

Cooper Wilson's Story

Cooper has been a much loved patient of our practice for a number of years now. He started with an allergic skin disease around three years ago. This expressed itself as very itchy skin along his flanks and groin, with scaly skin on his feet and muzzle. It also makes him prone to repeated ear infections.

In order to keep Cooper's skin healthy and comfortable, we have had to use a number of medications together to get a satisfactory result. These included shampoos, antihistamines, steroids, antibiotics and others; all resulting in a substantial commitment of both effort and finances from his adoring owner.

When it became possible recently for us to diagnose Cooper's allergy type Ms Wilson was extremely keen. We performed an Intradermal Skin Test assessing his reaction to 64 products. From these we found he showed a strong reaction to one type of product, giving us a definitive diagnosis of his allergen. By knowing the allergen affecting a pet, we can use this information in a number of ways.

By limiting a pet's access to some allergens we can sometimes effect a cure. Some allergy types respond better to different medication. Then finally for allergens that are severe and can't be avoided like pollens, house dust mites and mould spores we have the option of using immunotherapy, also known as desensitization. Successful response to treatment occurs in around 70% of patients.

Dr. Carl Jarrett



"Cooper has had itchy skin for several years so I was very glad to know what was causing all the problems. The test showed that Cooper is very allergic to a certain mould which is interesting because his favourite sleeping spot is in the shower cubicle to cool off! So the bathroom has been bleached to kill off any mould and Cooper has been banned from this area. However because this mould is airborne and everywhere Cooper will probably have desensitisation injections in the future" said Ms. Wilson.



PET UNIVERSE NEWS

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

Make The Next Move on Itchy Skin



Australian state specific allergens. We then formulate a vaccine for your individual dog's needs - according to geographical area, climate (humidity), environmental considerations (inside or outside pet) as well as the offending allergens.

The second test method is Canine Allergy Serum ELISA (Blood Test)

- we take bloods which are analysed by Idexx then DermCare-Vet formulate a vaccine from the results. This test panel screens for 48 common allergens, including grasses, weeds, moulds and house dust mites.

A desensitization course typically consists of a series of injections every three days and then a maintenance dose at 21 day intervals for eighteen months or until the patient has been free of clinical symptoms for twelve months or one full allergy season. Boosters can be given if symptoms reoccur or, if symptoms are seasonal, as a prophylactic measure before this period. It is important to realise that improvement will be gradual with obvious benefits taking from two to six months to appear. While some 70% of dogs are considerably helped by allergy vaccines, there are around 30% in which the vaccine is less effective.

So if you want to try a fast move and checkmate your best friend's allergy talk to us more about this new service.

Yours sensitively,

Dr. Christopher Lee

Does your dog have repeated ear infections or is he just literally itching for a change?

often becomes thickened, scaly and black. The haircoat may feel greasy and be associated with an offensive odour.

If you want to make the next move on itchy skin, help may be at hand at the Pet Universe Skin Allergy Clinic.

Traditional first line medical treatments include cortisone based drugs (although not recommended for long term allergy control), antihistamines & fatty acid supplementation; these may aid in relieving symptoms but rarely controls them completely. Others strategies such as avoidance of allergens may be helpful but many allergens are difficult to completely exclude. Once a diagnosis of atopy is made and the offending allergens have been identified, immunotherapy is an effective treatment for the long-term management of this disease. Immunotherapy desensitizes your dog against the specific allergens causing the allergies.

Our new clinic offers skin allergy testing and desensitization injections. And what's more Winter is a great time to test for offending allergens when summer pollens are at a lower level and your pet can cope better without their regular anti-itch medication - a requirement for testing.

ATOPY is a common skin disease causing itchiness in dogs: it is a genetically programmed reaction or allergy to inhaled airborne pollens from common grass, trees and weed pollens, mould spores, insects and dust mites. Most dogs develop atopy as young adults i.e. between one and three years of age. The most common clinical sign is itching, usually involving the muzzle, around the eyes, ear flaps, armpits, groin and paws. Some dogs have recurrent ear infections.

As a result of chewing, licking, rubbing and scratching, the skin becomes inflamed and is prone to secondary infections with bacteria and yeast. In dogs with chronic disease, there is hair loss and the skin

So what is immunotherapy?

It's a series of injections, where we inject larger and larger amounts of the offending allergen into your dog which makes its immune system gradually less sensitive to those allergens.

Identifying Offending Allergens

Once we have diagnosed atopy in your best friend, we can identify the offending allergens via two methods:

Intradermal skin test- the test panel screens for 64 South

Continuing Practice Education at Pet Universe

Many of us at Pet Universe have participated in conferences, courses and even the increasingly popular on-line seminars & lectures. Last month Head Nurse at Broadview, Bailey Van Praet, and Deputy Head Nurse at Northgate, Hayley Gilkes, attended the three-day Vet Nurses of Australia Annual Conference at Melbourne's Crown Plaza Hotel. The programme of events was somewhat overwhelming but of a very high standard - both delegates attended clinical as well as management streams and will enlighten the rest of the team on some of the highlights at the next staff meeting. Apparently they both highly recommend the Ice Bar—for medicinal purposes only! Dr. Kat Oberle flies off to Darwin this May to attend the Australian Veterinary Association Annual Conference which will have a plethora of lectures on the latest treatment and diagnostic approaches in veterinary practice. And in June Dr. Jarrett heads for the sun to the Gold Coast to participate in the TTO Workshop (triple tibial osteotomy for large dog cruciate repairs) run by specialist Dr. Warwick Bruce. All our vets recently participated in an Online Blood Pathology Lecture by the renowned Professor Bruce Perry, of Melbourne University (formerly at Wisconsin University).

Several of our vets and nurses also attended a puppy behaviour update lecture by renown behavioural specialist Dr. Kirsty Seksel. Finally at our last practice meeting Dr. Philip Clark, Idexx Pathologist, gave a talk to all of us on blood pathology so we can hone our in-house diagnostic skills in this fascinating area of medicine.



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
 Manningham SA 5086
 8266 4666

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

Pet Universe Veterinary Centre Northgate
 Cnr Fosters Road & Folland Ave
 Northgate SA 5085
 8369 3111



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Our Secret Service

Continued



An Interview with Janelle Kemp;

During my school years at Wilderness I studied a wide range of subjects and was torn between biology, psychology and photography. But the animals won out and I gained a place at Adelaide University to study for a B.Sc. in Animal Sciences. I took a gap year to gain some work experience in the animal industry and started work at Pet Universe in 2006; I enjoyed this year so much that I decided to forgo the B.Sc. and enrol in the Veterinary Nursing Course which I am about to complete this year.

My cats are the special people in my life (as well as my boyfriend). All have very different personalities. Vera is laid back, Pandora is very playful but not very affectionate and Belle is very playful, naughty & beats her sisters up from time to time - so my cats really combine my love of both animals & psychology. The photography I pursue in my free time, along with clubbing, socialising and eating!

- Favourite Venue:** Dodgy pubs and clubs!
- Favourite Food:** Anything, I love eating. But especially Dr. Lee's gourmet smoked salmon sangers
- Favourite Hobby:** Photography, bike riding, BBQs
- Favourite Music:** Electronic
- Favourite Cat:** All my cats, Pandora, Vera & Belle

Road Testing THE BRITISH BLUE

The British Blue Shorthair Cat, with its luxurious light blue coat, is the most popular of all the British shorthaired varieties in the United Kingdom and now has a following here in Oz.

The breed was shown in sizable numbers at the first cat shows, however during the Second World War there were very few studs available. After the War outcrosses to other breeds were made, which unfortunately resulted in loss of type but crosses with longhaired Blues helped to reverse this. During the 1950s selective breeding saw the re-establishment of the shorthaired Blues, and now kittens are back in demand.

Daily combing is recommended to remove dead hairs as well as lots of stroking, which all cats enjoy. If regularly & thoroughly groomed you probably won't need to shampoo a Blue.



Blues are said to prefer a quiet life & are renowned for their quiet, well-balanced temperaments.

Litter size is usually three or four kittens. Blues are particularly useful for producing Blue-creams, when mated to Creams. Blue kittens are especially pretty and are often born with faint tabby markings, which tend to disappear within the first few months as the coat grows. British Blues are bred and available here in Australia.

Pets, like humans have benefited from improved medical care and nutrition in that they now not only live longer, but also have healthier ageing.

At around the age of seven, however, pets reach what is known as the 'senior' stage of life. A cat or dog at seven has an approximate human age of 50. Luckily for most pets this will only be the mid-way point of their life! The decisions you make now regarding exercise, nutrition and veterinary care will have a big impact on your older pet.

Although your pet may not appear different at the age of seven, his or her dietary and physical needs have changed. You can reduce the risk of health problems and help your older pet live a long, full life by having regular veterinary care and changing their nutrition to a specifically designed diet for your older pet. Senior diets should be lower in phosphorous and salt to help maintain good kidney function, have adjusted levels and ratios of essential fatty acids to maintain good coat health, and have boosted antioxidants for a healthy

immune system and to prevent the onset of premature ageing.

Older pets are generally less active and therefore require less energy than more active adults or puppies and kittens. The difference however is more marked in dogs and therefore a canine senior diet tends to be more reduced in calories than a feline one. Pets in general, but a senior pet especially, should be kept at ideal body weight to minimise the discomfort of painful joints and help prevent the development of arthritis. Increased omega 3 fatty acids and the amino acid arginine in senior diets can also help keep joints healthy. For dogs the senior diet should have added levels of chondroitin sulphate and glucosamine, which will have an extra protective effect on the joints.

Good quality senior nutrition that concentrates on these important conditions of older pets can certainly make a difference, not only in the longevity of your friend, but also the quality of their life.



Science Diet Feline and Canine Senior provides superior nutrition for cats and dogs aged seven and above with the best formulations and ingredients available

- ★ Hill's Superior Antioxidant formula for a healthy immune system
- ★ Omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids for a healthy skin and coat
- ★ Lower in phosphorous and salt to help maintain good kidney function
- ★ Enriched with taurine to help maintain good vision and a healthy heart
- ★ Feline Senior supports urinary tract health by controlling mineral levels and urinary pH
- ★ Chondroitin sulphate and glucosamine in Canine Senior helps to maintain your dogs healthy joints
- ★ Softer kibble for easy chewing and the taste that pets love!

Why Not Save for a Rainy Day?
Save 65% on food costs per week Buy 18kg Senior vs 2.25 kg Senior



Free 12-Week Puppy HEARTWORM INJECTION OFFER*

Heartworm is a nasty parasite that can at worse kill and if your dog tests positive for adult heartworm the treatment is risky too. When an infected mosquito bites a dog it injects microfilaria (baby heartworm) into the bloodstream and these grow over seven months to 27 cm long! The treatment carries the risk thromboemboli (blood clots) which form as these large worms die. So prevention is definitely the best approach. Heartworm is transmitted by mosquitoes so even if your dog has no access to other dogs he or she can still get heartworm.

So why not opt for the most convenient protection around- "SR-12 Injectable". SR-12 Injectable is given at 12 weeks, six months (can be done at the time of desexing) and then at one year and thereafter annually. With this approach you have no compliance issues - so no monthly tablets or spots-ons to remember and no fiascoes trying to get your best friend to swallow or chew a tablet!

Currently we are able to offer your puppy their 12 week Heartworm Injection free of charge (terms and conditions apply*). So why not ask us about this offer when you come in for your 12 week vaccination and health check or call us at Broadview on 8266 4666 or Northgate on 8369 3111.

Below: microfilaria in a blood sample under a microscope



Behavioural Tip of the Season

Now Winter is upon us ensure there is one litter tray per cat plus one spare

Cats spend even more time indoors during Winter so please put out spare litter trays to stop the more fastidious cats from having a problem with re-using an already soiled tray.

Cats need to be kept mentally active with additional toys so they can express their innate hunting behaviours such as cat fishing rods, track balls or cat-chase laser toys should do the trick. For further ideas why not pop in and see our in-house range of behavioural toys at either Pet Universe Broadview or Northgate.

Any of the team will be happy to explain how the toys are used and what their benefits to your cat are.



New@Pet Universe InHouse Pathology

Pet Universe has upgraded to a state-of-the-art in house pathology system, so now we can have comprehensive blood test results for all our patients within 20 minutes. Our new system even collates all your test results so we can give you a copy of your pet's test results to take home!

Using the latest technology means our patients can have a more rapid on-site diagnosis that is accurate, reliable and fast - invaluable especially when dealing with critical care cases. Fast test results and prompt treatment including surgery can literally be the difference between life and death. At Pet Universe we are able to offer this better level of care even on a Sunday or in the middle of the night to ensure your patients continue to enjoy the highest level of veterinary care.

