

Spring

into *SPRING* with our
latest newsletter



Welcome to our spring newsletter! With the weather getting warmer and flower blossoming it is truly a beautiful time of the year.

We hope everyone can enjoy getting outside in the sunshine for a walk with your four-legged friends.



ZOO STORY

Our monthly visit to Melbourne Zoo found us treating Chad, a 4y 9m old Meerkat who fractured his left upper canine tooth, resulting in the nerve being exposed.

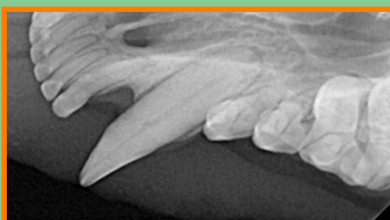
The Meerkat likes to eat mealworms, and lives in a dusty sandy enclosure at the zoo, and their teeth are often worn due to the abrasion, something that is also seen in the wild. In Chad's case, he was fortunate enough to have the tooth saved, and after he was anaesthetized and x-rays taken of the tooth, a root canal was performed.

This involves filing the canal and removing the infection (see pictures), and then filling the canal and placing a restorative (filling on the end).

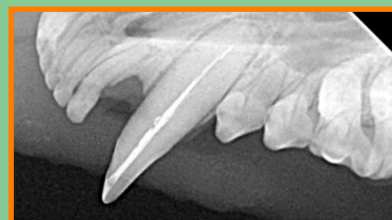
He woke up well and is back with his tribe!



File with infected pulp attached



Before root canal



After root canal

ALLERGIES

As some humans can attest to, with the beauty that is spring comes pollen, and with that, allergies. There is unfortunately no exception for some of our pets. Here are a few FAQs about allergies!

What is an allergy?

An over-reactivity of the immune system to a particular substance, called an allergen.

What are the major types of allergies?

Food, fleas, and environmental allergies. Any of these allergies can lead to secondary bacterial or yeast infections. Dogs can also have a condition called Atopy, which is a hereditary predisposition to environmental allergies.

What are the common allergens?

Environmental allergens: pollens, grass seeds, dust mites, and mold spores.
Food: proteins, most notably beef and chicken.
Parasites: Fleas and mites



What are the signs of allergies in your pet?

Allergies can manifest in cats and dogs in many ways, as shown in the picture below. Not every dog or cat will have all of them, but it is important to recognize these warning signs of allergies!

ALLERGY SIGNS

EARS

Signs: Waxy discharge, red, smelly
Behaviour: Head shaking, scratching

FACE

Signs: Red, hair loss, nasal discharge, runny or red eyes
Behaviour: Scratching, sneezing, rubbing face



SKIN

Signs: Red, crusty, scales
Behaviour: Scratching, licking, pacing

COAT

Signs: Bald spots, brown discoloration
Behaviour: Scratching, licking, rubbing

PAWS

Signs: Red, swollen, brown discoloration
Behaviour: Licking or chewing

How do we tell what they are allergic to?

Determining the type of allergy and the cause is important in knowing the best way to treat them. Flea allergies can generally be ruled out by treating with parasite treatments such as Nexgard that treat flea allergy dermatitis. Environmental allergies flare up in certain times of the year, much like hayfever in humans. Food allergies are generally present year round. Some animals can have a combination of different types of allergies, that can make it challenging to pin-point a specific cause.

What can be done?

Unfortunately there is no cure for allergies, the aim is to control the signs and improve quality of life. After determining the likely causes of the allergies, the vet will work out a treatment or management plan specific for your pet, this can include: Medicated shampoos, eye drops, anti-inflammatory medications, anti-itch medications, ear drops, special food trials, or



if necessary referral to specialist veterinary dermatologists.

What can you do?

The best way is to avoid any known allergens, and to keep up to date with parasite treatment. If you believe your pet has allergies, please book an appointment with one of our vets.

Aloveen Oatmeal Shampoo and conditioner aids in soothing and moisturising dry and itchy skin, and assists in removing allergens from the coat. During September and October we are offering 25% off Aloveen Shampoo and Conditioner packs.



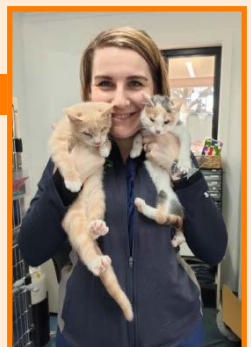
MEET THE TEAM

Over the last few months, we have welcomed two new team members to our Hallam Vet family.
Welcome Liz and Emma!



LIZ

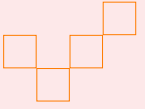
Liz has been a vet nurse in general practice since 2015 after studying biological science and joined our team in May 2022. Liz loves all aspects of nursing especially surgery and dental nursing. Outside of work Liz likes to bake, draw, and spend time with her 2 fabulous standard poodles Valentin and Estelle and her two beautiful cats Vincent and Lacey.



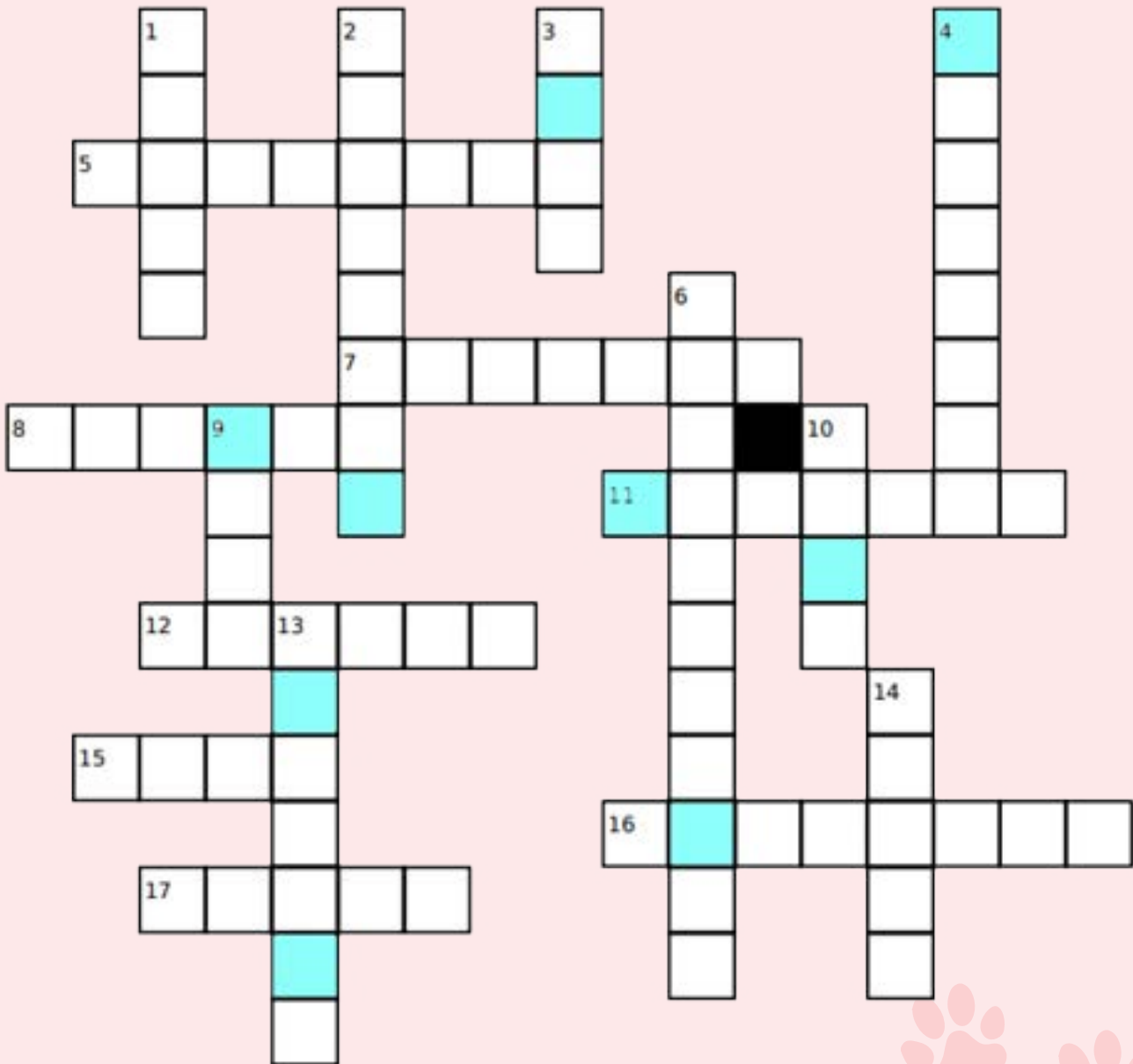
EMMA

Emma started working with us in May 2022. She is a qualified veterinary nurse who is passionate about emergency and dental care. Her studies have included specialty in Wildlife, rescue and rehabilitation. Her spare time is spent with her family, including the rescued furred and feathered ones, making pottery and cooking yummy vegan food.

Spring CROSSWORD COMPETITION



Complete the crossword, then use the highlighted letters to work out the mystery word related to this newsletter!
Contact the clinic with the mystery word to go into the running to win a prize for your animal!



DOWN:

1. A common allergen found in backyards
2. A respiratory sign of allergies
3. a common location of skin flare-ups
4. term used when the body responds to allergens
Allergic ...
6. where most seasonal allergens are found
9. a mass found on or under the skin
10. the part of the body most commonly affected
with environmental allergens
13. what can be found on the skin when reacting
to allergies
14. the term for inherited environmental allergies

ACROSS:

5. The human term for environmental allergies
7. a common behaviour in both dogs and cats
with allergies
8. part of flowers that can cause reactions
11. a common behaviour seen in dogs when itchy
12. the season where allergy flare-ups most occur
15. another common cause of allergies not relating
to the environment
16. Term for allergies that occur at particular times
of the year
17. parasite that can cause allergic reactions

