

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

The SASH Exotics Department is open 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday and staffed by specialist veterinarian Melinda Cowan.

Melinda graduated from the University of Sydney in 2007 with first class honours and has experience working in traditional dog and cat clinics, RSPCA wildlife hospitals, and specialised bird and exotic pet practices. Melinda has completed a residency in Avian Medicine, and is a bird specialist and Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists.



DO I NEED A REFERRAL?

No referral is required although if your pet is currently in the care of another veterinarian, we encourage you to discuss the option for referral with them prior to consultation at SASH.



small animal specialist hospital

Phone - (02) 9889 0289

www.sashvets.com

BIRD & EXOTICS DEPARTMENT



Phone - (02) 9889 0289

www.sashvets.com

THE EXOTICS DEPARTMENT

At SASH we cater not just to our furry friends, but those with feathers, scales, shells and more.

With a dedicated Exotics Department open at SASH, our vets give specialist attention to:

- Birds
- Reptiles (Snakes, Turtles)
- Amphibians (Frogs, Axolotles)
- Fish
- Rabbits
- Rodents (Rats, Mice, Guinea Pigs)
- Ferrets
- Native Wildlife

WHY DO THEY NEED SPECIALIST CARE?

Every species requires different housing, dietary and medical requirements, which can be very different from cats and dogs. The Exotics Department is trained to understand these differences and provide the unique medical and surgical care needed.



WHY ARE EXOTICS DEPARTMENTS IMPORTANT?

Many people are looking for alternative companions to dogs and cats. As unusual pet ownership rapidly increases, so too does the need for veterinary departments that specialise in these animals. SASH is one of a small number in Australia dedicated to their care. The significance of SASH's Exotics Department is that it also works in tandem with the other areas of the hospital.

So on one hand, your pet is getting the specialised attention it needs, but also the support and expertise of departments including Emergency, Surgery, Dermatology, Internal Medicine and Ophthalmology.

WHEN SHOULD I VISIT?

Just like dogs and cats, all pets should have regular health check-ups. Rabbits and ferrets also require regular vaccination, and it is recommended mammals are desexed when they are young.

If your pet appears unwell it will need urgent examination by a veterinarian, as many birds and exotic animals hide their illnesses until the problem is advanced.

Symptoms to look out for include:

- Reduced or absent appetite
- Difficulty eating or chewing
- Reduced activity, energy levels, or fatigue
- Sneezing or coughing
- Fluffed feathers in birds
- Huddled posture
- Diarrhoea or vomiting
- Straining to pass faeces or urine
- Reduced production of faeces (very important in Rabbits and Guinea Pigs)
- Bleeding from any part of the body
- Change in urine colour
- Wounds on the skin
- Difficulty/increased breathing, or unusual noises when breathing or vocalising
- Difficulty walking, flying or swimming
- Squinting, keeping one or both eyes closed, watery or red eyes, and swelling around the eyes

