



NEWSLETTER

Issue 48

January 2017

We wish all our pets and clients Happy New Year. We hope 2017 is a happy and healthy year for you all. We welcome our new pets and clients that have started a life-long bond together.

Congratulations to our Christmas hamper winners. Turn over to see the latest staff happenings and check the latest on management of noise phobias. For more articles visit our website to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter.

We welcome back Kelly Payten to Charlestown from maternity leave. She is working Monday and Wednesdays.

We introduce our new vet Carla Kowald into the team at Belmont. Carla brings a sound knowledge of small animals to the team. She has travelled from Queensland with her pet birds and cat.

Staff Christmas Party



We were lucky to have our Christmas party at the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club. We had the 3rd member of the club

in Philip Wilson able to give a bit of history to the younger brigade. It was a great opportunity for the team to get together in a very relaxed atmosphere helped along by a few drinks.

No great whites were spotted on the night after the recent sighting off the jetty. Secret Santa made an appearance with some very thoughtful gifts.



Photo Competition Winner



Congratulations to our winner! Icy won 12 months supply of flea prevention.

Festive Season Noise Phobias



It is that time of year again when we see stressed dogs due to anxiety episodes associated with fireworks and

thunderstorms. Often these occur when owners are absent, which often is associated with separation anxiety.

Some breeds are more prone to anxieties such as Kelpies, Staffordshire Terriers, Border Collies and Jack Russell Terriers.

Affected dogs can do self-harm, escape or create noise nuisance for neighbours. Effective control is difficult, especially if owners are absent. Being aware of your dog's personality and tendency towards anxious episodes does mean that we can prepare and help these dogs where possible.

Some dogs, along with behaviour management strategies, require medications that work quickly and for a short time for incidental use. We also recommend the use of calming pheromones (inhaled hormones) like an **Adaptil spray or an Adaptil collar**. The spray is put on a bandana which is applied around your dog's neck and after 30 minutes has a calming effect that last for up to two and a half hours. Alternatively, the collar, which lasts for a month, is left on your dog the whole time for the continual benefit of inhaling the calming pheromone.

Our main concern with stressed anxious dogs is that they can do self-harm either at home or if they escape. However, often these episodes are a symptom of an underlying behavioural disorder that is present all year round and may be better treated with long term therapy, not just occasional therapy. Our resident **behaviour consultant Kathy Wilson** is more than happy to address any concerns you have in a consultation.

Staff Happenings



Congratulations to **Angela Robertson and Dave White** on their recent marriage. Dave and Angela managed to do it in style in Las Vegas. We wish them all the best in the years to come as a married couple.

Christmas Hamper Winners

Congratulations to all our 2016 Christmas hamper winners. Enjoy the goodies inside.



Charlestown
Irene and Parker

Swansea
Sheila and Bundy



Belmont
Byron

