



**NOVEMBER
2025**

The Better Pet Gazette

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**ADOPT
A SENIOR**
pet month
| NOV |
2025

In a world full of playful puppies and curious kittens, it's easy to overlook the gentle souls with greying muzzles who still have so much love to give...

Senior pets are sometimes abandoned due to various reasons, such as an owner's changing lifestyle or death, or the pet's age-related problems. Whatever the reason, an older pet still has a lot of love to give so don't walk pass them when searching for a new pet. Look into their eyes; they could be your dedicated, loving new pet who will be so grateful for a new chance at life.

Many senior pets have already been house-trained and know basic commands, making them easier to integrate into your home. They often have calmer temperaments due to being more relaxed and less energetic than a youngster. Older pets can form powerful bonds with their new owners. A mature pet has an established personality – what you see is what you get.

Adopting a senior pet can be mutually beneficial. Studies have shown that having a pet can reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and improve overall mental health. And with a mature pet, there won't be any 'youngsters' tearing around at midnight! A senior pet may not have their whole life ahead of them, but they'll make every day you share together deeply meaningful.



Oh, Ava and her ball obsession... she is always entertaining us here in the clinic!



**paws, pose &
win cash!**

Our Snap 'N' Win promotion is on again! See pg 4 for more details on how you and your pet can win.



GET TICKED OFF!

protect your pets

As the weather warms up, paralysis ticks are on the move again! These tiny parasites are common in our region and can be life-threatening for both dogs and cats.

Ticks release a toxin that can cause weakness, wobbliness, vomiting, breathing difficulties, and in severe cases, paralysis. Unfortunately, by the time these signs appear, your pet may already be in serious danger.

What you can do:

- Use a reliable tick preventative all year round such as Nexgard Spectra.
- Check your pet daily, especially around the head, neck, chest, and between the toes
- Avoid long grass and bushy areas where ticks thrive.

If you notice symptoms, call us immediately.

OFFER: Don't forget, for every 6-month pack of Nexgard Spectra you buy from us, you receive an extra month for FREE!



why is my puppy biting me?

Bringing home a new puppy is a joyful experience. But when that play involves sharp little teeth nibbling on your hands, arms, or clothing, it can be a bit less fun!

If your puppy is biting during playtime, you're not alone. This is one of the most common concerns new pet owners face.

Is Puppy Biting a Sign of Teething?

Not always. While teething pups often chew to relieve sore gums, play biting in puppies is more about fun and social learning than dental discomfort.

Why Do Puppies Bite and Mouth People?

Puppies use their mouths the way human toddlers use their hands — to explore their world. In the early weeks of life, they learn vital social lessons through play with their litter mates. One of the most important lessons is bite inhibition — the ability to control the strength of their bite. When they come home to you, it's up to their human family to continue that education.

How to Stop Puppy Biting at Home

Luckily, there are clear steps you can take to gently guide puppies:

1. Provide Plenty of Play and Exercise

Puppies have a lot of energy and need regular playtime and exercise.

2. Teach Bite Inhibition Using 'Yelp and Pause'

When your puppy bites too hard, let out a sharp "yelp" or "ow!" just like another pup would. Immediately stop playing and turn away for 10–30 seconds. Resume play once they've calmed down.

3. Use Time-Outs

If your pup keeps biting even after a yelp, calmly get up and leave the room - rough behaviour means no more fun or attention.

What NOT to Do When Your Puppy Bites

Avoid using harsh discipline. That includes: smacking their nose, holding their mouth closed, or shouting or scolding. These methods can cause fear, anxiety, or even more excitement. Worse, they may damage the trust your puppy is building with you.

Early training matters

Puppyhood is the perfect time to teach good habits and create a bond built on trust. If your puppy learns early that calm behaviour gets rewards — and rough play ends the fun — they're far more likely to grow into a well-mannered adult dog.



Possums are on the move at this time of the year, and a baby may become separated from their mum.

This tiny ringtail possum, weighing just 90g and about 3–4 months old, was found on the ground dehydrated and with an injured eye.

If you find a baby possum, please bring it to our hospital, the nearest vet, or contact WIRES on 1300 094 737 for expert emergency care.

When rescuing, move the baby safely off the road, gently wrap it in a soft towel, and place it in a warm box. Do not feed it milk, water, or food. Caring for these tiny creatures requires time, skill, and specialised knowledge—please don't try to raise one yourself.

This little possum was brought to Highlands Veterinary Hospital, where it's getting the best care possible. Watch our video on Facebook [here](#).

upcoming

f LIVE TALK

the dangers of
dr.google
the risks of online pet advice

Join us on your lunch break:
05.11.25
@ 12:30pm

@ facebook.com / highlandsveterinaryhospital

f LIVE Highlands Veterinary Hospital
05 · NOV · 2025 · 12:30PM

Veterinarian Dr Diederik Gelderman explores how unreliable internet information can put your pet's health at risk and why professional veterinary guidance matters most.

“Dr Google” can seem helpful for pet advice, but it carries real risks — and that's exactly what Dr Diederik will be discussing in his next live talk. Many pet illnesses share symptoms, and online information can lead to misdiagnosis or dangerous delays. Some “natural” remedies or human medications can even poison pets. Join Dr Diederik as he explains how to spot bad advice online, where to find reliable pet health information, and why your vet is always the safest source of guidance.

Please listen in on Wed, 5 Nov 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](#).

NOVEMBER FACEBOOK LIVE TALK RECAP

“Safe Indoors? You Might Be Surprised...”

Are inside pets safe – do they really need vaccines, health checks and the like?

In his recent talk, Dr Diederik reminded us that even indoor pets face hidden risks.

Parasites like fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes can still find their way inside, spreading

disease and discomfort. He also highlighted common household hazards — foods like chocolate and onions, medications such as Panadol, and even lilies can be deadly. Boredom is another issue, leading to destructive behaviour if pets lack stimulation.

Dr Diederik emphasised that while keeping pets indoors reduces some dangers, regular vet checks, vaccinations, and parasite prevention are still essential.

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.



SNAP AND WIN

\$500 IN PRIZES TO BE WON!

1ST = \$250
2ND = \$150
3RD = \$100

HOW TO ENTER:

- 1 Vaccinate Your Dog/Cat or purchase a pack of Nexgard Spectra (3 or 6) (from 1 Nov-15 Dec 2025)
- 2 Pose for a picture with your pet (taken at the clinic)
- 3 Winners will be drawn and notified prior to Christmas*

paws, pose & win cash!

HIGHlands is again having a Snap 'N' Win promotion through the 15 December 2025. Win some great cash prizes, just in time for the holidays!

Just bring your pet in to be vaccinated or purchase a pack of Nexgard Spectra (3 or 6 months). We'll take a pic of you with your adorable cat or dog, you fill in the entry form and we'll put you in the draw for a cash prize. It's that easy!



* Terms and conditions apply.



Helping Paws

HIGHLANDS VETERINARY HOSPITAL

The holiday season can be financially challenging for pet owners, and unexpected accidents can leave them in urgent need of funds. Our "Helping Paws" initiative is here to assist during these tough times.

Funds raised through our raffle ticket sales help cover lifesaving treatments and medications for pets in need. By purchasing a ticket, you not only stand a chance to win a fantastic gift basket, but you also contribute to a great cause. Local businesses can generously donate prizes for the draw, making it even more exciting!

Tickets are available at our reception: one ticket for \$4 or three tickets for \$10.



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