

# Seeds can harm dogs

VETS are warning pet owners to be vigilant about grass and weed seeds this summer.

Morley Vet Centre veterinarian Kylie McLaren said December was the start of grass seed problems.

Small and extremely sharp seeds were able to penetrate an animal's skin, causing infection and poisoning the animal.

Dr McLaren treats at least one case a day.

She said many owners were unaware that lawns and weeds had become overgrown during winter and spring, and were full of grass seeds.

Dr McLaren said seeds burrowed into the animal's body, particular crevices in noses and ears. Pet owners should ensure lawns

were mowed and animals were checked regularly.

Dogs should have their coats kept short and brushed.

"The key is to check your pets regularly, perhaps after every walk," she said.

Kathy Kopellis McLeod, a canine behavioural consultant, warned pet owners to take special care of their pets. Her dog was a victim of a grass seed.

Ten-year-old siberian husky Chilli had an operation after a grass seed lodged in his nose.

Long-eared dogs often shook their heads to dislodge spiky seeds from their ears, or sneezed if they became lodged in their noses, she said.