

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2009

Vets Comment

Dear Client

Last newsletter I told you how Jacqueline won a road race in Glen Eden in the winter. Well shortly after that she ran in the Legend marathon which is the crazy one run up and down the Waitakere Ranges. She not only finished it but was the second in the masters women's category. She received the Lorraine Moller trophy for her efforts. Jacqueline says it is a mistake as she is only 28 and clearly can't be a masters women!

Erin is getting all stressed, I mean excited as she is getting married at the end of January. We all wish her well for a great day and hopefully great weather also.

Maya, Margaret's new boxer pup is growing up very fast and is enjoying playing with Breeze in the mornings. I am not sure who is leading who astray but a hole has appeared in the back garden and both dogs are coming in with muddy feet!

Don't forget your flea treatments, you have been warned.

Hope you all have a Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year

From

Lance, Jacqueline, Erin & all the team.

THE TEAM

VETS: Lance Eastman, Jacqueline Eastman & Erin de Lange

NURSES: Fiona Hammond, Stephanie Davidson, Marcelle Pringle & Louise de Schot

RECEPTIONISTS: Debbie Lewis & Margaret Galbraith

ASSISTANT: Chloe Knowles

PRACTICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 7.00pm

Saturday 8.30am to 2.00pm

THE 4TH ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION



First prize— A years supply of **ADVANTAGE MULTI**

Photos can be e-mailed to vets@bhbvets.co.nz or dropped into the clinic.

Please attach you name, address, phone number and the animals name.

Rules-Yes we are going to have some rules this year.

- 1 Maximum of two photos per entrant.
- 2 You must have taken the photo yourself.
- 3 Entries must be in by the 7th February 2009.



HOLIDAY CHECK LIST

1. If your planning on putting your pet in a cattery or kennels this summer then book well ahead as most are completely full over Christmas.
2. Make sure your pets have had all the vaccinations they require well before going to the kennels. Check with the kennels as to what they require, as they are not all the same.
3. Make sure all pets are treated for fleas regularly with a good quality product such as **Advantage**, **Frontline** or **Revolution**.
4. If you have got a young cat make sure they get spayed or castrated as they can get pregnant as young as six months. This could really mess up your holiday plans.
5. Remember that some beaches become off limit to dogs during the summer. You can be fined if your dog is on the beach. I have found this personally to be very frustrating as if we go out for the day then Breeze comes with us. Always pick up your dogs mess and keep them under your control and people should have less objections to dogs.
6. Don't forget you can't leave dogs in cars especially in the hot weather.
7. Remember to take water for the dog when going out for the day.
8. If your pet is on long term medicines then make sure you have enough to cover you over the holiday period. Ask for a double lot when getting a repeat prescription if required.
9. If your pet is on a special diet get extra over the holidays as the wholesalers often close over Christmas so we may not be able to get it as fast as usual.
10. Finally make sure you have organised your Christmas gift for your favourite vets and while you are dropping it off don't forget to buy your pets a Christmas present from the clinic. Actually we probably don't need any more calories at Christmas so forget our present but make sure you and your pets have a great holiday.



SLIP, SLOP, SLAP

Yes we all know the message by now, we have a hole in the ozone and have to protect ourselves from the harmful rays of the sun. But what about our pets? The biggest problem we see is with white cats, who have a very high incidence of sun related cancers. The most common areas are the ears, the lower eyelids and the nose. Cancer seems to develop almost exclusively on white areas only. A black and white cat will only develop these type of cancers on the white areas. It is not really that surprising as the white areas have no pigment or melanin, they are basically albinos in these area.

What can we do to help? A hat and sunglasses are probably not going to work on the average cat.

You can apply sun block to the ears and top of the nose to give some protection. We have special animal sun blocks which are safe if consumed.

Some times even with sun blocks skin cancers may develop. The good news is if caught early they can be treated. The lesions can be frozen with liquid nitrogen killing the early cancer cells and allowing them to be replaced with healthy new cells.

You should watch your cat for dirty, scabby or ulcerated areas on the nose, ears or eyelids. Treating these areas early is the secret to solving the problem.

If it is left too late we may try surgically removing the area. This is especially useful for the ears, but in some cases even this is not possible. Dogs seem to suffer a lot less but some white dogs will get sun burnt noses and ears. Sun block can be applied to these areas also.

So this summer don't forget to put that sun block on and may be slap a bit on the cat as well.





CASES OF THE MONTH

HUMPHREY GETS HOOKED

Humphrey liked to go fishing with his owner and liked a bit of fish if he could get it. On one such fishing trip Humphrey saw an opportunity to grab a wee morsel and took it. His owner saw him but it was too late. Unfortunately for Humphrey what he thought was a tasty bit of fish was actually a fish hook.

Humphrey was brought in to the clinic and an x-ray was taken of his stomach. Sure enough there was a large fish hook. Given the size of the hook it was thought unlikely that Humphrey would pass it naturally. If the hook got stuck and perforated the bowel the end result could be fatal. It was decided therefore that Humphrey would go into surgery and have his stomach opened up and the hook removed.

Opening a stomach has to be done very carefully to prevent stomach contents spilling out and causing a peritonitis. Equally important the stomach must be stitched up to create a water tight seal.

Humphrey came through the surgery well and is now back to normal. His owners will be keeping a close eye on those fish hooks in future.



BLOCKED WATER WORKS FOR GUIDO

Guido is a 7 year old male cat who came into the clinic in a very sad state. He laid on the consult table looking like he wanted to die. On examination we found a full bladder that was constantly dribbling urine. Blood tests showed severe kidney failure.

Guido was put on intravenous fluids to re-hydrate him and flush his kidneys. Over the next few days his kidney function started to recover and Guido also started to feel better.

Up until this point Guido had no bladder control and simply left a puddle where he slept. He was now trying to urinate normally but was clearly having difficulty. Guido was given an anaesthetic and a urinary catheter was put in place to keep the bladder empty. This had to be kept in for a week until Guido was able to void urine on his own.

It has been a slow recovery for Guido but he is now back home and doing well.

I think what happened to Guido was his bladder became blocked, a common problem in male cats. This resulted in damage to his kidneys due to back pressure. The pressure eventually allowed urine to come out but damaged his bladder neck making him incontinent.

Luckily with the right treatment his bladder and kidneys have recovered and he is now on a special food to prevent his bladder blocking again.



Christmas Holiday Hours

OPEN	22ND-24TH December	OPEN	29th-31st December
CLOSED	25th-26th December	CLOSED	1st-2nd January
OPEN	27th December (8.30-2.00pm)	OPEN	3rd January (8.30-2.00pm)
CLOSED	28TH December (Sunday)	CLOSED	4th January (Sunday)



Twisty & Breeze's Column

I have to tell you about something that happened to me recently. I awoke one morning to find I was short staffed. One of my servants had simply left! It wouldn't have been so bad but I was left with the man servant who doesn't get up early in the morning and attend to my breakfast like my lady servant does.

I thought I would have to pull him into line. I decided the best course of action was to play the old won't eat the same thing twice trick. Now some servants will think we will cave in when we get hungry enough.

The secret is to pester the hell out of them until they cave in.

The best time to do this is when they are eating or preparing food for themselves. It doesn't matter if it is a fruit salad that you don't want anyway, climb right in there so it is impossible for them to eat it in peace. They will soon be desperately searching for something you will eat.

It didn't take long and after a few days my man servant came home with a dozen different types of food so I had something different every meal.

My man servant must have realised he couldn't look after me on his own because after a couple of weeks my lady servant returned and everything is back to normal.

Remember don't mess with the Twister!



Merry Christmas from Twisty

INTRODUCING ROYAL CANIN TO THE VET CLINIC

We have always tried to provide our clients pets with the best quality nutrition for all stages of life and provide special diets to help with medical conditions. We have been selling some of Royal Canin's prescription diets for some time now and I have been impressed by the quality and the palatability which can often be a problem with sick pets.

We are now going to be offering Royal Canin's full range of diets for both dogs and cats.

The dog food has diets for mini, medium and large breed dogs from puppy to adult and through to senior diets.

They also have breed specific diets such as Labrador, German shepherd, Golden Retriever, Boxer, Bull dog, Dachshund and Chihuahua to name a few. Breeze loves her Golden Retriever diet.

The cat food comes in a range to meet the needs of neutered cats from kittens to senior cats.

There is also a range of breed specific cat foods for Persians, Maine Coons and Siamese.

We will be stocking a wide range but won't be able to stock every type of food, but if you want it we should have it within 24 hours from our wholesalers.

If you are keen to try some Royal Canin food check out these special offer vouchers.


ROYAL CANIN

Receive a
free 400g bag
of Royal Canin cat
food on presentation
of this voucher.

Offer available while stocks last.
Only one free bag per customer


ROYAL CANIN

\$5 OFF
Purchase
of 1.5kg or 2kg bags
of cat or dog food.

Offer available until 28/2/09.


ROYAL CANIN

Receive a
free 400g bag
of Royal Canin puppy
food on presentation
of this voucher

Offer available while stocks last.
Only one free bag per customer


ROYAL CANIN

\$10 OFF
Purchase
of 4kg or larger
bags of dog food.

Offer available until 28/2/09.




ROYAL CANIN

