How to Go Green With Your Pets

In the age where small actions at home can impact on the big picture of the environment at large I'd like to offer a few things that we can do as pet owners; to help the environment.

Picking Up Your Dog's Poo

Dog poo can contain many different bacteria and parasites. The most common faecal bacteria is called E.coli. It may also contain Giardia, Salmonella and worm eggs. In fact one gram of poo can contain up to 23 million coliform bacteria. Left on the grass, dog poo will become a breeding ground for flies and maggots, that will continue to spread disease. Poo washed away by the rain will enter the storm water system and end up in our water ways and harbour. Be especially mindful of this when taking your pets for swims on the beach.

What you can do:

Ensure your dogs are regularly wormed using a good quality de-wormer, e.g. Drontal, Endoguard or Paraguard. Adult dogs should be wormed every three months.

Pick up your dog's poo every time they do a poo using a biodegradable poo bag and dispose of it responsibly in a garbage bin.

Kindly offer people a bag if you see them not picking up after their dog. Most people are embarrassed if they get caught out without a bag and will appreciate the offer.

Don't feed raw meat – especially chicken, as this will increase the risk of Salmonella being passed in the stool.

Unfortunately, dog poo should not be added to your compost bin as de-wormers can affect the natural worm population. The heat generated in a compost bin may not be sufficiently high to destroy unwanted bacteria.

Picking Up your Cat's Poo

As well as the above, cat poo – particularly young kittens can contain Toxoplasmosis infective agents called oocysts. Cats can become infected with Toxoplasmosis from eating raw meat and prey animals eg rats and mice. The oocysts are shed in the poo and become infective once a second stage of development called sporulation occurs. This occurs 1-5 days after the poo is passed. By picking up poo within 24 hours of it being passed will greatly reduce the infective nature of the stool.

Keeping Cat's Inside at Night

For the safety of your cats and to prevent night time hunting, please keep your cats inside at night. Some cats will become very suspicious of you as night falls and may avoid coming home for fear of being locked in. To avoid this, always pair coming in at night with a reward of their favourite food. Pairing a behaviour with a positive reward is the basis of all training techniques.

Recycling Pet Food Containers

All pet food cans can be rinsed and recycled in the yellow top bins.

Soft plastic bags containing dry food or kibble can be recycled in special soft plastic recycle bins at the local supermarket.

Reuse plastic lids to cover your tins rather than cling film. If you purchase your Hills food from us at Vet HQ, please ask for your recyclable pet food cover.

Old Beds and Pet Clothes

Clean, good conditioned and washed bedding and clothes can be donated to Sydney Dogs and Cats Home.

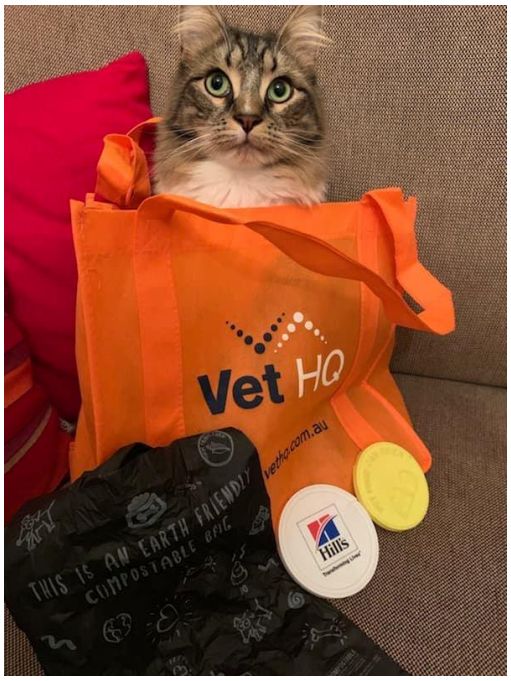
Dog and Cat Fur

After brushing your pets, did you know that their fur can be placed in your compost bin? It will break down and add to the quality of your compost. Alternatively, laying it around the base of the compost can deter rodents from visiting your compost bin. It will also be utilised by the local birds to insulate their nests.

Shopping Bags

Remember to bring your reusable Vet HQ shopping bag with you when you come into the clinic and whenever you are shopping. These strong and sturdy bags can be reused many times – in fact, they should be used at least 40 times to offset their production compared to using a single use plastic bag. Remember “Orange is the New Black”.

Reuse, recycle and help keep our environment safe and clean for everyone.



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