



**JUNE
2026**

The Better Pet Gazette

highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au



*what your
dog's
coat
is telling you*

Dogs often mask signs of illness and discomfort, but subtle changes in their skin and coat can often reveal what's going on internally if you know what to look for.

Here are three of the most common coat conditions we see in clinic, and what they can tell you about your dog's health...

A dull coat: A lack of shine or softness can indicate that your dog may be missing important nutrients in their diet. Adding a skin-friendly supplement, like omega-3s or fish oil, can help support not only their coat but also their heart, joints, and overall immune system. Visit us in-clinic, and we'll help you find the right option for your dog.

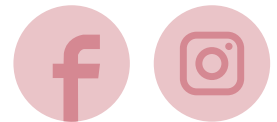
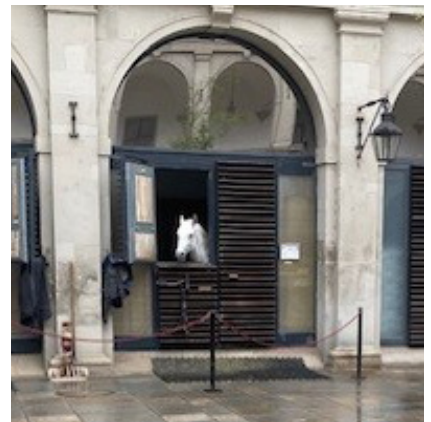
Flaky or irritated skin: Dry, flaky or irritated skin can point to a few different health issues. Your dog may be reacting to a food or environmental allergy or experiencing skin sensitivity. If you notice any bald patches, excessive shedding, or persistent grooming,

please bring your dog in for an appointment. These symptoms can sometimes indicate more serious conditions such as Cushings disease or a parasite infestation. At your appointment, we can help choose the correct treatment regime for your pet.

A soft glossy coat: This is the gold standard for a healthy dog. A shiny, smooth coat often reflects overall wellbeing, from proper nutrition to good hydration and grooming habits. Even if your dog looks healthy, we still recommend coming in for twice-yearly check-ups so we can catch any early signs of health issues and help your dog feel their best.

Small changes on the outside can reveal a lot about your dog's health.

A special moment from the Spanish Riding School, where one of the famous Lipizzaner horse residents couldn't resist peeking out to say hello! Captured by Dick during his European holiday last month.



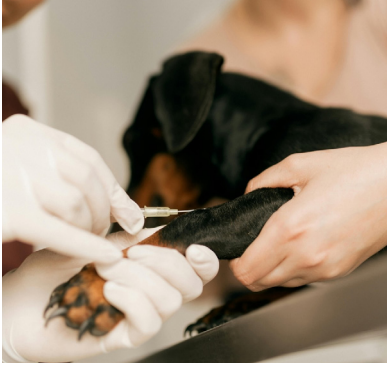
The Better Pet Gazette is a monthly newsletter full of informative articles and tips on pet health as well as updates on what's happening at the practice. We hope you enjoy the read!

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need an appointment?
BOOK ONLINE

REMINDER

Don't Wait Until
It's Too Late!



Every year we see it happen.

A pet arrives too late.

Unvaccinated.

*Exposed to a disease that could
have been prevented.*

*What should have been a simple
vaccination suddenly becomes
intensive treatment, stress for
the family, and a much bigger
veterinary bill.*

*The truth is, most of these cases
are preventable.*

*Vaccinations are one of the easiest
and most effective ways to protect
your pet from serious illness.*

*If it's been 12 months since your
pet's last vaccination, or you're not
quite sure when they're due, now
is the perfect time to book.*

*Call 4872 1144 or click on the
button to book online:*

need an appointment?
BOOK ONLINE

small chip

*big peace
of mind*



Across Australia, June marks National Microchipping Month—a timely reminder for pet owners to ensure their animals can always find their way home. Whether you have a new pet or it's been a while since you checked their details, this month is the perfect opportunity to confirm your pet's microchip is working and your contact information is up to date.

What Is a Microchip?

A microchip is a tiny device implanted under your pet's skin that carries a unique number linked to your contact details on a database. Unlike collars and tags, a microchip can't fall off—so if your pet is found by a neighbour, ranger, vet clinic, or shelter, they can scan the chip and quickly contact you.

If Your Pet Goes Missing: What to Do

If your pet goes missing, act early and work in widening circles. Start at home: check sheds, garages, under decks, and favourite hiding places. Call their name calmly, shake a treat container, and listen—lost pets often stay silent nearby. Ask neighbours to check their yards and sheds, and leave a familiar-smelling item (like bedding) at your gate.

Steps to Take Right Away

- **Report and notify:** Contact your local council or ranger service, nearby pounds and shelters, and vet clinics. Provide a clear description, your pet's microchip number (if you have it), and where/when they were last seen.

- **Check daily:** Visit or call shelters regularly—descriptions can be misrecorded, and photos help.

- **Use multiple channels:** Post recent photos and key details to local community pages and lost pet groups, and put up simple posters in the area.

- **Keep safety in mind:** If your pet is sighted, approach slowly and avoid chasing. For anxious pets, consider setting up a humane trap with guidance from a shelter or a local rescue group.

Why Even Indoor Pets Need Microchipping

Even indoor pets can slip out unexpectedly through open doors, windows, or during stressful events like storms or fireworks. Once outside, they may travel further than expected and can be difficult to identify without a microchip. Because microchipping provides lifelong identification, it greatly improves the chances of a safe return. Keeping your contact details up to date each year ensures the system works when it matters most.

Layering Protection for Peace of Mind

Most importantly, ensure your pet is microchipped, registered where required, and wearing an ID tag—these layers work together. If the worst happens, a scannable, up-to-date microchip can turn a stressful search into a quick phone call saying, “We’ve found your pet.”



Dogs are incredibly resilient, and many adapt far better to losing a limb than people expect.

After an accident or illness leads to amputation, most dogs quickly learn new ways to move, balance, and play. Their instincts and determination help them adjust, and with proper care, they often return to their favourite activities sooner than owners imagine.

Three legged dogs, often called “tripods,” can run, climb stairs, and enjoy full, happy lives. What matters most is giving them time to heal, offering gentle support, and celebrating each small step forward. When owners understand how capable their pets truly are, it becomes easier to focus on recovery rather than loss.

These furry heroes consider the loss as a challenge — a missing limb doesn’t diminish their spirit or their ability to thrive!

upcoming

f LIVE TALK

to
vaccinate
or not?

what's essential and what's optional?

Join us on your lunch break:
03.06.26
@ 12:30pm

facebook.com/highlandsveterinaryhospital

f LIVE Highlands Veterinary Hospital
03 JUNE • 2026 • 12:30PM

Veterinarian **Dr Diederik Gelderman** will give clear, practical advice on core vs non-core vaccines, when titre testing actually makes sense, and the real risks to consider before skipping your pet's vaccinations.

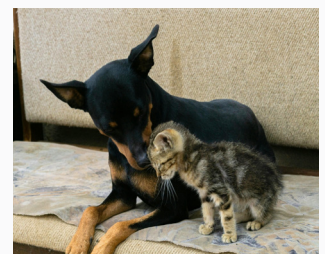
Join Dr Deiderik’s upcoming live talk where he tackles one of the most debated topics in pet care. Vaccination is still one of the strongest protections against serious diseases in dogs and cats, including parvovirus and feline panleukopenia, with core vaccines recommended for all pets. He’ll also unpack when non-core vaccines like kennel cough or FIV are actually worth considering based on lifestyle and risk. If you’ve ever questioned booster schedules or what’s really necessary, this session will give you clear, practical guidance.

*Please listen in on Wed, 3 June 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**.*

MAY FACEBOOK LIVE TALK RECAP

“Should All Cats and Dogs Be Desexed? The Great Snip Debate”

Desexing offers major benefits, though there are valid arguments on both sides of the debate, as Dr Diederik discussed. Desexing helps reduce unwanted litters, eases pressure on shelters and wildlife, and can lower certain health and behavioural issues. However, some



owners and breeders believe mandatory desexing removes individual choice and may not suit every animal. The focus should be on ensuring pets not intended for breeding are desexed early, alongside education and accessible veterinary care. Overall, desexing remains an important tool for improving pet welfare and reducing overpopulation in Australia.

*This livestream video is available until the 9 June, to watch **click here**.*

*To view any of the clinic's videos, just go **here**.*

*could your pet
be hiding*

joint pain?



Osteoarthritis (OA) doesn't always begin with an obvious limp. In many pets, the earliest signs are small changes in behaviour and movement that owners may put down to "slowing down" or ageing. Spotting these subtle clues early can make a big difference to comfort, mobility, and long-term joint health.

Changes in Movement and Mobility

Changes in how your pet moves through everyday routines could be any of the following points:

- If it is taking them longer to rise after rest
- If they hesitate before jumping into the car or onto the couch
- Using stairs more slowly, or choosing ramps and lower surfaces. You might notice a shorter stride, stiffness at the start of a walk, or a tendency to "bunny-hop" with the back legs.
- Some pets redistribute their weight to avoid a sore joint, which can show up as worn nails on one side, a new sway in the hips, or muscles looking a little smaller over the hindquarters.

Behavioural Changes Can Be a Clue

Behaviour can change just as much as gait. Pets with early OA may sleep more, seem less interested in long

walks or play, or stop greeting you at the door. Others may become grumpier when touched, avoid being picked up, or react during grooming—especially around the hips, knees, elbows, or lower back.

You may also notice more licking at a joint, panting or restlessness at night, or occasional slips on smooth floors because they are not pushing off as confidently.

Early Support Makes a Difference

If any of these signs sound familiar, book a check-up sooner rather than later. Your vet can assess joint range of motion, identify painful areas, and discuss a tailored management plan. This may include weight management, gentle strengthening exercises, home adjustments such as non-slip mats, ramps, and warm bedding, along with appropriate pain relief.

We also stock two veterinarian-prescribed injection options for osteoarthritis: **Zydax** and **Beransa**, which can help manage joint pain by targeting pain pathways and improving day-to-day comfort.

Early support helps pets stay active, maintain muscle strength, and enjoy the things they love for longer. Give us a call at 02 4872 1144.



Helping Paws

HIGHLANDS VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Sometimes pets pick the worst possible moment to need help — like 2am, or payday minus three days. When emergencies strike, waiting isn't an option. That's why Helping Paws exists: to jump in when pets and their humans need help yesterday.

And how do we keep this helpful mission going?

With a raffle that's actually fun to join! Buy a ticket, feel like a hero, and maybe even win something cool. Pets get care, owners get relief, and you get a shot at prizes donated by our awesome local legends.

Huge thanks to everyone who's chipped in — whether you donated a prize or grabbed a ticket (1 for \$4 or 3 for \$10 at our reception). You're making real magic happen.