

NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the warmer weather! We are seeing many more Pugs, French Bulldogs, Australian Bulldogs and Persian cats at our clinics. It is a timely reminder for these breeds that we take care with heat stress coming into summer. Weight management is also essential and if you are having trouble with your pet's weight please read on about our new Hills food called Metabolic Diet for cats and dogs. Some of our beloved, short nosed pets after managing their weight still require surgery to help their breathing. This is achieved by shortening their soft palate and widening their nostrils. Storm season is upon us now and many of our pets suffer anxiety to the thunder. There are many tools at our disposal to help your pet through this season. Please turn over for more detail. Fleas and ticks are more prevalent in these current ideal weather conditions. We are having very good control with Nexgardor Advantix for dogs and Frontline for cats. It is always important to control the environment as well.



Orthopaedic TTA Surgery

Cranial (or anterior) cruciate ligament rupture is one of the most common orthopaedic conditions seen in the dog. It can be an acute (sudden) or a chronic degenerative injury of the anterior cruciate ligament that results in partial or complete instability of the knee joint.

This is similar to anterior cruciate ligament problems in humans, where damage is often related to skiing, football, or other sports-related. Often cruciate ligament rupture is a gradual process, resulting from chronic inflammation in the knee joint. Age-related changes, repetitive activities, poor conformation and obesity are some of the more common causes. Hyperextension (running on soft sand) or rotation (ball/stick retrieval games) of the knee joint can commonly cause cruciate ligament injury.

Surgery to stabilize the knee joint is the best option for treatment. When the joint is unstable for a period of time, arthritic changes will begin that cannot be reversed.

Surgical options offered at the Lake Veterinary Hospitals are either Tibial Tuberosity Advancement (TTA) or DeAngelis Technique. The TTA technique involves changing the angles of the knee joint to stop forward motion whilst weight bearing. This more advanced technique results in a quicker recovery. The DeAngelis Technique involves placing an artificial suture to provide stability to the knee joint.

Hill's Metabolic Diet

As with the human epidemic, almost 50% of our pet population is overweight. Even a little extra weight can impact the pet's quality of life and relationship with family because that extra weight can reduce playtime, impact mobility and affect the general health of your pet. Metabolic Diet is specially formulated to support your dog's weight management by helping speed up your pet's metabolism. In fact, 88% of pets lost weight at home in 2 months with the nutrition of Metabolic.



Happy Calm Experience

At The Lake Veterinary Hospitals we want every animal to have a happy, calm and enjoyable time at the practice.

The way we strive to achieve this happy and calm experience is:

- Adaptil dog and Feliway cat pheromones are used in the hospitals.
- Shorter waiting times with appointment scheduling
- Friendly interactive staff with treats
- Cat friendly waiting room and consultation room.

We also encourage friendly visits to the hospitals whether it is for a weight check or just to say hello!



Fear of Thunderstorms and Fireworks

Summer in Australia can be noisy: thunderstorms, fireworks and Christmas parties are just some of the events that can trigger noise sensitivities in dogs. Although it may not be possible to avoid the noises, there are some simple ideas for helping your dog to cope during a noisy situation:

- Expose puppies to different noises from a young age and make sure the noises are always associated with something pleasant such as a dog treat. Using Adaptil while encountering a potentially scary sound will help your pup avoid negative associations with the noise.
- Providing a crate in a quiet room filled with toys and hidden treats allows your dog to retreat to a safe place when they feel threatened and helps them cope with the stress created by the loud noises. An Adaptil Diffuser can be placed close by to improve their sense of security.
- Never punish your dog for any behaviour that comes as a result of their anxiety - punishment may make their anxiety worse and has a negative impact on your relationship with your dog.
- Masking the loud noise with a noise your dog can tolerate (such as classical music) can make a big difference.
- Engage your dog in a game to distract them.

Some pets fear and anxiety associated with loud noises are severe, and require further medication and training. Please contact us to make an appointment with one of our veterinarians and help your pet feel more secure.

