



# PET UNIVERSE NEWS

The latest news & views from your pet's point of view from Pet Universe Broadview & Northgate

## Are You Having Second Thoughts?

When Glen Pertzels noticed Hans hadn't eaten his dinner but realised his feeding utensil (a dive glove) was missing, second thoughts suddenly became the order of the day. Panic escalated when Glen noticed to his horror that Hans was now sporting an impressive, glove-size bulge a quarter way down his usually trim physique. The Pertzels placed a call to us wondering if anything could be done for their carpet python. Hans was admitted to hospital & we prepared for the possibility of abdominal surgery but thought our first less invasive approach should be endoscopy.

Whilst we were awaiting the arrival of "He Who Bit Off More Than He Could Chew", we called Channel 7 who came straight down to film this unusual case. Myself along with Nurses Golebiowski & Hill anaesthetized Hans & managed to retrieve a huge intact neoprene dive glove using our gastric endoscope. All this appeared on Channel 7 News & Sky News that evening & Hans basked in his new celebrity fame whilst making an uneventful recovery. What a scoop or is that a scope?



Dr. Chris Lee removing the dive glove using a gastric endoscope\*

### Introducing: The Pet Universe G.P. Referral Service

Over the last few years Pet Universe has built up the quality of its medical equipment & staff to a level where we can perform successful procedures such as Hans's endoscopy. Throughout 2007 we gained a lot of unprompted referral surgery & procedures from other small animal general practitioners who either do not have the facilities, equipment or the necessary skills to perform the more advanced techniques that can be within the remit of general practice.

Additionally we have had owners seeking out a second opinion from us when their pets have not had satisfactory treatment outcomes elsewhere. So this Autumn we are launching our new G.P. Referral Service. This service is aimed at the general practitioner unable to offer more advanced procedures but who would prefer to offer these to their clients at an affordable price with a prompt referral consultation appointment & minimal wait time for the procedure. Our service is run by myself, Dr. Chris Lee, and other highly skilled surgeons - it is important to



Graeme Goodings with Hans & the dive glove. Reproduced with kind permission of Channel 7\*

state that none of us are specialist. And obviously this service welcomes pet owners who do not currently come to us but want a second opinion on their pet's health.

So what exactly is the scope of this service, if you'll excuse the pun? Pet Universe GP Referral Service simply encompasses what we do for some of our more unfortunate patients everyday. You probably all know someone who has "done their knee in" - a friend, sporting personality or your dear four-legged best friend. We are now able to offer a new technique, the triple tibial osteotomy, a very effective method for cruciate repairs for dog over 20 kgs, especially young, active breeds: until recently this procedure was only available in Specialist Centres. Pet Universe G.P. Referrals can perform total ear canal ablations & bulla osteotomies for intractable ear infections, as well as advanced abdominal surgery including tumour removal, subtotal colectomies for constipated cats & cholecystoduodenotomy & cystotomies. Other procedures on offer are skin flaps for tumour removals, degloving injuries, trauma & non-healing wounds as well as fracture repairs including external fixation, pinning & platings.

Other interesting orthopaedics include hip toggle repairs & ventral pubic symphysiodesis procedure for puppies under 16 weeks old susceptible to hip dysplasia. We can also offer basic endoscopy & ultrasound as well as cardiac ultrasound. And our dental equipment is in daily use.

So if your pet has bitten off more than they can chew or you're having second thoughts please refer to us.

Yours referentially  
**Dr. Christopher Lee**  
Principal Veterinarian

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**Our Secret Service Continued**

**An Interview with Dr. Kat...**



**"I hail from Scotia in New York where the weather ranges from hot to sub-zero. I've gotten very good at dodging black ice & surviving the occasional skid which is something I will enjoy missing in Adelaide!"**

After graduating from High School I gained a place at Cornell University where I studied for eight years (four years as an under-graduate followed by another four years to gain my postgraduate doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, a life-long ambition). In 2000 I spent a wonderful six months on a study-abroad programme at Melbourne University & during that time I fell in love with the Australian way of life."

"After eight years of studying & being a glutton for punishment my first job was at Garden State Veterinary Specialist Centre on a one-year internship. Working in excess of 70 hours a week with both surgical, oncology & emergency medicine specialists was an exhilarating if exhausting experience. Garden State Specialist patients were often unconscious & very sick & I felt I would enjoy the aspect of general practice that dealt with well & awake pets from birth to their final days. Australia was "still calling" so I applied to Pet Universe here in Adelaide as I felt it offered wellness as well as more advanced care in a great setting and with a great lifestyle change for an overworked veterinarian!"

- Favourite Movie: Star Wars
- Favourite Food: Crème brulee
- Favourite Hobby: Photography
- Favourite Music: Modern Country (Keith Urbane & others)
- Favourite Dog: Golden Retrievers & Greyhounds
- Favourite Pet: My parakeet, 'Ozzie' who still lives in New York with his grandparents!

# Road Testing The Labradoodle

**Jeremy Clarkson & Richard Hammond from Top Gear have got them, & so has Tiger Woods, Jennifer Aniston, Christie Brinkley & Henry Winkler. And no its not a facelift!**

The Labradoodle was first deliberately breed in 1989 by an Australian breeder Wally Conron who crossed the Labrador Retriever with a Standard Poodle for Guide Dogs Victoria. The idea was to combine the gentleness & trainability of the Labrador with the Poodle's low-shed coat & thus provide a guide dog for the blind with less shedding & hence more suitable for people with allergies to fur & dander.

Although often termed a "designer breed" strictly speaking the Labradoodle is not a pure breed & as such is not recognised as one by any of the major kennel clubs; its puppies do not as yet have consistent characteristics & therefore it does not "breed true".

The Labradoodles coat ranges from soft to wiry & can even be curly, wavy or straight. Shedding can occur in some Labradoodles although the coat usually sheds less & has less of a doggy smell than that of the Labrador Retriever. The variety of colours is wide & includes white, cream, gold, apricot, red, brown & black & most of the normal Poodle colours.



**Labradoodles are generally friendly, energetic & good with children & families (but remember all dogs temperaments will vary). Labradoodles often love water & can exhibit a strong swimming skill present in both parent breeds.**

## New Metacam® in Cats for Feline Arthritis

**Feline Arthritis, A Hidden Problem:** Arthritis can leave cats old before their time. Feline arthritis affects almost 1¼ million cats in Australia & New Zealand alone. Yet only 7% of sufferers currently receive treatment. In a clinical study 34% of cats showed radiographic evidence of degenerative joint disease, & in another study 90% of cats over the age of 12 showed radiographic evidence of degenerative joint disease. Arthritis is as common in cats as dogs. Yet feline arthritis is diagnosed at half the rate for dogs despite the fact that one in three cats have arthritis. To make matters tricky the majority of cats with arthritis do not present with lameness. As a result, arthritis is significantly under diagnosed. Changes in behaviour & lifestyle are the best indicators of feline arthritis & often owners observations provide a good starting point for diagnosis. **Behavioural changes include:**



**CHANGES IN ROUTINE**

- ★ Unwilling to jump/climb stairs
- ★ Hesitant to play
- ★ Unable to climb into basket or litter tray
- ★ Increased time sleeping
- ★ Unwilling to go out

**CHANGES IN HYGIENE**

- ★ Poor grooming /matted hair
- ★ Inappropriate urination /not using litter tray

**CHANGES IN CHARACTER**

- ★ Biting/vocalisation when stroked
- ★ Anxiety/aggression
- ★ Reduced interest in people and their environment
- ★ Loss of normal interaction with other animals
- ★ 'Just not themselves'

**New Metacam® Oral Suspension for cats is the only non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug licenced for chronic & acute treatment in cats.** And its honey flavour & once daily dosage means it's easy to give. Cats have shown significant improvement in the willingness to jump & height of jump as well as reduction in pain on palpation & continuous improvement in temperament. So if you suspect your cat may have arthritis please call us on 8266 4666 or 8369 3111.

# Advance Triple Action Oral Care

With periodontal disease affecting between 60-80% of cats & dogs over the age of three it's important that all pets have a dental plan. New Advance Dental Range has a unique triple action which includes green tea as the breath freshening agent! Advance Diet is a complete diet designed to also promote good oral health & fresh breath

## ACTION 1: MECHANICAL ABRASION

Waltham Studies have investigated the effects of kibble shape, size & texture on oral health & have found that larger kibbles are chewed more & have a greater effect on plaque removal (which left untreated will promote gum inflammation). The Advance Dental Kibbles have been clinically proven to reduce the build up of plaque & tartar.

## ACTION 2 : ISOLATION CLEANER

Advance Diet has a special isolation cleaner, STPP, Sodium Tripolyphosphate. The STPP coated onto the external surface of the kibble is released into the oral cavity where it binds salivary calcium & so stops the calcification of plaque which causes calculus. When swallowed the calcium polyphosphate compounds are broken down in the stomach & become a useful source of dietary phosphate.



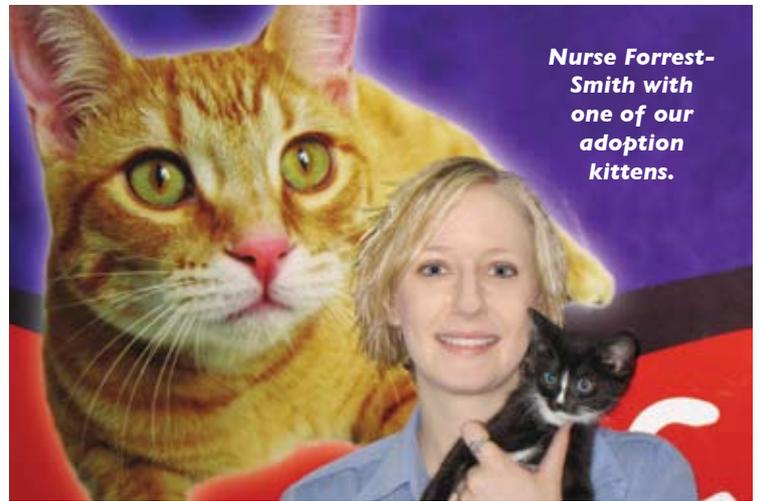
## ACTION 3: FRESH BREATH

Green tea reduces VSC (volatile sulphure compounds) the primary cause of malodour (bad breath). The effective agents in green tea are a particular class of polyethanols which have been shown to have a triple effect; 1) Inhibit growth of bacteria 2) inhibit glucan production which causes bacteria to adhere to teeth (first stage of dental plaque build up) 3) it combines with sulphur compounds involved in causing bad breath.

The green tea used in Advance is low in alkaloids & is approved for use in cats & dogs.



Advance Dental is now in store at Pet Universe Broadview & Northgate. For further information please call either 8266 4622 or 8369 3111



Nurse Forrest-Smith with one of our adoption kittens.

## ★ Kitten Kindy ★

*"Many kittens are abandoned or euthanased each year because their owners can no longer tolerate their behaviour"*

**Dr. Kirsty Seksel**  
Animal Behaviour Specialist

**The good news is that many of these tragic cases are preventable when owners become more aware of their cat's social needs.**

So to start your kitten off on the right paw Pet Universe Kitten Kindy will arm you with the following essential tools:

- ★ Normal feline behaviour
- ★ Litter training
- ★ Vet care
- ★ Modifying bad behaviours
- ★ Play & socialization
- ★ Sit, stay & lead walking
- ★ Grooming, diet & dentistry

The philosophy behind Kitten Kindy is all about training you & your family how to talk feline, which is very different to canine. The basics of cat psychology is the first topic & provides the foundation for the whole course. All training is reward based & the course is designed by Dr. Kirsty Seksel the foremost animal behavioural specialist in Australia.

Kitten Kindy is currently run by one of our nurses, Chelsea Forrest-Smith, & runs over two weeks. The whole family is invited & course notes & a complimentary Kitten Pack are provided. The last class concludes with a graduation ceremony with each junior feline receiving their own certificate.

**Kittens need to be between 6 & 12 weeks old & have a current vaccination card. For further information call us on 8266 4666 or 8369 3111.**



## Where Are You @?! - Win A Pet Parent Hamper



**Send us your email address we would love to know where you are @**

All pets on our Pet Universe E-List will receive regular newsletters, special offers, reminders & ongoing health advice specific to them.

**To enter our prize drawer send:**

Your email address, pets name, address & phone number to

**epets@petuniverse.com.au**

*All emails will be put into a prize drawer to win a Pet Universe Hamper full of great pet gifts plus a bottle of wine & a box of choccies strictly for human consumption only!*



# SA Rabbit Rescue Urges “Get Your Rabbits Desexed”

Up until the end of 1999 rabbit breeding was officially banned in South Australia. However, since the Government relaxed the law in relation to backyard rabbit breeding in 2000, the plight of pet rabbits in SA has worsened dramatically & continues to escalate on an annual basis. The RSPCA reports that prior to this change the number of unwanted rabbits in SA was so small that an increase only a year later to 28 was viewed as substantial. Today the situation is very different. Even though SA Rabbit Rescue is a little-known organisation, it took in 2,700 unwanted or abandoned rabbits in 2007; undoubtedly if the organisation had a higher public profile that number would be much greater.

Many surrendered rabbits carry the burden of often irreversible health problems associated with genetic weaknesses from in-breeding such as maloccluded teeth (that's tusk-like teeth that make eating impossible). Also neglected rabbits are often fly-blown with maggots literally eating them alive.

So SA Rabbit Rescue urges all rabbit owners to have them desexed as the breeding of pet rabbits needs to be dramatically reduced to stem the flow of suffering. Many rabbits that this organisation sees are neglected & the number one cause of neglect stems from not desexing these pets. All veterinarians know that desexing can have a profound effect on the rabbit's personality, making it less territorial which in turn makes it easier to litter train. Infact the change in a desexed rabbit is much greater than the change in a desexed cat or dog. Without the changes that desexing brings, most rabbits have a minimal chance at best of bonding with their owners & being incorporated into family life. Without bonding as a true companion animal, neglect is not always far away. Pet Universe supports desexing of both male & female rabbits & does these procedures on a regular basis.



**For those of you thinking of adding a rabbit to your nest this Easter, SA Rabbit Rescue sells fully vaccinated rescue rabbits for just \$15.00.**

**For further information please call Sally Arnold on 8254 8601**

## Continuing Education at Pet Universe

At Pet Universe all our staff need to keep up to date on the latest medical & management thinking in order to offer you & your pets the best possible care in the best possible way. In October 2007 Alex Golebiowski & Karen Hansford attended a one-day course on Toxicity & Poisonings. The main value of the day was to learn about the different types of poisonings including the more obscure ones such as grape, macadamia & advocado toxicity in cats & dogs. In December 2007 Dr. Chris Lee participated in Australia's first ever On-Line Virtual

Lecture on Pancreatitis. Also just before Christmas Dr. Chris Lee, Claire Lee & Dr. Kat Oberle attended a Meet & Greet Evening at the Adelaide Zoo where local veterinarians could meet the new Senior Zoo Vet, Dr. Wayne Boardman, Dr. Chris West (C.E.O) & other zookeepers. The evening was held outside in the South East Asia Immersion area & was a great success. It is always good to be able to put a face to a name & know who you're talking with when an exotic case, such as Hans Pertzelt, requires some third part advice.

**PET  
UNIVERSE  
OBEDIENCE  
ACADEMY**

### Behavioural Training Program

- Puppy Preschool Every Tuesday 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. at Broadview
- Puppy Preschool Every Wednesday 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. at Northgate
- Kitten Kindy Early evening at Broadview - time available on application

### HOW TO FIND US...



**Pet Universe Veterinary  
Centre Broadview  
71 Hampstead Road  
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8266 4666**

**OPEN 7\* DAYS &  
24/7 EMERGENCIES**  
\*Pet Universe Broadview only  
for Sunday consulting 10-5pm

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