about your puppy's vaccination schedule, or if you've already started an early finish program elsewhere and want to review your options, our team is happy to help.

**Call us at 4872 1144 or send us a message—we're here to make sure your newest family member gets the best possible start in life.**

# upcoming

## f LIVE TALK



### Have you and your pet had a great experience with our team?

We love hearing your feedback, and your kind words mean the world to us. Not only does it brighten our day, but it also helps other pet owners feel confident about choosing our clinic for their furry family members.

If you have a moment, we'd be incredibly grateful if you could share your experience in a Google review. It's quick, easy, and makes a real difference to our small business. Thank you for supporting us and helping us care for more pets in our community!

**CLICK HERE**  
to leave a review

**raw feeding**  
is it really better for pets?

Join us on your lunch break:  
**03.09.25**  
**@ 12:30pm**

@ facebook.com / highlandsveterinaryhospital

**f LIVE** Highlands Veterinary Hospital  
03- SEPT- 2025 · 12:30PM

**Veterinarian Dr Diederik Gelderman** explores the facts, myths, and science behind raw diets for your furry friends.

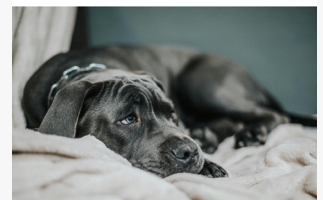
Raw feeding sparks strong opinions—some pet owners swear by it, others worry about the risks. In this talk, Dr. Diederik will unpack both sides of the debate. We'll cover potential benefits like better digestion, dental health, energy levels, and weight management, along with important risks such as bacterial contamination, choking hazards, and health conditions that may complicate raw diets. Raw feeding isn't for everyone—it takes planning, hygiene, and expert guidance. Whether you're curious or skeptical, this session will help you make an informed decision for your pet.

Please listen in on Wed, 3 Sept at 12.30pm on our Facebook page [here](#). If you are unable to attend this Facebook talk, you can find the recording in the Live section under the More menu for up to one month after the live - or click [here](#).

### AUGUST FACEBOOK LIVE TALK RECAP

#### Tummy Troubles: Chronic Gastrointestinal Issues in Pets

Gastrointestinal issues in pets can be tricky to diagnose, with symptoms like vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, weight loss, loss of appetite, and abdominal pain. Causes range from food allergies and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) to parasites, infections, or pancreatic disorders such as exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI). As you can see, a tummy issue is far from easy to diagnose. Dr. Diederik advises prompt vet checks, including blood tests, stool analysis, and sometimes biopsies. Dietary changes to hypoallergenic or easily digestible foods can help, and chronic cases often need ongoing monitoring and care.



To watch this talk [click here](#). To view any of Dr Deiderik's past live sessions, just go [here](#) - it will be available for one month after the live.





# what is that lump?

**H**ave you found a soft lump under your pet's skin? One common cause—especially in dogs—is a fatty tumour called a lipoma. While the word tumour can sound alarming, lipomas are usually benign (non-cancerous) and harmless.

## What Is a Lipoma?

A lipoma is a soft, fatty lump that forms under the skin, often slow-growing and painless. They're most common on the chest, abdomen, or limbs and can vary in size. While usually harmless, large ones can cause discomfort or limit movement.

## How Common Are They?

Lipomas are common in middle-aged to older dogs, especially those who are overweight, and are more often seen in females. Breeds such as Labradors, Weimaraners, and Dobermans may be more prone. Cats can get them too, though less often.

## When to Be Concerned

Most lipomas are harmless, but lumps should always be checked by a vet—especially if they're growing quickly, interfering with movement, or if there's uncertainty about whether they're benign. Rarely, fatty lumps can be malignant or invasive.

## Diagnosis and Treatment

Vets may use fine-needle aspiration or biopsy to confirm a lipoma. Many don't need treatment and can be monitored. Surgery may be recommended if the lump is large, growing, or affecting comfort. Most pets recover quickly after removal.

## After Surgery Care

If surgery is needed, your vet will provide instructions to help your pet heal smoothly. This usually means keeping the incision site clean and dry, preventing licking or scratching (an Elizabethan collar can help), and limiting activity for a short period. Watch for redness, swelling, or discharge, and follow up with your vet as advised.

## Ongoing Monitoring

Even after removal, new lipomas can appear. Regular check-ups and keeping an eye on any new lumps is the best way to ensure your pet stays healthy.

**For more information on this subject, see our blog [here](#). If you notice a new lump—or changes in an existing one—call us on 4872 1144 for an appointment.**



*Warmer days mean pets like to get out and explore. But it also means more accidents or health issues raise their ugly heads, catching many owners off guard.*

*They may be battling with a tight budget and they now facing accidental or unexpected health issues. No pet owner wants to be in a situation where their options are limited when their pet deserves medical attention.*

*But with your help and Helping Paws as a backup... it buys time now, not later, for desperate pets. Our community has been great in getting behind this cause, offering items for our beautiful baskets, cash donations or buying a raffle ticket!*

*All the proceeds go towards helping those in desperate need. We thank you all for your vital support.*

*Happy hint – we are building up for a big, beautiful draw for Christmas! Make sure you are in for that, ask our receptionists for your lucky raffle ticket.*