

# St Bernards Buzz

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## Spring - The Season for Sneezin'



Your furry friends can suffer from seasonal allergies just like us, with the main culprit being pollens, grasses, moulds, tress or even flea bites (despite fleas not being visible on your pet). Often, the specific trigger is never identified.

Common signs that your dog or cat may have allergies include:

-  Excessive scratching under their arms or legs, chewing at their paws, rubbing their belly on the ground or head shaking
-  Runny noses, watery eyes and sneezing
-  Hair loss around the eyes, ears or other body parts
-  Red inflamed skin

Allergies can be both frustrating for the pets as well as the owners. The good news is that allergies can be well managed with a combination of therapies. Treatment of allergies is commonly broken down into temporary and long-term relief.

 Temporary relief includes frequent bathing of the affected areas using a gentle dermatologically tested pet shampoo.

 Long-term relief includes a combination of year-round flea prevention and medications to alleviate the itching sensation.

*If you suspect that your pet has possible allergies, book an appointment with one of our vets to see if we can help your pets live an itch-free life. Ph 8364 4545*

**Because allergies can be an itch!**

## Kidney Disease is Thirsty Work

If your pet is thirstier than usual **it could be a sign of kidney disease**. Sometimes the increase in thirst can be subtle but if you find yourself filling up the water bowl more regularly or notice your pet drinking from the shower or toilet, you should arrange a checkup with us.

The kidneys contain thousands of little factories called nephrons and their job is to work out how much water should be conserved in the body. Once damaged or destroyed, nephrons do not function properly and can't regenerate. As a result, the body doesn't conserve enough water so your pet will need to drink more to stay hydrated.

Toxins, drugs, diseases or even just old age can harm the nephrons, and your pet may not show any signs until 75% of these nephrons are damaged.

Other than increased thirst, watch out for:

-  Increased urination
-  Weight loss
-  Vomiting
-  Lethargy



Many other diseases present with similar signs to kidney disease (such as diabetes), so it is important that we investigate further. Measuring your pet's water intake over 24 hours and bringing us a morning urine sample are two things you can do to get the investigation process started. A blood test, urine testing and a measure of your pet's blood pressure may then be necessary. If we detect that your pet's kidneys are not working properly, the earlier we initiate treatment the better.

**It's best to arrange an appointment with us as soon as possible if you notice any changes in your pet's thirst. Ph 8364 4545**

## Patient of the Month

**Rosie**

**"Pug in a Pipe"**



Here's Rosie modelling the latest in designer headwear for dogs!

The expression on Rosie's face is priceless. "Nothing to see here, just go back to what you were doing. What? The pipe? Oh that's normal, I wear it while Mum is at work to keep the sun out of my eyes. I just got sprung yesterday!"

Yes, playing with the pipe to amuse herself was much fun until it got stuck on her head!

Putting her bravado aside, she did need some help in getting it off.

Most likely the first time we've seen this kind of emergency at St Bernards Rd Veterinary Clinic and unfortunately despite it's seriousness - very funny!

