

[RETURN TO WEBSITE](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER](#)



**Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic**

140 Swanport Road

Murray Bridge, SA, 5253

[mbvet@lm.net.au](mailto:mbvet@lm.net.au)

[www.murraybridgevet.com.au](http://www.murraybridgevet.com.au)

Phone: **08 8531 4000**



## Don't procrastinate – Just Vaccinate!

Can you believe Christmas is almost here again? As I write this, there's only a few weeks between now and the big day! Before we know it, we will be rushing around doing last minute Christmas present shopping, getting food organised for the good ol' Aussie Christmas banquet and packing our bags for our much awaited Christmas holiday. *Sigh...* I can feel the stress just writing about it! We all know Christmas is a TREMENDOUSLY busy time and often things are missed, or we say to ourselves 'I'll deal with that later!' Have you thought about your four-legged friends? Are they coming along to enjoy the Christmas holiday or will they be spending their Christmas trip in a doggy and kitty hotel aka. Boarding kennel/cattery??

Did you realise most boarding kennels require cats and dogs to be vaccinated prior to boarding? Vaccinations are extremely important when it comes to boarding our furry family members to ensure your own four-legged friends safe as well as their fellow boarders. Nonetheless, boarding is not the only reason we should make sure are four-legged friends are vaccinated!

**Why vaccinate?** [Click here to read the rest of our blog article](#)



## Hip Hip Hooray!!

A BIG Happy Birthday to our current Senior Pet Club and Healthcare members who will be celebrating in November:

Rocco - 1 year old  
Luna - 1 year old  
Kelly - 1 year old  
Samson - 1 year old  
Ollie - 10 years old  
Chaos - 12 years old  
Molly - 12 years old  
Scout - 13 years old  
Bubbles - 11 years old

MBVC Healthcare plans are available for cat and dogs of all ages! If you would like some more info on our Healthcare Plans please [Contact Us](#) or read more on our [website](#).

Here you will find how the plan could help you to provide comprehensive preventative healthcare for your pet, spread the cost and take advantage of special offers for Pet Healthcare Members.



## Puppy Pre School

**Congratulations** to the puppies who have graduated from the October Puppy Pre School Class.

Kimmie  
Ivy  
Kali  
Ivy  
Lexa  
Nova

To view all the adorable graduation photos please visit our [website](#).

### What will my puppy gain from Puppy Pre School?

Your puppy will gain valuable social skills by simply interacting with other puppies and people. These skills the pup develops it will use for life. Your puppy will learn how to interact with lots of people, loud noises and children and even a visit to the vet will become fun rather than something to shake about. Your puppy will develop into a friendly, educated, confident adult dog.

### How will I benefit?

Owning a dog will be enjoyable rather than a chore. Having an obedient, well socialised dog is much more pleasant and stress free. You will also gain knowledge in all areas of pet care from dental, nutrition, solving behavioural problems, toilet training and lots, lots more. Weekly freebies and samples to take home for the puppy. For more information please visit our [website](#).



## Myth busters: kennel cough

It's not uncommon for us to be asked, "if my dog doesn't go to boarding kennels, why is it necessary to vaccinate against kennel cough?"

It's time to bust some myths surrounding this and here are the facts ...

Kennel cough's correct name is 'canine cough'. It is often incorrectly referred to as 'kennel cough' and this is simply because the boarding kennels are a common place for it to be transmitted (given the high numbers of dogs in one area.)

Canine cough is commonly spread via water droplets through the air and can be transmitted between ANY dog. Common sites of transmission include the park, at the groomer, doggy daycare and even walking down the street! As it can be spread through water droplets, a communal water doggy bowl at your local cafe may even be a potential source.

Vaccination is essential as it protects your dog against the worst strains of the disease (the ones that can typically cause nasty pneumonia). BUT it's important to realise that **dogs can still contract a cough even if they are vaccinated**. Thankfully the disease is never as bad as if they aren't vaccinated.

*If you have any questions about vaccination and your pet, we are the best people to ask for advice.*



## Is your cat a bit wormy?

When it comes to intestinal worming, it's easy to forget about your cat. Sometimes just the thought of giving your cat a tablet can give you nightmares! Never fear, we are here to help. We can either give your cat their worming tablet (they need to come and visit us but it's also a good time for a weight and dental check). Or we can provide you with a topical worming treatment so there's not even a tablet involved!

Don't ignore intestinal worming - it's an important part of caring for your pet. You might also want to familiarise yourself with the most common intestinal worms in cats, they are all rather interesting (in our opinion!)

**1. Roundworms:** These are common intestinal parasites and can affect cats of all ages. Eggs from these worms can be passed in the faeces and remain in the environment for several years. A cat may become infected after directly ingesting the eggs or after eating an intermediate host (such as a rat or mouse who has ingested the eggs). Some of these worms can even be passed from mother to kitten via the mother's milk.

**2. Tapeworms:** These long and flat worms are made up of many segments. These segments contain the tapeworm's eggs and are passed in the cat's faeces (they look like little grains of rice!). All tapeworms require an intermediate host (such as a reptile or rodent) to complete their life cycle. Some

tapeworms are transmitted by cat fleas and infection can occur when a cat swallows an infected flea during grooming. Did you know that it is assumed any cat infected with fleas also has tapeworm?!

**3. Hookworms:** Hookworms can cause damage to the lining of the intestine and this may result in weight loss, bleeding and anaemia. Cats may become infected by ingesting the eggs from the environment, or from eating an intermediate host. In some cases, the larvae of the hookworm can even burrow through the cat's skin!

*When it comes to protecting your cat against these ghastly intestinal worms, ask us for help, your cat's health depends on it.*



## Tick tock

This is Annie. Annie is a 2-year-old Jack Russell Terrier Cross who has all the energy in the world and always loves a cuddle on the couch at the end of the day. This Christmas she will be travelling to Mallacoota on the east coast for the quintessential Australian family Christmas.

BUT, there's a danger lurking along the coast and it could be potentially fatal... the paralysis tick. This creepy critter usually loves hanging out along the east coast of Australia (who wouldn't?! ) and especially loves dense bush areas.

**Why does the paralysis tick cause so much trouble?** Once the tick attaches to a host (such as your pet) it engorges itself with blood and injects a toxin. As the tick slowly grows in size, it continues to inject the toxin over days to weeks so symptoms can be gradual in onset.

### Signs to watch out for:

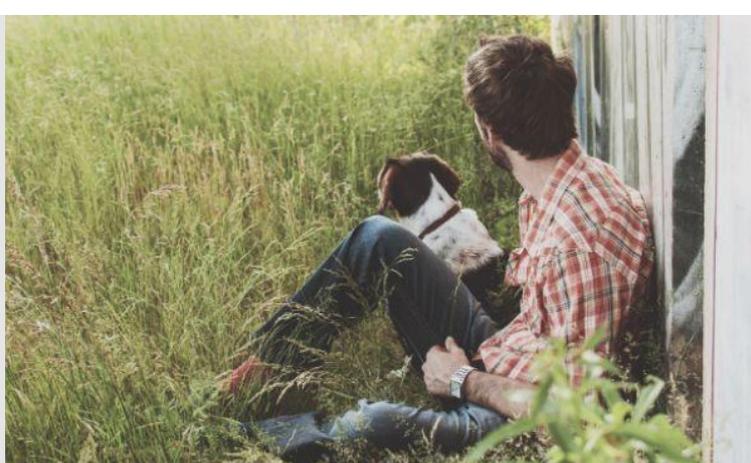
- A change in voice; the meow or bark becomes softer
- Weakness in the back legs
- Vomiting, especially if it happens several times in a day
- A moist cough and difficulties breathing

If the tick is not removed and an anti-serum administered to your pet, your pet can die due to paralysis of the respiratory muscles.

Thankfully there are lots of tick preventatives on the market and Annie has been dispensed a treatment to start before she leaves for her holiday. If your pet needs tick prevention, it is best to discuss the most appropriate product with us. It is also important to realise that not one product is 100% effective so knowing the early signs and performing tick checks on your pet is essential.

Oh, and these little critters can also 'catch a ride', and are sometimes found in areas away from the coast. This is just another reason to make yourself familiar with the signs of tick paralysis.

*Ask us for more information if you have any questions about tick prevention (or any parasite prevention for that matter). We are always here to help.*



## Man's best friend

The term 'man's best friend' may be even more appropriate than ever. Recent research by an American psychologist has revealed that up to 42 per cent of middle-aged men are more likely to turn to their dog for emotional support during the tough times than they are their human friends or their partner.

The psychologist, Dr Chris Blazina, suggests that men are often reluctant to seek help - either from their social circles or via medical treatment but a strong bond with a canine friend might, in turn, help isolated men reconnect with people.

We think this just highlights another one of the great benefits of owning a pet.

*You can read more about this on the ABC website [here](#) or even listen to an interview with Dr Blazina via RN radio on Life Matters [here](#).*

This email contains comments of a general nature only and is not intended to be a substitute for professional veterinary advice. It should not be relied on as the basis for whether you do or don't do anything.

[View this newsletter online](#)

All content © Pet Pack 2018

You received this email because you're subscribed to our newsletter or are a client of Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic  
This email was sent to: (MemberEmail)

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)