

## Winter Pet Essentials!

Our pets need not suffer in the chilly Melbourne weather. These tips can keep them warm & cosy!

- Dog coats for walking or when outside in the yard.
- Ensure outdoor kennels are well insulated, have plenty of warm blankets and a flap to seal out the cold.
- If older pets are stiff and sore, a simple vet check can assess if medication can help.
- Puppies & toy breeds should never be left outside in cold weather as they are particularly prone to hypothermia.

## Life Saving Cat Vaccine

Spring is the start of kitten season and cats allowed outside are more likely to engage in territorial disputes and fights leading to injury.

Cat bites are a major cause of FIV infections; this is the feline equivalent of the human AIDS virus. This virus affects cats only and can NOT be transmitted to humans.

FIV vaccination is available and we highly recommend prevention of this disease if your cat ever goes outside, even if only in your yard.



# BORONDARA PARK ANIMAL HOSPITAL

## Winter & Spring News

### Relief for Itchy Pets

Allergic reactions can be a problem for pets all year round but during spring our vet hospital sees a marked increase in patients with allergic conditions. Some common problems which may be caused by spring time allergens include:

- Weeping or irritated eyes
- Sore ears (head shaking or scratching)
- Itchy or inflamed skin/paws
- Sneezing or nasal discharge



Pollens, grasses, dust, plants, mites and insects are just some of the possible causes. If you notice your pet scratching, licking, chewing at itself or areas of red/irritated skin, a visit to the vet can diagnose the problem and provide relief.

Bee stings are also common during spring and can cause an anaphylactic reaction. **This can be life threatening.** If you suspect a bee sting your pet should be seen by a vet immediately, especially if there is any swelling or breathing difficulty present.

### Holiday Kennels

If you plan on boarding your pets over the holidays it is important to check all vaccinations are up to date well in advance.

All good boarding facilities require proof that your pet has a current vaccination. Cats require a minimum of an F3 vaccine and your dog should be up to date with a C5 vaccine to help prevent and reduce the severity of Canine Cough.

Canine Cough (commonly known as Kennel Cough) is a highly contagious disease that spreads quickly between dogs. It can infect any area where a dog may have been including parks and public areas. It is not limited to kennels and boarding facilities only.

Symptoms include a dry, hacking cough often with gagging; exercise or excitement can make it worse and it is sometimes accompanied by lethargy & reduced appetite.

Please make sure you book an appointment for vaccination at least **2 weeks prior to your pets boarding admission**, as vaccines require time to begin providing protection.



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Opening hours: Monday to Friday 8am-7pm, Saturday 8am-1pm