



# Main Ridge Veterinary Clinic

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## We're Going Digital!

The very latest in Digital X-ray technology is about to arrive in Main Ridge. It will be installed in June 2013.

Our pet digital X-ray system uses an x-ray screen inside a cassette placed under the pet while it is being x-rayed, which then scans and digitizes the image, before finally being able to be viewed on a computer.

The system allows for adjustments in contrast and exposure that dramatically change the image so that different structures or hard to see problems can be identified. This may reduce the number of

X-rays required, or simply provide us with more information than previously was available for the X-rays taken. We may also zoom in to enlarge areas of interest, and apply measurements and markers to the image to accurately assess and label them.

The digital X-ray images may be e-mailed to other veterinarians or specialist radiologists for second opinions, greatly reducing the time taken for results.

The cost of the digital X-rays to our clients remain the same as for the old film type, even though we have made a significant financial investment in this revolutionary system!

### DIGITAL X-Rays for Pets!



Kristin's husband James has just past the Vet Surgeon Board Exam making him a Diplomat at the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

In August James will be talking to us at a Client evening at the Main Ridge Veterinary Clinic, presenting some interesting surgical cases.

What this means, the term 'ACVS Diplomate' refers a veterinarian who has been board certified (received a diploma) in veterinary surgery. Only veterinarians who have successfully completed the certification requirements of the ACVS are Diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and have earned the right to be called specialists in veterinary surgery.

Veterinarians wishing to become board certified must complete a three-year residency program, meet specific training and caseload requirements, and perform research and have their research published.

This process is supervised by current ACVS Diplomates, ensuring consistency in training and adherence to high standards. Once the residency has been completed, the resident must sit for and pass a rigorous examination. Only then does the veterinarian earn the title of ACVS Diplomate. Well done James!



## Cupcake Day for the RSPCA



Cupcake Day for the RSPCA is the biggest bakeoff in the Southern Hemisphere and involves Cupcake Cooks around Australia baking cupcakes and hosting a Cupcake Party to raise vital funds for the RSPCA.

Last year Cupcake Cooks around Australia joined forces to bake thousands of scrumptious cupcakes

to help support the services of the RSPCA. This year the Main Ridge Vet Clinic will be supporting the Cupcake Day again. Please join us on the 19th August as our staff will be baking up a storm to help raise money for the RSPCA.



## Tetanus Vaccination in Horses, Cattle and Sheep

Tetanus is an important disease of livestock and horses caused by toxins produced by the bacterium *Clostridium tetani*.

Prevention is much better than trying to cure clinical cases and can be easily achieved using a vaccination program. Tetanus may affect dogs in some cases, but they are much less susceptible to clinical disease and are not routinely vaccinated.

### Tetanus Vaccine & Anti-toxin

Tetanus is a nasty disease caused by toxins of the anaerobic bacteria *Clostridium tetani*.

The bacteria is widespread in the environment, found as spores in the soil, and in the intestinal tract of animals. It can enter a human or animal and produce toxins when a wound causes a break in the skin barrier. Puncture wounds are particularly dangerous, as *C. tetani* is an anaerobic bacteria, so thrives in wounds where there is little oxygen. Even wounds in the oral cavity caused by shedding juvenile

teeth and getting adult teeth coming through can be susceptible to tetanus entry.

Tetanus is not a contagious disease, but the spores can live in the environment for several years.

The disease is characterised by painful muscle spasms, which can cause respiratory failure, and ultimately death in untreated cases. It is also known as 'lock-jaw', as muscle spasms in jaw muscles early in the stage of the disease can cause difficulty eating and opening the mouth. The ears may also be pulled back causing a facial expression that looks like a grimace. The third eyelid gland is often pulled part way across the eyes also.

Tetanus can be very effectively prevented with a vaccination program. This is inexpensive, and prevention is much better than treatment of this disease. An anti-toxin is available, but unless treatment is initiated early, the fatality rate can be high.

Vaccination against *Clostridium tetani* is a component of the cattle



and sheep 5 in 1 vaccines. Two vaccinations 4-6 weeks apart, followed by annual boosters are required for this vaccine. Vaccination in sheep and cattle is usually started at 6-12 weeks of age.

Horses can be vaccinated with either tetanus alone, or a combined tetanus/strangles vaccine. From 3 months of age, horses require 2 vaccinations 3-4 weeks apart, followed by a booster injection 12 months later. This will provide long term immunity, with boosters required every 5 years thereafter. The combined tetanus/strangles 2 in 1 vaccine requires a slightly different protocol.

Tetanus vaccination should be considered an essential part of animal husbandry.





## Hills Pet Nutrition

After the age of 7, your pet's health can change. Call and make an appointment in July and August for your pet's Senior Health Check.

After the age of 7\*, pets are at a greater risk of developing age-related conditions such as arthritis, kidney disease, heart disease and dementia. Hill's Pet Nutrition, together with the Main Ridge Veterinary Clinic, has developed a health checklist especially designed for senior pets. Regular visits to your vet will help detect medical conditions that could become evident or more pronounced in old

age. The earlier these diseases are detected, the better the chances of managing them successfully. Early detection and the right nutrition will keep your pet healthier and happier for longer.

**\$20 off a Senior Health Check Consultation**

as well as...

**\$15 off Hill's Food\***

\*The diets included are:  
Hill's Science Diet Mature varieties  
and all Hill's Prescription Diets.

Get your voucher go to:

[www.hillspet.com.au/en-au/seniors/save-on-senior-pet-screening.html](http://www.hillspet.com.au/en-au/seniors/save-on-senior-pet-screening.html)



## Well Done Tim!

On March 24th, MRVC's very own Tim White competed in the 2013 Melbourne Iron Man.

The swim was reduced from 3.8km to 1.5km due to a 1.5m swell.

1.5 km Swim = 30min 45sec

180km bike= 5hrs 52min 47sec

42km run= 4hrs 23min 29sec

Total with transitions 10 hrs 57mins and 34sec

Well done Tim, from all the team.