

# BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Autumn 2010

## Vets Comment

Dear Client,

We all had a great Christmas break, although Breeze and Twisty may disagree but you will have to read their column. Jacqueline took part in the King and Queen of the mountain race on boxing day that runs up and down Mount Maunganui. She won the masters women category in a time of 27 minutes. She followed that up with completing the half iron man a few weeks later. That's a 2 km swim, 90km bike ride and 21km run in a little under six hours.

I spent a lot of the summer painting inside the clinic. I really can't say I enjoyed it but the place is gradually looking smarter. Any client who mentions how nice it looks will get extra special service from us.

The web site has been a big success so far with many current and new clients contacting us via the web site with questions or simply up dating their details.

You can check out some of the photo competition entries on the gallery page of the web site. I am sorry if yours doesn't appear but there were simply too many to put them all up.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff & all the team.



David Wang's photo of Max

## 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



Michelle Denley wins a years supply of ADVOCATE for her cat Quila.

The standard of entries was very high this year especially since entries came from all over the country, via the new web site.

I loved this picture as Michelle has managed to capture those mischievous eyes, perfectly focused while the background is slightly blurred.

Check out some of the other entries on the Gallery page of the web site.

Check out our new web site at [www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz](http://www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz)

## Getting a new dog.

So you have decided you would like to get a dog. The question is what type of dog?

There are a number of things to consider.

### How Big?

A Great Dane or an Irish Wolf Hound may seem like a great idea and both breeds can make loving pets. You will need plenty of space at your house, you will need a vehicle capable of moving them and the cost of food and medical care will be higher than that for a small breed dog.

A small dog like a Chihuahua can make a great companion; you could even put it in your handbag and go shopping like Paris Hilton! However if you want to go jogging every day with your dog this is not the dog for you.

### Pure Bred or Mongrel?

Contrary to popular belief a pure bred dog is no more likely to be healthy than a crossbred. In fact the reverse is probably true as many pure bred dogs are prone to breed related inheritable disorders such as skin allergies, hip dysplasia and other joint abnormalities, heart murmurs and many many more.

Why do we get pure breeds then? The reason is we have a pretty good idea of what we are getting. I have always have had Golden Retrievers because they have great temperaments and are very athletic.

A crossbred puppy can be a slight gamble as to what you are getting, but if you know the parents you can have some idea.

### Designer dogs.

These are crossbred dogs but usually have been deliberately crossed often with a poodle. For example a labradoodle is a Labrador crossed with a poodle. The poodle component means the coat does not moult which is great for people allergic to dog hair. Some breeders don't like the whole designer dog thing but personally I have no problem with it. Being a crossbred the dog is less likely to show inherited disorders and you have a reasonable idea regarding looks and temperament. Coat types can be extremely variable though.

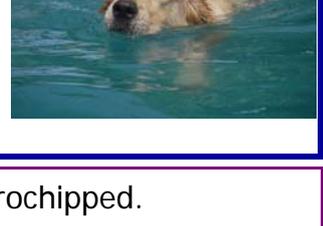
My only slight concern is that a good Labrador breeder will often test for conditions like hip dysplasia. This is often not done with designer dogs so a Labrador with bad hips could result in a Labradoodle with bad hips.

### Temperament.

I personally believe this should be one of your most important attributes to look at. A dog should be a companion and trusted member of the family. We often hear in the news that it is not the dog's fault but the owner. This is only partly true. Some dogs like to swim, some herd sheep, some retrieve balls and some like to attack and fight. Who in their right mind would go out and choose a dog that has a propensity to fight? When was the last time you read the paper and it said "Child in hospital after mauling by Cavalier King Charles?"

What ever type of dog you choose remember you will have him or her for many years, maybe over 15 years, so choose one that will suit your lifestyle now and into the future.

All the photo down the right hand side were entries in the photo competition. I will try to get a selection of cat ones in the next newsletter.



**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

## Vixen ends up full of metal

Poor Vixen is a young female Sydney Silky who thought she would have an adventure. Unfortunately her adventure ended up with her being run over by a car.

Vixen was brought into the clinic and treated for shock and given pain relief. When she was stable she was given an anaesthetic and xrays were taken. Vixen had broken her Femur (Thigh bone) very close to her knee joint.

Surgery was performed to stabilise the fracture. A pin was placed down the centre of the bone but this alone did not provide adequate stability. Additional pins were placed through the bone sticking out through the skin. They were then connected together with special nuts and a rod on the outside of the leg. This is called an external fixator.

Vixen recovered well but had to be cage rested for four weeks. We then re-xrayed the leg to confirm that the fracture had healed. At this stage we undid all the nuts and removed the pins.

Vixen is now back to normal and running around as if nothing ever happened. Hopefully she has learned her lesson about staying clear of cars.



## Chaos-A weird case solved.

The case of Vixen above is a nice one for us vets; we rapidly know what is wrong and go about fixing it. The next case of Chaos a ten year old male cat turned out to be much more confusing.

Chaos presented to the clinic not eating and losing weight. A clinical exam followed up by blood tests showed no abnormalities. We tried some antibiotics with Chaos with no success. He then started opening his mouth in a strange way, which looked, like he was having difficulty eating. Xrays of his skull and body were taken and several bad teeth removed. Xrays showed no jaw abnormalities but possibly something in his stomach.

Chaos was sent home with pain relief but still refused to eat.

By this stage Chaos hadn't eaten properly for over a month! We re-xrayed him and his stomach still looked strange so he went into surgery for exploratory surgery. To our surprise his stomach contained tightly wrapped plastic.

This was removed and Chaos made an immediate recovery including stopping doing the strange behaviour with his jaw.

It was a relief to finally get an answer and one we were able to fix.

This case is unusual as cats, unlike dogs, are usually much more careful about what they will swallow. Foreign bodies in the stomach usually cause vomiting but Chaos didn't vomit. The jaw I can only assume was some sort of reflex from his stomach being stretched.

This case does show that if you keep looking long enough you will eventually make a diagnosis to a sick patient.



**Puppy School Classes** available at the clinic.  
Go to [www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz](http://www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz) for more details



## Twisty & Breeze's Column– Christmas sucks

I want to tell you about my sucky Christmas. It started off great, Mum and Dad took me to my Grandparents farm which I love. On Christmas day we went to the beach (my favorite place) to chase my ball (my favorite thing) and I was having a great time. Then dad said "what are all the red patches on the sand?" It turned out that the red stuff was coming from my foot and this was not a good thing.

Dad found some stuff to wrap my foot up in, including a plastic bag. I

must say it looked most unprofessional.

This is when my holiday took a major dive. I wasn't allowed to swim, which is like saying please stop breathing for a week. I couldn't chase my ball and worst of all I had to wear this thing on my foot. It was very difficult to get off and I had to chew it in secret otherwise I got told off. It was all a waste of time as when I did manage to finally get to lick my foot again Dad would stick another bandage on my foot with heavy duty insulation tape!

My foot is all healed up now but it was not the best holiday I could have hoped for.

### The Breeze.

That story is so pathetic I want to bring up a hair ball. At least the dumb mutt got to take the servants with her. I was left home alone with temporary staff who only popped in twice a day to give me some basic rations. The mutt failed to mention she was fed turkey and ham while she was having this terrible holiday.

### The neglected cat- The Twister



## My Days at Daycare – Tails from Java

My time has flown. It doesn't seem that long ago I was enjoying the rural life down on the farm. Since the big shift up to Auckland my dad and mum (Geoff and Becs) have been very busy working at their vet jobs.

I spent the last 3 years with 10,000,000m<sup>2</sup> of farm to run around on and keep my busy little nose/brain active. By the time I've explored my entire 100m<sup>2</sup> backyard here in Auckland, I've still got the other 23.9 hours in the day to occupy. You see I need a lot of stimulation to keep me busy and happy. It therefore made sense for mum and dad to send me off to Lisa and her helpers at K9to5 daycare, on the couple of days where they are both at work all day. Daycare gives me plenty of social interaction with all sorts of dogs from little fluffy ones to big slobbery ones and none of them look anything like my old Huntaway and Heading dog friends from on the farm. Socialisation, exercise, play, sleep time, and heaps of human contact with all the staff at daycare mean that mum and dad can go to work knowing I'm in good hands for the day and I come home happy and tired, much to their delight.

Despite how cute I look, I am a dog who can get on people's nerves some times. I like to bark at sirens and alarms (fire, police, car, house) when they go off and this habit got me in trouble with the council within the first week of arriving up here in Auckland. Doggy Daycare has benefits for other dogs like me who have certain habits that other people find annoying. We are too busy doing stuff at daycare to even worry about the odd car horn or police siren, and that keeps me on good terms with all of my regular neighbours at home.

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If you want to know any more about Doggy Daycare just ask my dad (Geoff).

JAVA

*For those of you who haven't met Java yet he is a seven year old male Spoodle and belongs to Dr Geoff Neal.*

