

# Gilbert St Gossip



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## million paws walk

We hope you all enjoyed the early Easter this year and got to spend quality time with your two and four legged family members.

The RivaPetz Pet Care team have had a busy time with Jenni away at an International Vet Conference. It's great to have her back with many new ideas.

Don't forget the RSPCA Million Paw's Walk is fast approaching - Sunday 15th May is the big day. Spread the word, it is a great time to get together down by the river at Martin's Bend and support a very worth while cause. The Riverland Dog Training and Obedience Club will be joining us once again for their obstacle course and other fun new ideas.

We are privileged again to have an amazing first prize in the raffle. Pet Portrait Artist - Julie Noble has donated a portrait of your pet as first prize to the value of \$360. Tickets are now available for purchase at RivaPetz



Pet Care – come on in to get yours! We look forward to the continued support from the RivaPetz Pet Care clients and Riverland community members who make the day so much fun.

## how blood testing works?

### Have you ever wondered what happens when we take blood from your pet?

Blood samples are taken from a vein in the leg or the jugular vein in the neck. The jugular vein is large enough to provide a good sample and allows us to collect the blood as quickly as possible. This is important as blood will start to clot if it is not collected quickly enough and this can affect the results.

Once the blood has been collected we place pressure over the vein for a minute or so to prevent any bruising. This can sometimes be hard in wriggly patients!

The blood is placed into tubes appropriate for required tests. Some tests can be run on machines we have in house but there are certain tests that require more extensive machinery and so the blood sample is sent to an external laboratory.

**Blood tests can give us a wealth of information about your pet's health.** For example, we can work out if your pet is dehydrated, has underlying kidney disease or liver changes and we can get lots of information about your pet's red and white blood cells. All of this helps diagnose any underlying health problems and will improve the level of care we can provide to your pet.

**If you have any questions about your pet's blood tests we are always happy to help.**



## patient of the



## month

Zeb came into the clinic in a very unwell state. He had eaten a beef marrow bone the previous afternoon and then started vomiting the next morning. He was not himself and had a sore tummy during his examination. Given his state and history, pancreatitis was high on the suspect list.

Pancreatitis is a very painful condition, and is quite common in certain breeds such as Schnauzers and Beagles. The exact cause is unknown, but it is triggered by certain factors, especially fatty food.

Zeb was then hospitalised and given fluids. A blood sample was taken and sent to the lab for analysis to try and find out what's going on internally with Zeb. He was discharged home later that afternoon with antibiotics and pain relief medication. He came in for more fluids the next day and started to brighten up by the end of the day.

Zeb's condition has been continually improving each time he came to stay at the clinic for observations. He has started drinking and eating again, and most importantly there hasn't been any more vomiting. He is much happier, brighter and even started to wag his tail. He's currently on a strict bland diet to rest his tummy and ensure that there is no



## what's an endocrine disease?

An endocrine disease is a fancy medical term used to describe a disease caused by a hormonal imbalance. These diseases are pretty common and can unfortunately affect your pet's quality of life.

When too much hormone is produced, the disease is referred to as a *hyper* disease. Tumours and abnormal tissue growth commonly cause an overproduction of hormone.

A *hypo* disease occurs when too little hormone is produced. Endocrine glands that are destroyed, removed, or simply stop working cause these diseases.

**The following changes may be an early indication of an endocrine problem:**

*Changes in appetite and thirst, Changes in weight, Changes in coat and skin, Changes in behaviour*

Diagnosis of the cause of the endocrine disease is absolutely essential if treatment is to be successful. Sometimes diagnosis and treatment can be costly and not all endocrine diseases behave as we predict they will, so communication between vet and owner is very important. Management of these disease may involve multiple vet visits and blood tests until the disease is under control.

*If you notice any of the mentioned changes above, phone us to arrange a check up for your pet. Early intervention is very helpful when it come to the treatment of endocrine disease.*

