

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Winter 2009

Vets Comment

Dear Client

I can't believe it is winter again. Never mind, a bit of cold wind and rain is not going to stop us.

Jacqueline and myself competed in Xterra in Rotorua again this year and were quite a bit faster than last year. Jacqueline did the swim in the Blue lake, I did the mountain bike and Jacqueline finished with the run. We got beaten by Hamish Carter again but there is always next year.

Erin's wedding went well but sadly for us she has decided to head off to the UK to do her OE. We wish her all the best and will miss her at the clinic.

The good news is we have lined up a very nice experienced vet called Geoff Neal to join our team. It will be quite nice to have another bloke around the place as being the only male in the practice I often miss those manly conversations.

Congratulations to Yvonne Townsend who won the Revolution contest and received \$500 to spend in the clinic on her cats Poppy and Tootsie. Talking of Revolution don't forget to keep up the flea treatment throughout the winter.

Look forward to seeing you soon

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff & all the team.



Breeze & Twisty snuggle up by the fire.

THE TEAM

VETS:	Lance Eastman, Jacqueline Eastman & Geoff Neal
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

FREE CAT CARRIER



* When you purchase any 3.18kg or larger of Iams Cat Foods.

While stocks last.

Life's Better
IAMS
Cat Foods

These are always very popular so you will have to get in early as stocks are limited.

HOW TO GET THE MOST FROM YOUR VISIT TO THE VET

1. Make an appointment– This is very important, it will mean a vet will be available to see you so you are not kept waiting. The vet will also have had a chance to read through your pets notes so is familiar with the case before he/she sees you.

2. Ask for a specific vet– If your pet is being treated for an ongoing condition then try to see the same vet for each appointment. This will help with continuity of the case.

3. Make a list– If you have several concerns regarding your pets health then write them down. You are less likely to forget this way. Tell the vet at the start of the consult that you have several problems to deal with. Often what you may think is an unrelated problem can affect the diagnosis or treatment of another problem.

4. Good History– Part of a consultation is called history taking. This is the bit where the vet asks lots of questions about your pets health. In many cases a diagnosis can be made from this alone and often without it a diagnosis is impossible. For example there is no way a vet can know your cat vomits after eating or your dog gets short of breath after exercise if you don't tell him.

The worst example of this is when a pet is brought into the clinic by someone who knows nothing about the pet. "The wife asked me to bring him in but I don't know why" is not very helpful.

5. Tell the truth– Now I don't think anyone is trying to be dishonest but often people can feel embarrassed about their answers. When the vet asks how long has he been lame? He/she needs to know as there is a big difference in terms of diagnosis and outcome between "it happened this morning" and "it has been a problem for six months now".

6. Be precise (within reason)- Never answer a question with "quite a while". What does that mean? Two days, two weeks, two months, two years?

7. Tell the vet what you would like– If you know what you want then tell the vet at the start. If for example you feel your elderly pet has come to the end of its life then let the vet know. Otherwise the vet may offer tests and treatments that you really don't want.

8. Grab some pee– If your pet has a problem drinking too much or difficulty urinating then try to get a urine sample to bring to your appointment. This can often be very important in the diagnosis and it may not be possible to collect in the consult.



SHOULD I GIVE BONES TO MY DOG?

This is a difficult question for a vet as bones have some benefits but are not 100% risk free.

The benefits of bones are helping keep the teeth clean and keeping your dog amused when they are left alone.

The negatives of bones are broken teeth, severe constipation and possible obstructions. Obstructions are rare given the number of bones dogs consume, but they do occur. We had a tragic case only recently where a young dog got a bone stuck in his oesophagus just before his stomach. He was sent to a specialist clinic where they tried to remove it with an endoscope. Unfortunately the bone was very sharp and it pierced his lung and he could not be saved. I must stress this is very rare but for the family it is a tragedy.

I do feed Breeze bones and she enjoys them very much. I feed **raw** large beef bones that she chews but **cannot break up**.

I do not recommend cooked bones as these splinter easily.

Most dogs have a quite impressive digestive system and can break up and eat bones and cope fine. I think it is important to know however that serious life threatening problems can arise from consuming pieces of bone.

My intention of this article is not to scare but to inform. I hope it is of some help in deciding whether you want to feed bones to your dog.



Riley enjoying his bone.



CASES OF THE MONTH

Chela gets a bladder full of stones.

Chela is a female Golden Retriever who was brought into the practice as her owners noticed her squatting more often to urinate when out walking. A quick check of her urine showed it had blood in it.

Her owner expected me to give Chela a course of antibiotics to treat a urinary tract infection so was a bit shocked when I said I thought it was due to bladder stones.

Chela had an x-ray of her bladder and sure enough it was full of stones. The stones were so large that the only way to remove them was via surgery. Chela's abdomen was opened up then her bladder was opened carefully so as not to spill any urine or stones into her abdomen. All the stones were carefully removed then the bladder was sutured closed making sure it was water tight.

Chela made a good recovery and is now passing urine quite normally.

The stones were sent off to a laboratory for analysis so we know what they are composed off. Once we knew the type of stone, Chela was put on a special diet to prevent re-occurrence of more stones.

Nothing was wrong with the diet Chela was on before but certain dogs will produce crystals in their urine that can then form into stones. Certain breeds are more prone such as Golden Retrievers, Bichon Frise, Dalmatians and Spaniels.



Chela with her pups in 2007



Bella recovering at home

BELLA BREAKS A BONE

Bella is your typical young labrador who loves to play. Unfortunately she ended up playing too close to the neighbours car and ended up getting run over. Poor Bella was brought into the clinic unable to use her leg and in a great deal of pain.

She was given pain relief and stabilised before she had an anaesthetic to have x-rays taken.

Bella had a fractured tibia. The bone had fractured in a spiral up the length of the bone.

Surgery was performed to stabilize the broken bone. A special clamp was used to hold the pieces in place once we had aligned them. Surgical wire was then used to wrap around the bone to hold it

together. A pin was then passed down the centre of the bone to give it even greater stability.

Bella is now recovering at home and the biggest challenge is to keep her nice and quiet.

The pin will be removed after six weeks but the wire will remain in place permanently.

Bella should do well long term and hopefully will be more wary of cars.



Twisty & Breeze's Column- "Home alone"

I have received lots of complaints from my cat loving fans that you hear too much from the dumb mutt and not enough from me. All I can say is I am the creative genius but not the editor.

I would like to tell you about something that happened not so long ago. Both my servants took a holiday at the same time and left me home alone! They even took the dog with them but not me.

They did arrange a temporary part time servant to bring me meals on wheels.

This was better than nothing but he only came in twice a day. I normally like six to ten feeds per day and don't eat food if it has been out more than 30 minutes. I was forced to eat stale food.

I decided to take action as only a feline knows how. I followed the temporary servant back to his place and climbed on to his bed and stayed there.

Apparently when the servants returned and I was not there they got all worried. When they finally worked out where I was they gave me kisses and cuddles and "we love you Twisty".

I am still not impressed and hope they have learned their lesson and won't try to have another holiday.

To rub salt into the wound Breeze says she loved her week at the beach.

The Twister



New Drug should save lots of fingers.

A new drug has recently been launched in NZ that delivers 14 days of antibiotic cover from one injection. Now some people may not get all that excited about this, however those of you who have struggled to give a course of tablets to your cat and ended up bleeding in the process with the tablet spat out on the floor may think this is the greatest scientific break through of all time.

I was certainly very interested to know about this drug when I heard about it. The launch was at Sky Tower and I am never one to turn down a free meal so headed off with Jacqueline to find out more. I was going to have to take her out for her birthday anyway, so why not do it on Pfizer.

Back to the drug. It is called **Convenia** it seems to have very little side affects and is easy to administer. The down side is it is quite expensive as antibiotic injections go. Not too bad for a cat but would be a lot for a large dog.

I must say it has been very popular so far with most people happy to pay around \$37 instead of trying to give a course of tablets to their cat.

It will not be suitable for all infections but next time you are at the vet and about to be given tablets for your cat ask if Convenia would be suitable.



Lily Poisoning in a Kitten.



I have never seen this but was reading about it in the latest vet news. A kitten ate some petals from a lily that had fallen from a flower display. Unfortunately the kitten went into renal failure and despite treatment did not survive.

Apparently lilies are highly toxic to cats. Most cats are very fussy about what they will ingest but kittens especially can be more curious.

I thought I would put this in the newsletter as it only takes one person to see their kitten playing with the bouquet of flowers and stop it and potentially a life could be saved.

However this cannot be used as an excuse not to buy the wife flowers!