

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2010

Vets Comment

Dear Client,

Yeah it is summer again, or it will be when you read this.

Jacqueline will be out at Piha helping out with the surf life saving. She says she tries to avoid the cameras but still seems to end up making an appearance on Piha rescue every year.

I will be spending lots of time on my mountain bike this summer, hopefully making a few trips down to Rotorua to ride the great tracks down there.

Geoff I guess will be left to do all the work this summer. Only kidding I am sure he will get plenty of time to enjoy his first summer in Auckland.

Please take note of our opening hours over Christmas and New Year. These can be found on the back page.

We have also started a web page, so please check it out and feel free to send me any feedback.

I say this every summer but don't forget to get those flea treatments on now.

We wish you and your pets a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year

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

5th Annual Pet Photo Competition



Winner receives a years supply of **Advocate** for their pet.

Proudly supported by **Bayer**

- . Photos can be e-mailed or posted to the clinic.
- . Entries close 5th February 2010
- . Maximum of 2 photos per entrant.
- . Entrant must have taken the photo
- . Photos may appear in our newsletter or on the web site.
- . Please include your name, address & phone number as well as your pets name in the entry.

Check out our new web site at www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz

Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD)

Most people know that fleas on our pets will cause them to itch and cause skin disease. However some dogs and cats appear to have little if any fleas yet have quite severe skin disease. This is because they develop an allergy to the flea saliva so one bite from a flea sets up an allergic reaction. The dog or cat becomes itchy so they scratch and chew their coat, which results in damage to the skin. Bacteria get into the damaged skin resulting in even itchier skin resulting in more scratching and the cycle gets progressively worse.



Dogs and cats can be allergic to food and environmental allergens such as plants but the most common allergic skin disease by far is the Flea Allergy Dermatitis.

Prevention of the disease involves having very good flea control. Treating all pets monthly all the year round is often enough to prevent the condition. Occasionally tablets, creams and shampoos may also be needed to control symptoms.

Can I do anything to prevent my pet getting FAD?

Studies have show that FAD can be created quite easily. Take one pet free of fleas give it a good dose of fleas, then treat it for fleas. You then wait a while, give it another dose of fleas and treat it again. If you keep repeating this the pet will eventually develop FAD.

This may sound like some weird experiment but in reality this is often what happens at home. People will often only treat their pet when they see fleas, so it goes from having lots of fleas to no fleas back to lots of fleas again.

The answer is the same as for treating FAD. Treat all pets all the year round with a good quality flea control product.

We recommend **ADVANTAGE, ADVOCATE, REVOLUTION & FRONTLINE**

Product Review– Peticure Elite



I have had several clients asking me about a new device to trim pets nails that has been advertised on morning TV. It was advertised as easy to use, safe and pain free.

I decided the only way to find out if this is true is to try one.

The device has small tubes of sandpaper that attach on the end and spin like a drill. These grind the nail down.

I was hoping this might be just what we needed as I have never enjoyed clipping nails and we certainly have lots of dogs who don't like it much either.

I gave it to the vets and nurses to try to see whether they liked it. A few days later I found it back in the box and no one was keen to use it any more.

The feed back was:

- A lot of dogs didn't like the noise of the motor.
- It was very slow taking about 30 minutes to do a set of nails on a dog.
- If you tried to go any quicker it generated a lot of heat which was painful to the dog.
- The sand paper disks didn't last very long and had to be replaced.
- The smell of grinding nail was not very pleasant.

I think the Peticure elite could work for some people. You would need to take your time and probably do little and often. I think however if your dog doesn't like his nails being clipped he probably won't like them being ground down either.

I have sent our machine back as I can see no one wants to use it. It was a worthwhile exercise though as at least I can say we tried it.

Microchipping– Don't forget all newly registered dogs must be microchipped.

We can insert a chip in your dog for **\$47**

It is also a good idea to microchip cats as they are prone to accidents and getting lost



CASES OF THE MONTH



Blocked water works for Maxie

Maxie is a ten year old male English toy terrier. He came into the clinic because he was uncomfortable and wouldn't jump up any more. Maxie was admitted and given a general anaesthetic and x-rays of his back and abdomen were taken. Instead of a back problem we saw a large stone in his bladder. When we looked even closer we saw a small stone in his urethra. The urethra is the tube that takes urine from the bladder out through the penis. Dogs actually have a bone in their penis so stones can

become lodged here.

I know what all you men out there are thinking-OUCH!!

It is possible to remove the stone in the urethra by making a small hole behind the penis (again ouch) but Maxie also had one in the bladder.

What we ended up doing was passing a catheter up the urethra and pushing the stone back into the bladder. We then opened up Maxie's abdomen and entered the bladder and removed all the stones.

Maxie has returned to normal and all the discomfort is gone.

The stone will be sent for analysis and Maxie will need to stay on a special diet to make sure they do not reform.

Problem with number two's for Jack

Jack is a nine year old male British shorthair who had a problem with his number twos. The problem was he wasn't very good at passing them. He had developed a condition called megacolon, where his large bowel becomes flaccid and weak.

Despite changes in diet and laxatives Jack kept getting constipated which resulted in him having to have enemas. Not my favourite job and safe to say Jack didn't enjoy it either.

Something drastic had to happen because Jack couldn't continue to live this way.

So that is exactly what we did, something drastic. We removed Jack's large bowel.

The surgery itself has a few challenges. The large bowel is full of bugs which must not be allowed to spill into the abdomen otherwise a peritonitis would develop. The bowel will not completely come out of the abdomen so the surgery must be done inside the abdomen again without allowing any spillage.

The two ends left must be meticulously sutured together so no leakage is possible.

Jack's surgery went very well and he has made a good recovery. Constipation will never be Jack's problem again, in fact not having a large bowel does result in some changes.

Jack now needs to go to the toilet more frequently and his stools are always quite soft. His owners however are delighted with the result as Jack is happy and doesn't require any nasty enemas anymore.



Puppy School Classes available at the clinic.
Go to www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz for more details



Twisty & Breeze's Column– Who Loves Who the Most?

For those of you who read my column regularly, you will know that I live with a stupid dog. We often have arguments about who is most loved by the servants. My servants lives revolve around looking after me and I believe they truly adore me.

The dog on the other hand thinks her mum and dad (The stupid mutt doesn't realise they are my employees not her parents!) love her the most.

Breeze uses arguments like they take her for car rides and she is so precious when she goes to toilet her mum and dad put it in a bag and keep it!!!!

Firstly I hate car rides so see that as a punishment and as for picking up the dogs mess, I simply refuse to believe my servants would ever do such a depraved thing.

Something happened the other day that shocked my little world. The male servant came home in his vehicle and to my surprise Breeze's picture was on the door. I looked to see where my picture was but instead there was a picture of a completely strange cat where my picture should be.

I was very angry and a little hurt. Apparently I am too OLD to be on the ute and a younger better looking cat was used instead.

I thought about sulking for awhile but instead have decided to tear up some new patches of carpet and will try to bring up a fur ball on the couch. That will teach them.

Twisty– I may be old but don't mess with me.



WEB SITE LAUNCHED www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz

Blockhouse Bay Veterinary Centre now has a web site. Yeah, I know everyone has a web site these days how boring. The web site however has taken one million hours of my free time to complete so go on, have a look. The web site is principally set up to provide information about the clinic for new clients. However it does have stuff worth looking at for you long standing clients.

This newsletter will now be found on the web site in future along with old editions.

The web site includes a special offers page where the latest promotions can be found.

The winners of the photo competition for the last four years are on the site and this years winner will join them. I have also included some of your pictures you have sent me so have a look your pet may be on the web site.

If we don't have your email address then please e-mail it to us. This will help us send you reminders when your pet requires vaccinations, follow up treatments or blood tests.

When you email us please include your name and address so we can put your e-mail address on the correct computer record.



Christmas Opening Hours

Closed– December 25th-28th
Closed– January 1st-4th

Open– December 29th-31st
Open– January 5th onwards

