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**VERMONT VALUE VET**  
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

*"Affordable premium pet health care"*

## SPRING NEWSLETTER

### STAFF NEWS:

All staff at VVV would like to sincerely thank all clients for their understanding and patience with changing procedures due to COVID19. Contactless procedures will continue until the 1.5m rule is relaxed due to the size of our consult rooms, We have evolved over the last 6 months to continue to provide you effective and efficient treatment. Our work load has increased considerably due to the surge of new puppy and kitten ownership, such that we are increasing staff level by a vet and a nurse. We will keep you posted.

#### Inside this issue:

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### TIS THE SEASON TO BE ITCHY!

Spring is in the air! With that comes allergy season. Our pets commonly suffer from atopic dermatitis, or allergies to things in the environment, such as grasses, trees, weeds, dust mite, and pollen. Symptoms will include persistent itching and scratching, leading to skin and ear infections. There are some newer products on the market now that do not have the side-effects of drugs we have relied on in the past, namely corticosteroids. Apoquel tablets daily or Cytopoint injection monthly are excellent products to combat seasonal allergies, and can be used in conjunction with short courses of corticosteroids to get the allergy under control more quickly. Also Hills makes a diet called Derm Defence, which has products to protect the skin barrier from inflammation and secondary infection from yeast and bacteria. Please contact us for more info.

### DENTAL MONTH:

We have been very busy here at VVV during the pandemic. So much that we nearly forgot to mention dental month! It will now run for the month of **November**. We will be providing free dental checks and 15 percent off all dental procedures.



COVID 19 PROTOCOL IS STILL IN PLACE. OUR HOURS ARE MON-FRI 9-7 SAT: 9-4 SUN: 10-12

## STORY OF THE MONTH - Chester and Tallulah

One of loyal clients unfortunately had to surrender her 2 Siamese cats to our team. Their names are Tallulah and Chester. Both cats are in their twilight years, so it was more difficult to find a home for them. Luckily for Chester and Tallulah and us, they found Rob, who had seen them on a mutual Facebook post and fell in love!

Soon after that he came and picked them up and they have found their new forever home, they now enjoy sunbaking and living the high life.

It was a very sad time for the cats and their family so we are over the moon they have found a new home.



## SOCIALIZING YOUR PUPPY DURING COVID19-

Socialisation is not just introducing your puppy to people and other puppies/dogs. This is important, but there are many experiences to which we can introduce our puppies to help them cope well with situations they will encounter during their lives, including introducing them to different sights, objects, surfaces, sounds, experiences, and skills.

Everything new needs to be paired with positive experiences (delicious treats and fun things) so that the puppy forms positive associations with the experience. Socialisation and training should only ever use reward-based methods, whereby the puppy is set up to succeed and is then rewarded for doing the positive behaviour. When socialising your puppy, it is important to make sure they are calm when you start and that you have plenty of treats to use as rewards.

Make sure your puppy has the choice to investigate whatever you are introducing them to or move away if they want to.

It is important that your puppy is never forced to do anything, because this can create negative experiences. Please do not hesitate to call us **9873 1113** or email us at [nurses@vvet.com](mailto:nurses@vvet.com) if you have any puppy questions.

There is a very useful article on the RSPCA website.

Find it here: <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/is-socialising-my-puppy-important/>

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