

# Gilbert St Gossip

## Million Paws Walk!



RivaPetz Pet Care will once again be hosting the RSPCA's Million Paws Walk on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> at Martin's Bend, Berri. Registration opens at 9:30am with the walk starting at 10:00am. By registering online prior to the 21<sup>st</sup> May, and using the discount code, Rivapetz customers can receive 20% off the ticket price.

The discount code to enter is **MPWBERRI**.

Visit <https://www.millionpawswalk.com.au/SA/berri>

Did you know the RSPCA formed its South Australian body in 1875? RSPCA SA's role is to prevent animal cruelty, protect and care for all animals, and enhance their bond with people. In 2015-16, they cared for 10,059 animals, attended to 5,215 animal cruelty reports and 2,605 ambulance call outs.

Hope to see you at the Million Paws Walk!

## Mum's the word!



With Mother's Day this month, we thought now would be a good time to share a few things about **pregnancy in dogs**. Here are some key facts:

Pregnancy (or the gestation period) in bitches normally ranges from 58 to 65 days with an average of 65 days

During pregnancy your bitch should be on a balanced diet. Ask us for the best recommendation. It can be dangerous to supplement her diet with extra

calcium or vitamins

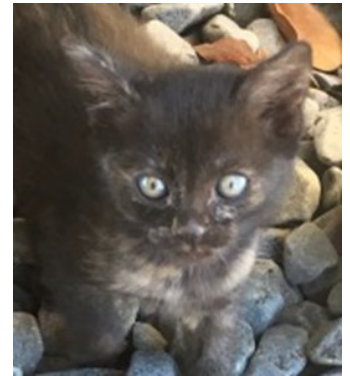
A bitch should be dewormed with an all wormer at week 4 and 6 of pregnancy. This is important to ensure she does not infect her newborn pups. You should vaccinate your bitch **prior** to mating to ensure maximum immunity is passed on to her puppies. When a dog gives birth to puppies it is known as "whelping", and the bitch usually rests between the delivery of individual pups. The rest time can range from fifteen minutes to an hour, but you should **seek veterinary attention if:**

Half an hour has passed since the onset of abdominal contractions and a puppy has not been born or;  
Half an hour has passed after the birth of a pup, your bitch is still having strong contractions and there is no sign of another pup

**We will be happy to assist you with any queries you have regarding your dog's pregnancy and whelping.**



## Patient of the Month



This gorgeous playful little kitten was found in a vineyard when she was approximately 5 weeks old. Being such a sweet and playful bundle of fluff she quickly found a new home and was named Raisin – a terrific name to reflect her identity of being found amongst the grapes! Raisin has settled in very well in her new home and came in recently to RivaPetz to have her 8 week kitten vaccination and health check.

Her owners put Raisin on the Total Wellness Plan which is an upfront payment for maintaining your pet's health for a year - including Vaccinations, Flea Prevention, Heartworm Prevention, Intestinal Worming, Dental Health Check-ups, Nail Clipping and more. Come into the clinic to discuss how much you can save by putting your cat or dog on the Total Wellness Plan.

Raisin is dearly loved by her new family and keeps then entertained for hours!

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## How to help your arthritic pet at home!

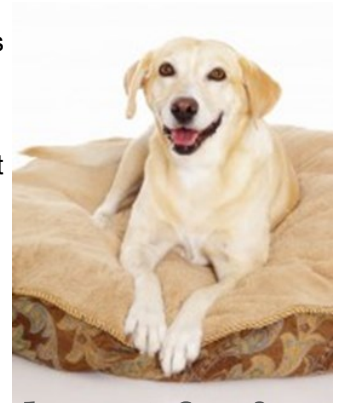
If your pet is diagnosed with arthritis, there are plenty of things you can do at home to help them feel more comfortable.

We recommend a multi-pronged attack as this helps to reduce the need for large amounts of medication and will lessen the potential side effects of any one treatment.

### *6 tips for an arthritis-friendly home:*

- Keep your pet lean to help reduce the load on their joints
- Consider feeding a diet specifically formulated for arthritis (ask us for the best recommendation)
- Continue to exercise your pet in moderation; gentle daily walks for dogs help keep the joints moving and muscles toned
- Provide a warm and comfortable bed with plenty of padding
- Use a portable ramp to help your dog in and out of the car
- Provide an additional piece of furniture (like an ottoman) so your cat doesn't have to jump so high to reach his favourite spot

**Ask us for more information on how to make your home arthritis-friendly**



## Arthritis—what to watch out for!

Arthritis is a nasty disease. It sneaks up on our pets and always seems to rear its ugly head as the weather starts to cool down.

Many people put the signs of arthritis down to "getting old" but have you ever thought that your pet might actually be in pain?

**Remember** - your pet doesn't necessarily have to have a limp to be suffering from arthritis as some of the symptoms are subtle.

### *Signs of arthritis in cats:*

- Landing in a heap when jumping down
- Hesitant to jump down from your lap or from the furniture
- Reluctant to climb fences or trees
- Scruffy or matted coat as they are no longer able to groom easily

### *Signs of arthritis in dogs:*

- Stiff and sometimes sore when getting up after lying down- especially in the morning
  - Trouble jumping up onto furniture or into the car
  - Behaviour changes - growling or grumpy when sore joints are touched
  - Muscle loss especially over spine, the hips and around the hind legs
- The good news is we have plenty of tools up our sleeve to help your arthritic pet become more mobile and pain-free. We will put a treatment plan in place and slow down the progression of this disease before your pet's quality of life is affected.



The month of May is a great time to arrange an arthritis check up with us.