NEW COMPLETE PET PACKAGES!

Your pets are our best friends

Our NEW complete pet packages are a great way to provide the best annual care for your dog or cat!

These packages include all the preventative treatments your pet will need over a 12 month period, in a simple and affordable way.

Below is an indication of what each package includes:

**Preventative Health Care:**
- Annual vaccination
- 20% off booster vaccinations
- 20% off vaccine upgrade + screening tests (Feline AIDS, Feline Leukaemia, Canine Heartworm)
- 12 months worth of heartworm prevention
- 12 months worth of flea & tick prevention
- 12 months worth of intestinal worm prevention
- 20% off desexing
- 20% off microchipping

**Member Rewards:**
- Unlimited nurse checks
- Unlimited nail trims (pedicure)
- Unlimited anal gland check (nurse)
- Unlimited nurse dental checks
- 10% off Hills premium food
- 10% off PAW supplements
- 10% off puzzle and food enrichment toys

**Early Detection:**
- 10% off vet consultations and revisits
- 10% off major or minor blood screening with an anaesthetic
- 20% off dental xrays

Sedation and hospitalisation are additional if required. Bookings are required for nurse and vet consultations.

Please give us a call to enquire about the packages, or come in and chat to one of our friendly vet nurses or receptionists about making your pet a Doubleview Diamond!
Incontinence is a reasonably common problem in dogs and rarely seen in cats.

Incontinence is defined as - unaware and uncontrolled release of the bladder resulting in urination. It often occurs during the night or when the body is relaxed. Despite episodes of incontinence, most dogs with this disease are still able to urinate normally during the day or on walks.

The most common reason for incontinence is weakness in the urinary sphincter mechanism. This mechanism involves the smooth muscle of the urethral sphincter at the base of the bladder. This is closely controlled by the many branches of the nervous system. The act of urination is rather complex, with sensory, bladder wall and brain cues all working together. This results in the ability to urinate in a controlled manner.

Sphincter mechanism weakness is most commonly recognised in older, sterilised female dogs, with large breeds being over-represented. However young sterilised females and older male dogs can also be affected. It was traditionally thought to be associated with a lack of the hormone Oestrogen. However, it is now believed to be a much more complex issue resulting from abnormality within the urethral sphincter muscle tone, pelvic and urogenital conformation as well as hormonal influences.

Urinary sphincter mechanism weakness resulting in incontinence tends to vary between individuals and may occur episodically, or on a daily basis. It can be worsened by intensive exercise, which then results in them often being more tired and sleeping deeply when they do rest. Dogs often drink more after intensive exercise which also increases urine production.

It is important to differentiate incontinence due to sphincter weakness, from other urinary tract disorders such as cystitis (inflammation of the bladder) or urinary tract infection. Likewise, older animals with metabolic diseases such as diabetes, cushing’s disease or kidney disease can be mistaken for having incontinence as they often drink and urinate a lot more frequently which can result in accidents on bedding. Neurological conditions affecting the spine can also result in a lack of control over urination.

Investigation of incontinence includes a thorough discussion and physical examination by a veterinarian which is often followed by testing of the urine to rule out other possible causes of the inappropriate urination. Diagnostic testings, such as blood tests, x-rays and ultrasound can also be used to further establish the overall health and function of the urogenital tract and may aid in detection of stones, masses or anatomical abnormalities.

Once a diagnosis of urinary sphincter mechanism weakness has been made treatment can be started. Treatment is usually life long and involves a daily medication which aims to directly stimulate the receptors within the smooth muscle of the bladder and urethral sphincter increasing its tone and allowing better control.

Occasionally puppies will present with uncontrolled urination, rather than the usual puppy accidents. These puppies are dribbling or urinating constantly. This is often associated with a congenital conditions such as ectopic ureters, which is a serious condition often requiring prompt diagnosis and specialist surgical treatment.

If you think that your pet may be suffering from incontinence, please contact us to make an appointment with one of our veterinarians.

Puddle Problems

Urinary incontinence in Dogs

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We all know that owning a pet is fun, and having a little furry (or feathery or scaly) creature in your life brings you loads of joy. But did you realise there are many health benefits of owning a pet too? Below are some of the many health advantages of looking after a pet!

1. Patting your pet has a range of cardiovascular benefits, including lowering your blood pressure and lowering cholesterol.

2. Decreases stress and gives a sense of calmness.

3. Growing up with a dog (and other pets to a lesser extent) during infancy may help to strengthen the immune system and may reduce the risk of allergies and possibly other immune related diseases.

4. Increased physical activity - walking your dog (or cat!) daily has obvious health benefits. It also helps in the feeling of connection to others and to the community.

Pets give back to us in many ways! They keep us company and make us feel safe when we are alone. They are always there for us, no matter what has been going on in our day, and are always there to listen to us.

Interestingly, pets can also detect health condition changes in their owners. A few studies have shown dogs to pick up subtle changes to their owner's behaviour. Some examples are alerting the owner to changes in blood sugar levels in diabetes, and a possible seizure in epileptic patients. This just goes to show how amazing our animals are!

You can now book your pet's appointment online, at any time of the day or night! Simply go to our website, click on the links and you can book at a time that suits you. If you cannot find a time that works, please call us on 9341 1200 during opening hours.

You can find us at doubleviewvet.com.au

Paws for thought
COMMON HOUSEHOLD PET TOXICITIES EXPOSED

There are many foods, human medications, plants and other items in our households that can be harmful to our furry family.

The following items are most commonly known as being harmful to our pets:

- **Avocado Stones, Corn Cobs, Fruit Stones and Nuts** can cause obstructions in the digestive system which may require surgery to remove.
- **Bones** can cause an obstruction. They can also cause broken teeth, lacerations and pancreatitis. Cooked bones should never be fed as they can splinter easily and cause gastric impaction.
- **Some Essential oils** used concentrated, topically and diffused, can cause neurological problems and liver failure. These include tea tree oil, peppermint, citrus and pine oils.
- **Garlic, Onions and Chives** even in small amounts damage red blood cells which can cause life threatening anaemia.
- **Grapes, Currents and Raisins** also in small amounts can cause kidney damage and can be fatal.
- **Macadamia nuts and Walnuts** can cause nervous system problems including seizures.
- **Unbaked dough (yeast)** can bloat in the stomach causing obstructions and can also cause alcohol poisoning due to fermentation in the stomach.
- **Xylitol (sugar free additive)** is commonly found in sugar-free gums and some peanut butters. This can cause liver disease as well as other illnesses.

There are also items specific to our **felines** that can have very serious health implications including the following:

- **Lilies**: All parts of the lily plant are very toxic to cats and can cause acute kidney failure.
- **Dog Flea Treatments** often contain **Permethrin** which in cats can cause nervous system problems.
- **Antifreeze, bleach and disinfectants** are highly attractive to cats due to their sweet smell but can cause neurological problems and kidney failure.

There are a wide range of plants (whole or parts) that can be detrimental to your pet’s health. Please see our website for a list of toxic plants and our toxic information sheet. Alternatively visit [www.petpoisonhelpline.com](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com) for more information on specific categories.

If you suspect your pet has consumed or been exposed to any of the above it is recommended to seek veterinary advice.