

**Pip & Pop’s Publication**

**February 2025**

**"Paw-sitive Healing: Helping Your Pet Through Grief"**

Losing a pet is tough on everyone in the family, including the four-legged members. Here’s how to help your grieving pet (and yourself) through the tough times:

1. **Extra TLC**. Pets may turn into velcro animals after a loss, clinging to you for reassurance. They might be seeking comfort, or maybe just more treats (who can blame them?).
2. **Let Them Mourn in Their Own Way**. Some pets will carry on like nothing happened, while others may spend days sniffing around the house looking for their buddy. Don’t rush them. Grief looks different on every animal.
3. **Distract with Fun**. Once the worst of the mourning has passed, try introducing new activities to help lift their spirits.
4. **Check In with Us.** If your pet seems to be struggling too much, or you notice any drastic changes in behavior (like not eating, hiding, or excessive whining), it’s worth having a quick check-in with one of our vets. Sometimes there’s more going on than just heartache, and we’re here to help.

Losing a furry friend is never easy, but with a little patience, extra love, and some humour, your pet will find their way through it. *Just give them the time and care they need and be kind to yourself during this time as well.*

**Eye See Trouble: Protecting Your Horse from Eye Ulcers**

Eye ulcers are a painful and common issue for horses, especially in our region which is a climate of extremes (hot and humid one moment, then dry and dusty in another). These lesions on the cornea can develop quickly from minor injuries like scratches, fly irritation, or even dust, but they can also worsen fast without appropriate treatment.

**If your horse shows any of these signs, don’t wait—eye ulcers can get serious fast.** Without prompt treatment, an ulcer can deepen, become infected, can risk permanent damage to the horse’s vision or even result in the loss of an eye.

*Don’t be tempted to treat yourself - the wrong treatment can make these ulcers worse.*

***If you see squinting, swelling or signs of discomfort, act fast—call us to arrange for a consultation and get them the relief they need****.*



**Protecting your horse’s eyes**

* Use fly masks: Keep flies and dust at bay, especially during dry or windy days.
* Inspect pastures: Remove any sharp branches or plants that could cause scratches.
* Keep an eye out: Regularly check your horse’s eyes, particularly if they’re prone to issues.

**Spot the signs**

* Squinting or keeping the eye closed
* Excessive tearing or discharge
* Cloudiness or redness in the eye
* Swelling around eyelids

**Chip, Chip, Hooray! Is Your Pet’s Microchip Details Correct?**

A microchip is a vital tool in reuniting lost pets with their families, but it’s only effective if your contact details are current. It is your responsibility as the owner to ensure your pets microchip details are up to date on the NSW Pet Registry system.

Also, a quick heads-up: **Home Safe ID**, one of Australia’s non-institutional microchip registries, is in the process of closing down. The majority of pets purchased in NSW won’t be impacted, as they are registered on the NSW Pet Registry. For those purchased in QLD and other states and territories they may be registered with HomeSafeID and not the NSW Pet Registry <https://petregistry.nsw.gov.au/>  system.

**Snakes Snakes Snakes**

Our sneaky, slithering mates are still about and as a result we are still treating snake bite cases.

**If your dog is showing any symptoms listed below,**

**seek emergency vet treatment immediately**

**Is a snake in my backyard? 5 things to be on the lookout for**

* Noisy birds: heightened bird activity can be associated with snakes
* Dogs barking: excited dogs can be a hint that a snake is present
* Cats stalking: be on the lookout for cats that are stalking ground prey, especially in long grass
* Pet birds: may be agitated in cages and be making a lot of noise
* Dog behaviour: dogs attracted to a particular place in the backyard or clawing at the ground – can indicated cane toads or snakes.
* Complete paralysis
* Inability to control bladder and bowels
* Irregular bleeding from the nose, bite site, mouth
* Discoloured, dark urine (often bloody)
* Sudden vomiting and diarrhea
* Collapse followed by apparent recovery
* Lethargy
* Muscle tremors and shaking
* Dilated pupils
* Bleeding
* Sudden onset of weakness/wobbliness

**Don’t MOO-ve Too Fast: Top Tips for Buying Beef Cattle**

Whether you are adding to your herd or looking to buy for the first time, it is crucial to have a well-established cattle induction program.

**Biosecurity:**  Before you throw a welcome party, isolate the new arrivals for 2-3 weeks. A quarantine period helps prevent the spread of any potential diseases and gives your new herd members time to acclimatize. B[est practice](http://mbfp.mla.com.au/herd-health-and-welfare) is to administer a quarantine drench and 5-in-1 vaccination.

**Acclimate:**  Cattle may be stressed from being weaned recently, from travelling and generally from being in an unfamiliar environment. Provide them with good quality hay and sufficient watering points to allow them to recharge their depleted energy levels and rehydrate.

**Gradual Introduction:** Start slow, ideally introduce the new mob to a similarly sized and aged mob. Keep an eye on them for the first few weeks, monitoring their eating habits, behavior, and health.

In short, new cattle are like new neighbours—you need to give them space, time, and the right conditions to thrive. Follow these simple steps, and you’ll have happy, healthy cattle who’ll be a great addition to your farm's long-term success.