

# BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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## Vets Comment

Dear Client,

We have survived another winter and luckily we have all remained swine flu free so far. Jacqueline competed in the Glen Eden ten mile running race again this year and unfortunately did not retain her title as top woman but did get second. She was the fastest masters woman.

I took part in a down hill mountain bike race recently at Woodhill. I was also in the Masters but in down hill racing over 30 is the oldest category!

I guess most people my age have more sensible hobbies. Never mind, I didn't fall off and still managed to beat a lot of the youngsters.

Spring means warmer weather and new growth and development. If you got a kitten in the summer then now is the time for desexing unless you want to be grand parents to lots of kittens.

Fleas also like the warmer weather and start having children of their own. Luckily I know you have all been keeping up the flea treatment during the winter so this won't be a problem for you.

Look forward to seeing you soon

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff & all the team.



## 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

## Introducing New Vet Geoff

Hi I'm Geoff Neal, the newest member of Blockhouse Bay Vet Centre. Born and bred in Te Kuiti, I did my veterinary training at Massey University before starting my veterinary career in 2000 for Manawatu Veterinary Services. After working in mixed practice in the Manawatu and King Country for 5 years, the Kiwi O.E. beckoned for me and my fiancée Rebecca. Over in the UK, I concentrated solely on small animal work, which has continued to be my focus after arriving back in New Zealand and shifting up to Auckland to join the friendly team at Blockhouse Bay.

I've made the trip north to Blockhouse Bay with Rebecca and our Spoodle Java, who is slowly getting used to a change in vocation also, having to make the adjustment



from chief dog and cattle shifter on 2500 acres to city dog with not a sheep or cow for miles.

Outside of work, I'm enjoying getting acquainted with all the sights and activities that life out west has to offer a boy from Te Kuiti.

## Are Dog owners worse than Paedophiles?

This may sound very controversial but it certainly got your attention. I ask this question as earlier this year I took my family on holiday down to Mount Maunganui.

It was made very clear to me that one member of my family was not welcome there. Not on the mount, not on the beach, not even on the grass verge next to the beach. Yes, Jacqueline and I had Breeze with us on holiday and were made to feel like second class citizens. We even had one women screaming at us!

Yet I didn't see a single sign saying that Paedophiles were not welcome on the beach. It would probably be an infringement of their civil rights. What about my rights? I have a dog as a family member who is much better behaved than most children. In fact I have much better control over her than I do of my wife, but that's another story!

We headed over to Rotorua for some mountain biking followed by a look in the shops. Jacqueline was informed by a shop owner that it is illegal to have dogs in the CBD.

You can't even walk a dog on the foot path in Rotorua!

I appreciate that not all dogs are well controlled and not all dog owners clear up after them. By all means, fine them, but to create such widespread bans on dogs I believe is an infringement on my civil rights.

It is not ok to discriminate on the grounds of religion, race, sexual preference or a person's weight.

However it is perfectly acceptable to discriminate against a person who chooses to have a dog as a member of their family.

I think it is important that we are responsible dog owners and have well behaved dogs that we clean up after. I think us responsible owners also need to be more vocal before we all end up stuck walking the dog in one small park somewhere.



Yes Breeze sitting there is illegal!

## Flea Treatment– What is the best deal

Some of our clients buy flea treatments from the supermarket. We know they are less effective and in some cases not very safe, so they must be very cheap, right?

We did a cost comparison for flea treatment for a 4.5kg cat and a 20kg dog using products we stock compared to products from the supermarket.

Cat 4.5kg –cost per month.

Dog 20kg –cost per month

Vet Clinic products		Supermarket Products		Vet Clinic products		Supermarket products	
Advantage	= \$8.25	Bayer spot on	= \$7.00	Advantage	= \$9.50	Bayer Spot on	= \$14
Frontline Plus	= \$7.48	Vitapet flea control	= \$14.67	Frontline Plus	= \$9.67	Vitapet flea control	= \$20
Advocate	= \$12.50			Advocate	= \$15.87		
Revolution	= \$9.33						

From this you can see that Spot on is the cheapest product for a 4.5kg cat. However products like advantage and frontline which are safer and much more effective are only slightly more. Note Revolution and Advocate are the most expensive but also include worm and ear mite treatment.

For the 20kg dog Advantage and Frontline Plus were the cheapest so why would you possibly use an inferior product that costs more?

To be honest I was surprised at the results as assumed the supermarket products would be a lot cheaper. I would like to thank Geoff our new vet for doing the research on these products and if you have any questions regarding how the figures were calculated feel free to contact us.



# CASES OF THE MONTH

## Bam Bam gets bowled!

For those of you who read the cases of the month regularly you will notice many of them are related to road traffic accidents. Although it is very distressing for the pet and the owner they are also very rewarding cases. You take a broken animal in pain and put it back together, to hopefully return it back to normal function. It is great to see these animals months later running around like normal.

Bam Bam was another one of these cases, although he nearly wasn't. He came to the clinic with an obviously broken front leg. X-rays were taken and it turned out Bam Bam had broken his humerus very close to the shoulder.

The piece of bone was very small but it had to be attached back on to the end of the leg very securely or the whole thing would fail. Small bits of bone are difficult to work with and the concern is always that it will break in half when a pin is put through it.

The owners were warned of the difficulties and advised that if it didn't work we would have to amputate the limb.

Under anaesthetic, I dissected down to the shoulder joint until the two pieces that needed joining were clearly visible. The bone ends were brought back to their correct alignment and luckily were pretty stable. I then carefully inserted three small pins at different angles to hold the bone in place each time crossing my fingers that the small piece of bone wouldn't become two even smaller pieces.

Luckily, or skilfully, you can decide, it all went well and Bam Bam has now come out of his cage after a month of cage rest and is doing very well and happy to have four legs.

The pins will remain in the shoulder permanently unless they cause a problem in the future.

Every time I will see Bam Bam in the future it will remind why I do my job. It is not about Health & Safety manuals, GST returns or doing the PAYE but it is about helping animals live a happy pain free life.



## All Creatures Great and Small

Most of the cases of the month are usually about dogs and cats but we do also see other pets.

These would include Rabbits, Chinchillas, Guinea pigs, Rats, Birds and in this case a Mouse.

This little mouse had very itchy skin and was scratching the back of his neck making it sore.

The most common reason for this is a mite that lives on the skin and causes irritation.

The way we treat this is by applying a parasite killing drug to the back of the neck.

One problem when treating small pets is that no medicines are made specifically for them. We end up using drugs designed for other animals or people. The dose rate for the parasite killing drug is 1ml per 50kg of sheep!. As you can imagine that requires some careful dilution to make a dose suitable for a tiny mouse.

In New Zealand we actually have quite a restricted range of pets that people can keep to try to protect our native species. When I worked in the UK I saw Hamsters, Gerbils, Snakes, Iguanas, Monitor Lizards, Spiders, Ferrets and my favourite, Tortoises.



## Twisty & Breeze's Column– Get the good stuff!

My servants on the whole haven't done a bad job looking after me. They provide me with my own electric heater which is kept on all night and day. I do hear some grumbling from my man servant about power bills but it stays on and keeps me warm.

My three food bowls are always kept topped up with different variety of food for me to snack when I feel peckish.

You may ask what could I possibly complain about? I will tell you what I have to complain about, those sneaky servants have only been keeping the best food for themselves! They have prawns, roast chicken, steak, and it's warm, with a nice sauce covering it. Once I discovered this I decided that any time I see them eating I will pester them so much they will give me my rightful share.

Occasionally I will get yelled at "you stupid cat! It's a salad" and get a carrot stick thrown at me, but most of the time there is meat involved and I end up getting some.

So, all my cat friends, don't let your servants try to tell you your food is the same as theirs because once you have had prawns you will never want anything else.

The editor says my column is not going to help his cat food sales this month. But I say, when does a cat ever do what they are told to do?

The Twister



## Do you know what we do?

I tend to assume that clients know what services we offer. The other day however a client asked if I would look at some xrays of her dog she was getting done at another clinic. It turned out she didn't realise we could do xrays at our clinic and when she did realise promptly changed her appointment so we could do them for her.

It made me think about what else clients may not be aware that we can do in our clinic.

**1 X-ray facilities**– We are able to take x-rays in our clinic and have an automatic processor so we can produce high quality images in a matter of minutes.

**2 Dentistry**– We have a dental unit with ultrasonic scaler, polisher and drill to take care of your pets teeth.

**3 Laboratory**– We have a biochemistry blood analyser on site which can process blood samples in as little as ten minutes. This is very helpful in getting a quick accurate result when your pet is sick. It is also valuable in doing preanaesthetic checks to make sure an animal is ok to have surgery.

**4 Microscope**– This has many uses including looking for skin parasites that cause mange and checking for crystals in urine.

**5 Microchipping**– We can insert a microchip into your pet during a consult or while having surgery.

**6 Hospital**– We can keep your pet comfortable in our airconditioned hospital room. If they require intravenous fluid therapy we have infusion pumps and fluid warmers.

**7 Puppy Classes**– We run puppy training and socialisation classes at the clinic and can offer help with training and behavioural problems with your dog.

As I start to list our services I realise just how many more things I could write down. The best advice is if in doubt ask us. If we can't do what you want we will almost certainly know someone who can help you.

