



Achoo!

As I sit down to write this edition, the winter wind is blustering, the pile of used tissues is towering and Georgie and Lilly are cuddling close instead of clamouring for their walkies.

We all feel the years in our bones just a little more at this time of year. Georgie and Lilly are now both 10½, and considered 'mature active' dogs. (Though mature seems an overstatement for Lilly, who still runs like the wind and loves her daily swim in the bay. I should be so mature!)

In fact, since our pets' appearance often changes so little as they age, it's easy to forget that large breeds like Golden Retrievers are considered senior at 5 years old – and small breeds like toy poodles, as well as cats, at 7. Which is why I thought I'd devote some extra attention in this issue to our beloved Senior pets.

Now don't go all Marley & Me on me...

Senior doesn't mean over the hill! You can take heart from the oldest dog on record – a cattle dog named Bluey who made it to the ripe old age of 29 years and 5 months (courtesy Coles Magazine). Or my own customer Milo, a 16½ year old Schnauzer who's still power walking 1-2 hours a day.

Do remember to rug them up though

Your pets feel the cold in their bones too. So be sure they're protected from the weather. Milo, for example, wards off chills by wearing a warm polar fleece skivvy under his coat for extra comfort.

Speaking of coats – now you don't even have to go out to get one

If you can't be bothered venturing out in the cold to shop - look no further than my brand new, just-launched online store: www.pamperyourpet.com.au.

I've stocked it with a selection of our most popular coats, jumpers, collars, leads and accessories for dogs and cats. You can buy anything there for delivery straight to your door, no walkies needed!



Milo 16.5 years old and still power walking

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Wendy, Georgie and Lilly, co-proprietors of Albert Park's own slice of dog and cat heaven, Pets & the City

Brrrrrrr,

Wendy

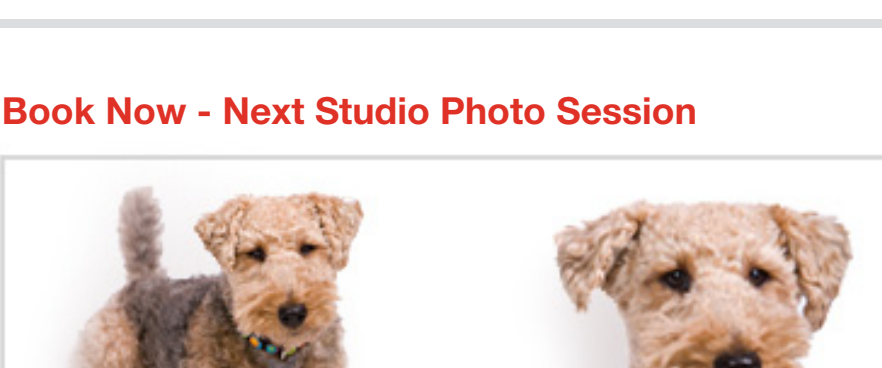
PS. No matter how cold, you simply must venture out to see us at least one day this winter: Sunday 26 July, our 6th birthday celebration at pets & the city. (See details below.)

Events @ pets & the city

6th Birthday Extravaganza – You're Invited

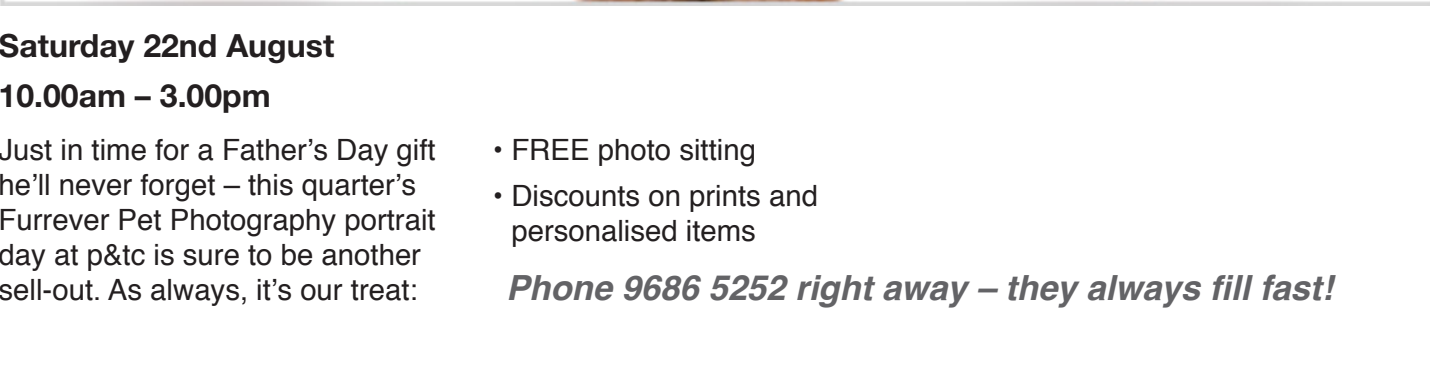
**Sunday 26 July
10.00am – 3.00pm**

If you've been with me for a while, you'll know – birthday Sunday at pets & the city is always the biggest, bestest, silliest day of the year! Be sure to come along for:



- Doggie birthday cake from Gourmet Dog Bites
- Free doggiechinos for pups and bubbles for you
- 10% off everything in the store (excluding food and treats)
- Birthday decorations by those inventive students at Albert Park Primary School
- Free gifts for every customer
- Spend \$10 or more and go into the draw to win fabulous prizes

Book Now - Next Studio Photo Session



**Saturday 22nd August
10.00am – 3.00pm**

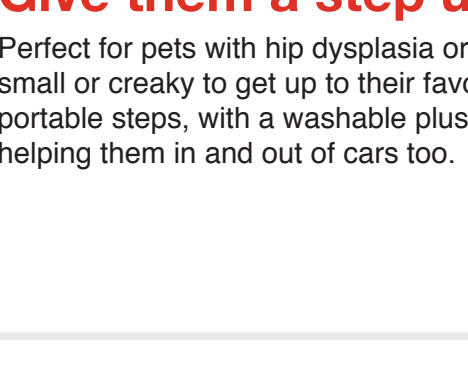
Just in time for a Father's Day gift he'll never forget – this quarter's Furrever Pet Photography portrait day at p&tc is sure to be another sell-out. As always, it's our treat:

- FREE photo sitting
- Discounts on prints and personalised items

Phone 9686 5252 right away – they always fill fast!

pets & the city products

What's hot hot hot for a cold cold cold winter? I have some wonderful new conveniences for older animals, as well as the cosiest classics for cats and dogs of any age.



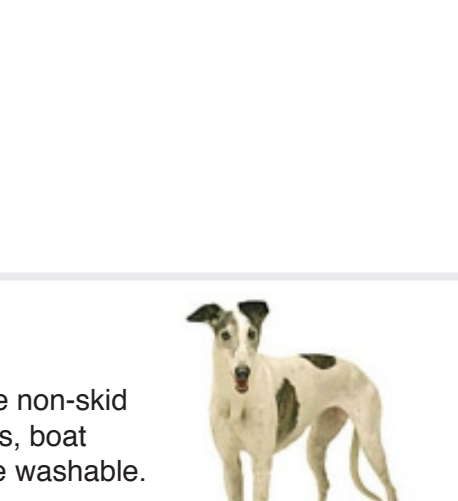
Make Fido a flasher

Make sure your baby stands out even on the darkest of after-sunset walks. Collar with reflective strip and flashing red lights can be seen up to 500 meters away. From extra small to large, a size for every pup.

Flashing collars

Give them a step up

Perfect for pets with hip dysplasia or arthritis – or any animals simply too small or creaky to get up to their favourite perch with ease. Lightweight portable steps, with a washable plush cover for indoor use. Great for helping them in and out of cars too.



Dog and cat steps



Another way to give them a lift

Foldable, lightweight ramp with non-slip grip. Keep it in the car to make in-and-out a stroll instead of a struggle. Weighs just 2.7 kg - but hold up to 45.3 kg.

Folding dog and cat ramp

Dogs deserve cozy comfort inside too

You love your snugly slippers. So why shouldn't pooch have a pair too? The non-skid soles give senior dogs (or any scramblers) extra traction on hardwood floors, boat decks and the like. Soft, warm fleece on top, easy Velcro closures, machine washable.



Hott Doggers Boots

pets & the city features

THE RIGHT CHOW FOR YOUR CHOWHOUND'S AGE

I only need my morning slog at the gym to remind me how much my metabolism has changed over time. Sigh. So why should it be any different for our animals?

Here's how to make sure your dogs and cats eat right for their age (info courtesy Pet Education.com)...

Dogs' Metabolisms Slow Down

As dogs age, the slowdown in their metabolism decreases their energy requirement by about 20%. But that's not all. Because their activity usually lessens too, this reduces their energy needs by another 10-20%. Older dogs also have different nutritional needs – requiring more fibre and less fat.

If we feed them like we did when they were strapping youngsters, they're bound to pork up. And obesity is one of the main health problems in older dogs.

For Cats, It's a Different Story

Cats' energy needs stay about the same throughout adulthood. Middle age cats can lean toward obesity. However older cats tend to lose some of that fat – they don't digest or absorb fat as well as they did when they were younger. (Oh, for that problem!)

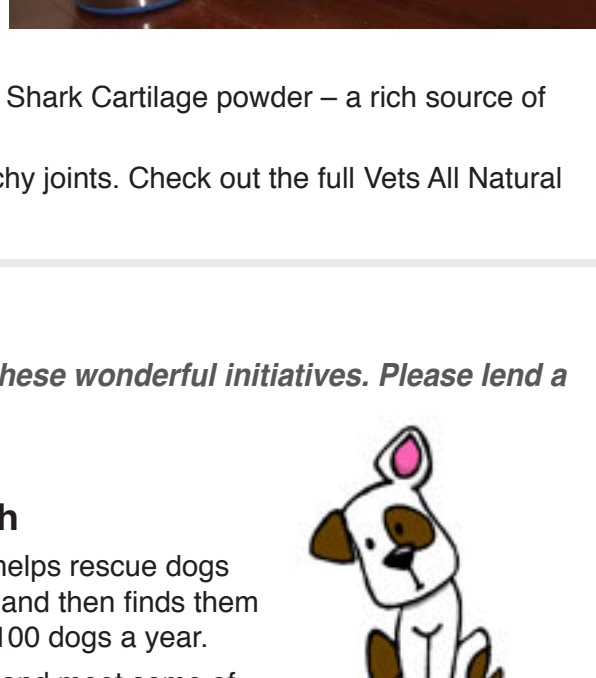
Cats may need to eat more fat, or more digestible fat to get the same amount of energy. You need to monitor older cats' weight and body condition and adjust their diet accordingly.

Choosing the Chow for your Older Dog or Cat

Both *Eukanuba* and *Hills Science Diet* have a range of Senior products perfect for your maturing pooch or kitty. Another option you can stock up on at *pets & the city*...

Vets All Natural Premium Choice Senior Formula for Dogs

This line has lower protein, higher vegetable content and natural Shark Cartilage powder – a rich source of glucosamine and chondroitin – to help with joint health. Milo also swears by their *Joint Formula* and *Omega Oil* for his achy joints. Check out the full Vets All Natural line at www.vetsallnatural.com.au



HELPING ANIMALS IN NEED

Dogs and cats of all ages benefit from the selfless help of these wonderful initiatives. Please lend a hand where you can...

Meet Some Special Guests at our Birthday Bash

Rescued With Love is a non-profit, volunteer organisation that helps rescue dogs from pounds and shelters – rehabilitates them in foster homes – and then finds them loving, permanent homes. Now 6 years old, they're saving over 100 dogs a year.

Come visit their table at our Birthday Bash on Sunday 26th July, and meet some of the dogs currently being fostered and waiting for their future families. (Maybe yours?)

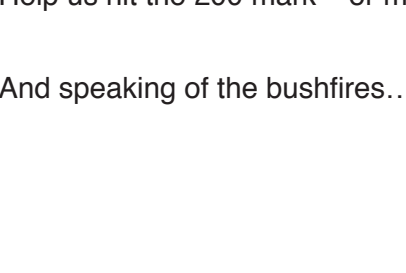


Care for a Seeing Eye Dog-in-Training

Our friends at *Seeing Eye Dogs Australia (SEDA)* are in urgent need of more puppy carers.

Carers raise puppies from 8 weeks until they're 12-18 months old, socialise them and train them in basic skills (with lots of help from SEDA). It takes a bit of time and dedication - but carers swear that the reward of giving joy and independence to a blind puppy is well worth it. To find out if SEDA puppy care is for you:

Call SEDA on 03 9381 6400
Visit www.seda.org.au or click below to get an application form.
http://www.seda.org.au/puppy_caring_application_form.html

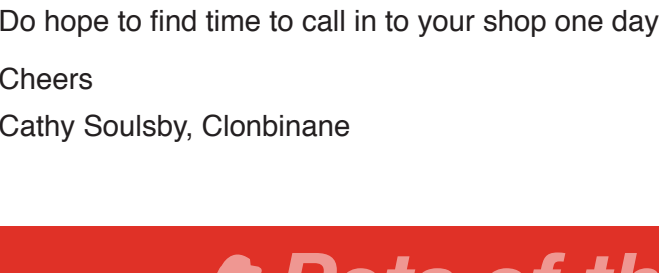


SEEING EYE DOGS australia

Sport a Yellow Scarf to Help Bushfire Re-Building

All proceeds from these affordable little \$10 fashion statements go to rebuilding the Mountain Highway Vet Clinic burnt down during the tragic bushfires. Available in store, and we've sold over 100 so far! Help us hit the 200 mark – or more.

And speaking of the bushfires...



Sterling models a Yellow scarf

AN AMAZING TALE OF SURVIVAL

After all the tragedy, I received a very welcome letter from one customer whose family miraculously survived the firestorm. Thought you'd like to hear her story firsthand – so I've reproduced it in full here...

Hi Wendy

Just thought you might like to know the story of how my wonderful pets and I survived the bushfires that swept through our area on Feb 7.

As soon as the fire started my husband took off to the fire brigade and I spent all afternoon preparing the house in case the forecast wind change brought the fire back in our direction, which it did, about 7 pm, with a vengeance.

My three cats and two dogs were so brave and calm as thick smoke filled the house and the noise from the smoke detectors was deafening. Day turned to night as their mother rushed from room to room making sure no windows had broken allowing fire to enter the house. After what seemed an eternity the fire front had passed over and I was able to go out and check the outside of the house.

I found a veranda post on fire and also the fire pump, which I put out with a wet mop. But our house was virtually unscathed. Unfortunately our pet friendly bed and breakfast cottage which had only been operating 12 months, was razed to the ground as were two sheds with all our farm machinery and my husbands tools.

Life is slowly getting back to normal and we are becoming used to the blackened landscape, but our wonderful wildlife suffered greatly, especially the beautiful koalas. Life will not be the same here for a long time. Still we are alive and so are our "turkies" so that is all that really matters. So many people a lot worse off than us. Do hope to find time to call in to your shop one day with my girls and have a browse.

Cheers
Cathy Soulsby, Clonbinane

Pets of the month Seniors Showcase!



This edition seemed like the perfect time to introduce you to a couple of my longer-lived and loved little customers...

STILL A STUD AT 15

Satch the standard poodle came to live with owner Julie over 12 years ago when he was 3. He'd been trapped in a dog's life (though one some of our male friends might envy) – as a stud dog at a puppy farm breeding Labradoodles. From being permanently chained up with little or no shelter or human contact - he was rescued (and neutered!) to become Jules' boisterous, loving companion.

For a big boy, Satch is a bit of a woe. He's a water dog who's terrified of swimming. On camping trips, he hides in the tent to escape the flies. And he's never quite recovered from the time the hot air balloons landed in HIS park. Ever since, Satch still goes for an occasional romp on the couch.

Satch's favourite things: little white fluffball dogs to romp with (a little less boisterously these days) – going to breakfast at cafes with outdoor heaters – long snoozes with as much of him as can fit snuggled onto Jules' lap.

A RIGHT ROYAL FELINE

Kashmir is the aristocratic 13 year-old offspring of two Blue Mountains Russian Blues. She chose Mum Carolyn by racing to the door to greet her when Carolyn went to visit the breeder. And she's been the ruling elite of the house ever since.

No surprise, she's an upper class girl who wants what she wants when she wants it. When dinner is being prepared, she pushes her way underfoot and won't budge until a cup of gravy comes her way. And whenever Carolyn's in the bath, she insists on lolling on the edge of the tub, sipping the bath water - and occasionally taking an unplanned-for dunk! Carolyn describes her as loyal, loving and beautiful in every way – still a true princess, even at 13.

Kashmir's favourite things: outings with Carolyn's daughters in the doll pram, cozy in her royal 'wrap' – and getting dressed up in a tutu and hat every year for her birthday. (Well, maybe that's Carolyn's favourite.)

SEE YOU SOON - ONLINE AND OFF!

I hope you'll come by and say hello at our 6th Birthday Bash on the Sunday 26th – and any other old time you're in the neighbourhood.

And don't forget to come on a virtual visit to my new online emporium at www.pamperyourpet.com.au.