

## Pet Behaviour Edition

### Where's My Sock?

This is a tale about a missing sock. The sock was long, red and very smelly, and one afternoon it went missing from a footy bag. The next day, Jake, the well-loved and playful Labrador started to look a bit 'off'. He was quieter than usual and didn't want to eat his breakfast. This is very unusual behaviour for a Labrador, a breed often referred to as vacuum cleaners!

After a rather large vomit, a visit to the vet was in order. Examination revealed some tummy pain and x-rays were taken showing a large amount of gas and food in the stomach. Suddenly there was a suspicion that something was stuck in Jake's stomach. As the time was ticking by, Jake became more and more unwell so the decision was made to perform surgery to open Jake's stomach and sure enough, the sock was found!

#### Watch out for:

Vomiting	Lethargy
Loss of appetite	Abdominal discomfort

Diagnosis can be a little difficult as not all items show up on x-ray and if the obstruction is left too long, areas of the gut can become unhealthy and require extensive surgery. **Early intervention and treatment is essential to ensure a good outcome. If you are worried your pet might have eaten something out of the ordinary you should call us for advice.**



### Barking Dogs

Barking is one way dogs communicate. It is a normal behaviour however when it is carried out to excess, at inappropriate places or at inappropriate times it becomes socially unacceptable and becomes a behaviour problem. Dogs bark for many reasons. It is unlikely to be completely eliminated but they can be taught when it is appropriate to bark, and for how long. Barking is normal however barking for long periods of time or at every passer-by is not. Even though your dog doesn't bark when you are home doesn't mean he isn't barking when you're out!

**Please make an appointment to see us for tips on how to address a barking issue. We can also check whether there is an underlying physical or medical problem and discuss whether a full behaviour assessment is required.**

### Patient of the Month - Yago



Yago, the 13 week old black Labrador's learning the ropes of living with his humans. They are first time puppy owners and are attending puppy preschool at the clinic. Both of them

are taking on the steep learning curve of everything that comes with puppy ownership, such as socialisation and basic training, to name a few. And we're super proud of them for it!

Puppy preschool is a good foundation for training but it's more than that: it's a place that teaches owners and puppies how to communicate with each other, the puppy gets exposure to the clinic in the most gentle and fun way, they learn about and get socialised with other puppies and humans of varying shapes and sizes, the puppies are also exposed to new textures, smells and noises. All of which helps better prepare them for the world that they're stepping into.

Puppies that miss out on these lessons early in life (before they are 17 weeks old) often become dogs with behavioural and socialisation issues. These issues can sometimes be managed or remedied through training and veterinary care/medication but prevention is better than cure in this instance.

We're very proud of each and every puppy and their parents that are attending our Puppy Preschool classes as they're setting their pups and themselves up for success.

**Our Puppy Pre-school classes get filled very quickly. If you're planning on getting a puppy, call us now to reserve your spot! ph 8364 4545**

