



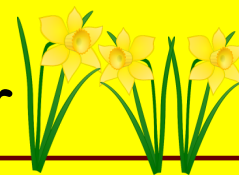
# Snippets

## Small animal newsletter

Issue 105

Spring

2024



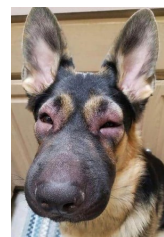
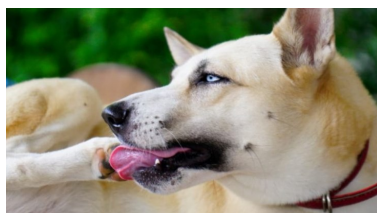
## Seasonal Allergies

Pets can develop seasonal allergies just like us, especially in spring when there is more pollen out and about. Inflamed red skin is one of the most common signs and you may notice they are scratching and licking more often, even keeping you up at night!

Common symptoms include:

- Excessive shedding
- Constant paw licking
- Licking of anal glands
- Sneezing and coughing
- Swelling of face, ears, lips and eyelids
- Chronic ear infections, which can lead to aural haematomas if left untreated

If your pet experiences any of these symptoms contact us as soon as possible to help prevent further issues such as infections.



## Dog Hot Spots

Hot spots are red, inflamed skin lesions that often appear quickly, ooze, and can become infected if not picked up early enough. They are often painful, itchy and smelly and can be hard to find as they are hidden under matted hair from the oozing skin. Hot spots start off small but don't take long to affect a large area. They are often caused by self trauma from itching but can also be caused from playing with other dogs, especially those that like to grab around the neck and ears.

Other common causes:

- Allergies
- Reactions to insect bites etc
- Ear infections
- Pyoderma
- Poor grooming
- Orthopaedic issues
- Anal Gland Inflammation
- Boredom

To help prevent hotspots it is best to treat the underlying cause. Some dogs benefit from regular grooming to keep the fur clean and unmatted. Keeping skin dry can also help.





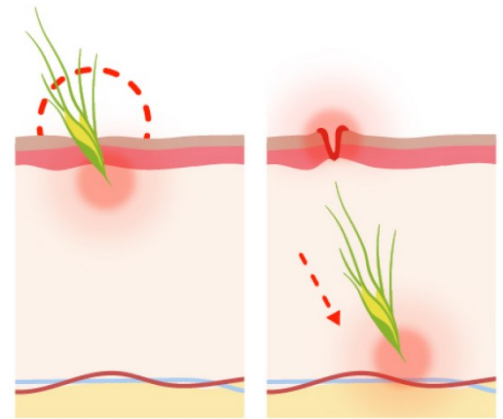
# Grass Seeds and your Pets



It is approaching the time of year when we get numerous calls that your beloved pet has a sore between its toes and wont stop licking. Unfortunately grass seeds are a common occurrence at this time of year when the grass is longer and you're getting out with your pet enjoying nice weather. For such a small seed they can become incredibly painful for your pooch. If possible try and avoid areas of long grass and after each walk check them over and give them a good brush. Areas to focus on include:

- Paws, this is the most common place that we see them, they often appear as a raised red lump between toes and your pet will excessively lick
- Ears, sudden shaking of head after exercise
- Armpits, often an area missed when grooming
- Eyes, any discomfort, excessive blinking, inflammation and pawing at eyes

If the seed has not fully embedded in the skin you may remove it but keep a close eye for any inflammation. If embedded, a vet visit will be required. Sedation is often needed to remove the grass seed and pain relief and antibiotics administered if inflammation/infection is present. Grass seeds that are left embedded in the skin can travel through the body and end up in the chest and lungs so its important to contact us immediately if you're concerned your pet has a grass seed.



## New to the Team



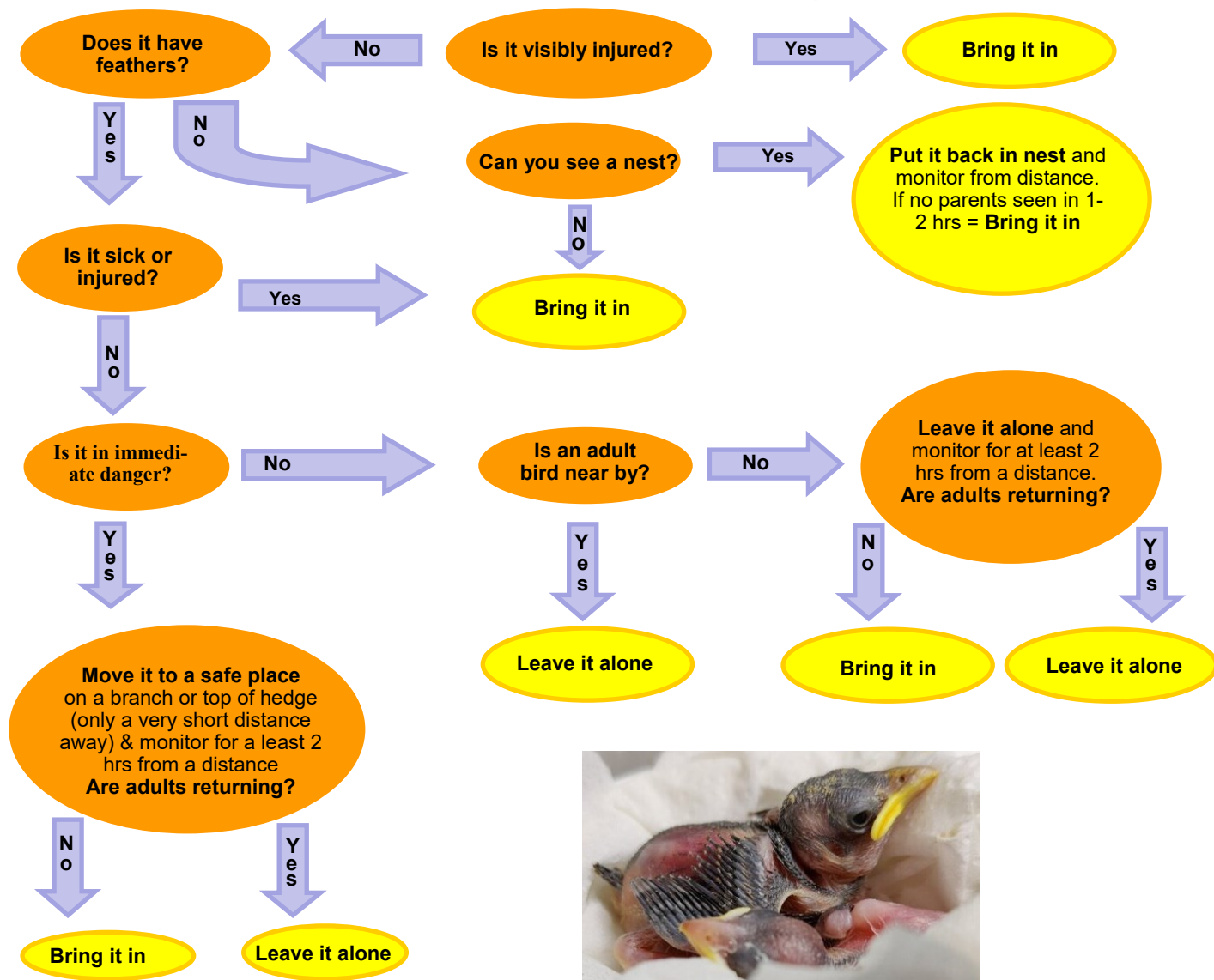
My name is Jen R (another Jen for the clinic!), I was raised on a sheep and beef farm near Te Awamutu, originally worked in environmental science but my roots drew me back to the animals. I've been Vet Nursing for 7 yrs and love all aspects of the job. We recently moved back to Nelson after 8 years in Christchurch, with my husband and 3yr old son. In my spare time I love gardening, mountain biking and home reno's.

Hi, my name is Adrienne, I moved down from Kerikeri in the far north to sunny Nelson at the start of 2024. I have one fur baby, a lab x whose name is Ringo. He keeps me busy with his love of long walks, and we both love our fishing. I enjoy good food, a nice wine and a good book.





# What to do if you find a baby bird this Spring



**Native Birds**—These are checked by a vet, treatment given (sometimes this includes x-rays and surgery) and then sent to a local DOC licensed rehab centre and ultimately released if possible. DOC has the role of care for native wildlife, so we make sure we are following the rules around this.

**Non Native Birds**—These are raised and rehabbed by staff members or trained members of the public. Caring for young or sick birds is a special skill that takes time and patience.

**All other wildlife**—These are checked by a vet, treatment given, and released where found if possible. Sometimes euthanasia is the kindest option and is done with dignity with all little bodies being cremated. All vet care and treatment for wildlife brought into the clinic is funded by Town and Country Vet.

