

# BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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## Vets Comment

Dear Client

As I am writing this Erin is on her honeymoon. I hope she is having a great time and look forward to having her back. We will endeavour to get a photo for the next newsletter of the wedding.

Jacqueline competed in a half iron man in December. That's a 2km swim, 90km bike ride and 21km run. She is talking about doing the full iron man! I think she has inhaled too many anaesthetic gases over the years and has clearly gone mad. Don't forget that all consultations are via appointment. Even if you have an emergency by phoning ahead we can make sure we are ready to deal with the situation on your arrival. If you wish to see a particular vet don't forget to mention this when you phone as we have three vets but never have all three consulting at the same time.

Apparently we are in a recession and people are looking for ways to spend less money. Don't be tempted to save money by not vaccinating your pets or using cheap flea treatments as this tends to be a false economy. If you have to come to the vet because your pet gets sick or develops a skin condition due to fleas you may end up spending much more.

Look forward to seeing you soon

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  
All consultations via appointment

## PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER



This is a photo of Gin and Mouse taken by Brooke Trenwith. Brooke will receive a years supply of **Advocate** (Advantage-multi) kindly donated by **Bayer**. Deciding on a winner was very hard this year with all the staff having different favourites. Some of these photo's are shown on page three and I will try to put some more in the next newsletter. Thanks to all who entered and hopefully we will see more pics from you all next year.

## TO MUZZLE OR NOT TO MUZZLE.

Everyday we examine and treat many dogs of all shapes and sizes and temperaments.

Some dogs we know are very friendly and would never bite, others may bite if we did something painful to them and some we know will definitely bite so watch out.

Some patients we don't know well enough to be sure what they are going to be like and have to try to assess them when we meet them.

If we feel a dog could bite we may place a muzzle over their nose to prevent any injuries to the vet or the owner. This is especially important if the procedure may be resented by the dog, such as clipping nails or examining a sore ear.

We try to avoid muzzling if we can as some owners take offence at the idea their dog needs muzzling. It is certainly not meant as such but purely as a safety precaution.



If you have ever run a business you will know OSH takes work place injuries very seriously. We therefore need to take every practical step we can to minimise injuries from dog bites to members of staff and the public (dogs will bite their owners when upset).

If the vet suggests a muzzle for a procedure please don't be offended even if you think it is unnecessary .

If you know your dog has a history of biting vets, then tell them. Don't wait for it to try and bite them and then say "You are brave all the other vets muzzle him!"

## PARVO VIRUS BACK IN TOWN

We have seen several cases of Parvo virus in the last few weeks and I believe some of the clinics further West have seen quite a few.

Parvo virus causes vomiting and diarrhoea, which is often bloody. The dog rapidly dehydrates and in many cases will die.

Treatment principally revolves around dealing with the dehydration. This is done by putting the dog on an intravenous drip until the vomiting and diarrhoea stops.

As vets we hate Parvo cases with a passion for several reasons. Firstly it is awful to see a dog so sick from an easily preventable disease.

Secondly they are difficult cases to treat logistically. The disease is highly contagious so the dog must be kept in an isolation ward separate from the rest of the hospital. When handling the dog we must put on fresh gloves and disposable aprons to avoid the spread of the disease. We incinerate all soiled bedding which can be a lot if the dog has constant vomiting and diarrhoea.

And finally these cases are expensive to treat well and unfortunately in nearly every case we see of Parvo virus the owner has little if any money!

The take home message is Parvo virus is still about, it is highly infectious and the results can be deadly.

The good news is vaccinations are very effective at preventing the disease.

It is however important that puppies finish their vaccination course before going out to public parks or mixing with unknown dogs.





# CASES OF THE MONTH

## PUP NEEDS PINNING

Spike was a happy go lucky pup tearing around as pups do when suddenly he cried in pain and wouldn't walk on his hind leg.

X-rays were taken of Spike's leg which showed a growth plate injury.

When puppies are growing they have areas at the end of all the bones that are very soft where the bones growth occurs. When they are fully grown these growth plates become solid bone and are much stronger.

Spike required surgery to pin the loose bit of bone down until it healed. This was done with a special pin and wire to hold everything in place.

Spike recovered well from the surgery and the hard part was trying to keep him quiet.

After six weeks we removed the pin and wire and Spike is now completely healed up and back to normal.



## BOURBON GETS A SINKING FEELING

To the three clients and my mother who reads every newsletter, you may remember a case last year of lead poisoning in a dog who swallowed a lead sinker. Well Bourbon came back recently vomiting and looking very depressed. An x-ray was taken and you guessed it, he had a lead sinker in his abdomen.

Bourbon was put on an intravenous drip and taken immediately into surgery. The lead sinker was stuck in Bourbon's small intestine. The intestine was carefully opened and the sinker removed. The intestine has to be carefully sutured closed to prevent any leakage.

Bourbon made an uneventful recovery again!

Bourbon's owners have cleared out all the lead sinkers as he clearly has a taste for them.



It doesn't take 5 years at vet school to spot the problem on this x-ray.



Next time you struggle to swallow a tablet imagine what it takes to swallow something this big!



Guardian & Chakra taken by Jamie



Above-Marmalade taken by Sindy.  
Right-Riley taken by Fran.



## BREEZE & TWISTY'S COLUMN

My Dad says I have a problem and need therapy! He says he is going to enrol me in the BAA (Ball Addicts Anonymous). I personally don't think I have a problem I just like to have a ball in my mouth and love the rush I get when I chase the ball.

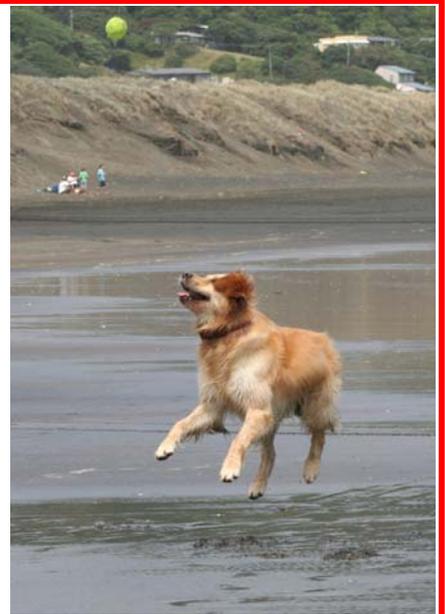
My Dad sometimes tries tough love with me and makes me go cold turkey for a day. He will take me to the park and NOT take the ball. I know he has one and I want it so bad. I plead with him, throw the ball, throw the ball, THROW THE BALL! He may throw a pine cone but I am not stupid, it does not have the same pleasure as chewing down on that ball until eventually it pops.

I don't think I need these BAA meetings, in fact I could quit balls at any time if I so wished. I however do not wish to give them up as I love them so much. I must admit I do get twitchy and irritable if I haven't had my daily fix but this in no way means I am addicted to balls.

My Dad says when I have the ball I become antisocial and won't play with other dogs in the park. I don't mean to be rude but when I have my ball I am in the zone and must concentrate on chasing the ball and simply find other dogs distract me.

I think instead of going to the BAA, I will form a new club called the BLAC (Ball Lovers Appreciation Club). If any like minded dogs want to join then send me an e-mail.

Run like the BREEZE



## BE PRO-ACTIVE NOT REACTIVE

How many people do you know have installed an alarm system in their house after they get burgled. I know lots of people in fact I am one of them.

It is much the same with micro-chipping pets. We can't see the point until they get lost and never get found. This is especially true of cats who are free to wander as they please and are prone to getting into fights and accidents.

I often recommend microchips to cat owners but get a reply that he doesn't go far and always comes home. Just because the cat has made it home every night so far does not mean that nothing could ever happen to him.

In my experience people who lose their cat will often go to great lengths to find it. However people who find cats often do very little to locate its owner, especially if they grow fond of it and want to keep it. They might ask a few neighbours or possibly ring their local vet but the odds of locating the owner are poor.

Most people who adopt strays/lost cats will at some stage bring them to the vet to get them checked over. I always scan these cats for microchips. If the owner had micro-chipped the cat then it will find its way back home, otherwise it has a new owner.

I know that micro-chipping your cat is no guarantee that it will be found and returned to you if lost, just the same as an alarm system doesn't guarantee your house won't be burgled. I still think both things are a very good idea. All newly registered dogs must be micro-chipped and this is being widely done, but although not compulsory I think it is a good idea to identify your cat permanently with a micro-chip.

A microchip can be inserted in a matter of seconds during a routine visit so next time you bring your cat to the clinic ask us about getting your cat chipped.

