



MT EVELYN VET CLINIC & ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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Autumn/Winter Edition

Stories Include:

- A Minute with Dr Nick
- Rising from the Ashes
- Rolling the Dice
- Interesting Facts
- Rabbit Vaccination Update
- All about Kellie



A MINUTE WITH DR NICK



**Q: YOUR WORKING LIFE:**  
A: I first joined Mt Evelyn Vet Hospital straight out of Uni in 2002. From 2004-2007 I worked in the UK, mostly around Oxford, Surrey and London. In 2007, I moved back to Melbourne, rejoined Mt Evelyn Vet Hospital, married and added a cat, dog and 3 kids to our family.

**Q: FAVOURITE ANIMAL MOVIE**  
A: Turner & Hooch.

**Q: INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT YOUR ANIMALS**  
A: Milamber ('Lamb') is named after the main character in the book, Magician. It is quite appropriate that her hair coat is blonde!  
Boston is my handsome Burmese cat. He is a wanderer, even going into a nearby house dur-

ing an Open for Inspection. The real estate agent rang and asked if she should drop him back home!

**Q: FAVORITE HOLIDAY?**  
A: South America to see Iguazu Falls and trek the Inca trail to Machu Picchu or on safari in Africa to visit the Serengeti and Masai Mara and to see the Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda.

**Q: WEIRDEST ANIMAL TO TREAT?**  
A: In the UK, tortoises were a bit more common. People used to bring them in for their post hibernation check up. They had been kept in the fridge for a few months and then I had to check if they were ok. Weird!

consultation by appointment during:

mon	8.30am - 7.30pm
tues	8.30am - 6.30pm
wed	8.30am - 7.30pm
thurs	8.30am - 7.30pm
fri	8.30am - 7.30pm
sat	9.00am - 5.00pm
sun	10.00am - 1.00pm
public holidays	10.00am - 1.00pm



# Rising from the Ashes

Mt Evelyn Vet Family, meet Phoenix! He is a 1 year old kitten who has been battling an ongoing illness called Immune Medicated Hemolytic Anemia. He was diagnosed when he was only 8 months old.

Dr Sheree noticed it wasn't just his fur that was white, but also his gum colour! Acting quickly, a blood test confirmed the percentage of red blood cells in his circulation was dangerously low at 4% (normal is >30%).

Dr Sheree saw this and advised Phoenix's family to rush him to the Animal Emergency Centre, where he received three blood transfusions. These transfusions saved his life.



Despite all the medications and many vet visits with Dr Sheree, he is one of the sweetest, cuddliest kittens ever! He is now happily at home with his wonderful family that love him dearly.

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**Baby, its cold outside**

# Rolling the Dice

This is Dice. He's cute (well....some might say that). Lucky for him, his family are very fond of him, even though he did steal a chicken skewer straight off the dinner plate!



*pictured above - the very expensive chicken skewer. (Pet Insurance eased that side of things at least)*



*Dice with nurse Rychelle at his follow up check.*

So, up came Dice, with Mum tagging along, one night just before closing time to see Dr Nick.






Dice was his usual happy self, with absolutely nothing wrong on physical examination. Radiographs were normal too (wooden objects don't show up on an X-ray). The problem was, that Mum had seen him take the skewer and swallow it down in 1 piece, and Dad had already double checked at home and confirmed that one of the 23cm (yep!) skewers was missing.

Dice was back first thing in the morning, still bright as ever (and probably a little grumpy that he didn't get breakfast). Dr Nick and the team proceeded with surgery to find and remove the skewer, which was already in the small intestine but thankfully hadn't perforated his bowel yet.

Dice is doing fabulous now and Mum informs me that he won't have a chance to repeat his mistake, as the family will not be having chicken skewers for dinner again!



## Interesting Facts

-  35% of dogs in Australia are overweight, this is due to a high caloric intake (treats) and low caloric output(exercise).
-  By 3 years of age most pets will be suffering from dental disease. Left untreated it can lead to jaw weakness and problems with the heart, liver and kidneys, which is due to bacterial overload.
-  Rabbit and guinea pig teeth never stop growing! They need hard items to chew such as apple tree twigs to keep their teeth in good condition.
-  A dog's bite can exert an average of 145kg of pressure, a shark can exert 272 kg of pressure and a crocodile can exert a massive 1130 kg of pressure!
-  Taurine is an essential nutrient which is added to all cat food. Without Taurine cats can become very sick. This is why cats should never be fed dog food.



## Rabbit vaccination update:

A new strain of rabbit calicivirus is due to be released across more than 600 sites in Australia during March. This new strain (called K5) is a naturally occurring variant of the existing strain RHDV1 which was released in 1996. Calicivirus is a contagious disease used to reduce wild rabbit populations to lessen the impact of rabbits on agricultural production and biodiversity.

Unfortunately our pet rabbit population is also at risk of exposure, with fatal results in any rabbit without immunity. Evidence suggests that the vaccine (Cylap RCD) currently available for prevention of RHDV1 is also effective against the new strain.

It is recommended that all domestic rabbit owners have their rabbits vaccinated and ensure they are up to date. Additional precautions to protect rabbits from infection include: preventing contact between pet rabbits and wild rabbits, avoid cutting grass to feed to pet rabbits from areas where wild rabbits may be foraging, wash hands with soapy water between handling rabbits, insect proof the hutch with fly screen or keep your pet rabbit indoors.



## All About Kellie

### 1. Favourite animal movie?

*K9 - I liked it better than Turner and Hooch because Jerry Lee didn't die in the end...*

### 2. What was your best day as a vet nurse?

*My best day was when we had a full day of puppies and kittens and all I did was cuddle them all day! Ok that didn't really happen but that would be a pretty perfect day.*

### 3. My animals are the best because....

*They don't love anyone the way they love their mum. Tinka had a lonely start to her life until I adopted her at about 6 months of age. She doesn't really like anyone else, but she is such a smooch and show off with me. I raised Cloudy from a tiny 10 day old kitten so despite him waking me up at ridiculous times in the morning we have a very special bond and he still acts like a baby when he's sleepy.*

### 4. Describe your perfect weekend?

*My perfect weekend involves a trip to my happy place in Rutherglen visiting all my favorite wineries, relaxing in the sun with long decadent lunches and good company.*

