

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



24 Donovan Street, Blockhouse Bay
Phone: 626 3456
Fax: 627 1073
E-mail: vets@bbhvets.co.nz
www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz

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Vets Comment

Dear Client,

Hopefully by the time you read this Jacqueline will have made it back to Scotland and the volcano with the unpronounceable name will have not caused her any delay. She is having a holiday, seeing the folks and of course you might as well run the Edinburgh marathon while you are there.

I have to stay behind and work. Well I don't have to stay behind but three weeks with the in laws is not my idea of a holiday. Oops I think Jacqueline sends them copies of this newsletter-sorry! Frontline ran a colouring competition recently and many of our local kids entered.

Hannah and Alyssa Carr both won prizes. Alyssa won a years supply of Frontline for their dog Bella and Hannah won a camera.

I am sure they were both delighted with their prizes and am certain there was no squabbling over the camera.

Talking of fleas, this summer turned out to be a long dry one with many clients struggling to control the fleas on their pets. Remember don't stop applying flea treatment in the winter and you are much less likely to see a problem in the summer. Waiting until you see fleas is generally a bad idea as the environment will be heavily contaminated by this stage meaning it will take some time to get the flea population under control.

Look forward to seeing you soon

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff & all the team.

THE TEAM

VETS: Lance Eastman, Jacqueline Eastman & Geoff Neal
NURSES: Fiona Hammond, Louise de Schot Chloe Knowles
RECEPTIONISTS: Margaret Galbraith, Vanessa Harrison & Andrea Spears

PRACTICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 7.00pm
Saturday 8.30am to 2.00pm

COMFORTIS

New flea treatment for dogs available.

A new flea treatment has been launched in New Zealand for dogs that is given as a tablet once a month. Comfortis claims that fleas start dying 30 minutes after the tablet is ingested and kills 100% of the fleas by 4 hours. This is a very fast knock down of fleas on your dog. Comfortis can be used on its own or can be used along side other flea treatments such as Advantage or Frontline.



The boxes come with six tablets in them but initially we are going to sell tablets individually so you can try one dose on your pet first if you wish. Breeze and Java have been our Guinea Pigs and it seemed to work ok with them.



Buddy regrets his decision to engage in horse play.

A Tale of Two Cats

A few weeks ago we had two lost cats brought into the clinic on the same day with a similar story but they had different outcomes. The first cat was a young black male who had turned up one day about a month ago at a clients house. They started feeding him and he stayed around, before long they became very attached to him and decided to take him to the vets to get checked out.



The first thing we do in these cases is check for a microchip and luckily he had one. We looked up his number on the internet and found his owner.

His owners were so happy to get him back after a month missing that the whole family came up to the clinic to pick him up.

The family who had been feeding him were sad to have to give him back but glad to know he was back with his family who missed him very much.

The second cat was a large ginger male who had also been hanging out at a clients house for the last couple of months. She brought him in for us to check but sadly he did not have a microchip.

The client really didn't need another cat but as he was such a nice friendly boy she decided to keep him.

Both cats ended up with good homes but I am sure that out there somewhere is a family wondering what happened to their big ginger boy.



These stories are very typical of what we see. I have lost count of the number of times I ask "how old is your cat?" to be told "I don't know he just showed up one day"

A microchip can be injected under the skin of a cat in a matter of seconds for a small amount of money. It is a permanent form of identification for your cat linking it back to you in case anything happens to it now or at any time in its life.

Special Offer-FRONTLINE



Bring in this voucher and receive a
FREE pipette of FRONTLINE
when you purchase any cat six pack
or dog three pack.

Strictly while promotional stock lasts.
Not available with extra large dog.

Dentistry- Special Offer



Bring in this voucher and receive a
FREE examination of your pets teeth.
If your pet should require any dental work
Receive 20% off.

Offer valid until 31.8.10





CASES OF THE MONTH

Pumpkin Nearly Loses a Leg.

Pumpkin is a young male cat and like many cats didn't have great road sense. He was brought into the clinic as an emergency after being run over.

We treated him for shock and pain and when stable was anaesthetised to have a closer look at his leg. His foot was severely traumatised and x-rays showed a broken leg.

The owners were phoned to talk about options. One option was to amputate the badly damaged leg. Pumpkins owners were understandably not keen on this option so we decided to try and save the leg.

All of the ends of Pumpkins toes on that foot were removed and what skin there was stitched back together. The leg was bandaged up with a splint in it to stabilise the fracture.

Pumpkin initially had to have a general anaesthetic twice a week to change the dressing. The foot slowly healed up and the fracture healed even slower.

Poor Pumpkin had to stay in a cage at home to rest the leg. He was an active cat and was not happy about this but it was for his own good. After a total 12 weeks in the cage, 8 general anaesthetics, 5 bandage changes and 4 lots of x-rays Pumpkins leg was all healed.

It would have been much quicker and cheaper to have amputated Pumpkin's leg but his owners are happy he is in one piece and I am sure Pumpkin is happy now it is all over.



Gianni gets cured of baldness.

Gianni is a 12 year old, male Golden Retriever who's coat was becoming very thin. He was also drinking lots of water and was slower and panting more.

These are all symptoms of a disease called Cushings. Cushings is caused by an over active part of the brain called the pituitary which produces too much of a hormone which makes the adrenal glands produce too much steroids. Yes it is rather complicated but basically Gianni was getting over dosed on steroids.

We did a special blood test on Gianni and sure enough he was positive for Cushings.

Gianni is on special tablets that reduce the amount of steroids that his adrenal glands produce.

The result was Gianni grew back his shaggy coat, drank less and stopped panting so much.

Gianni has now been on Cushings treatment for 20 months and is doing well, he has regular blood tests to check the status of his adrenal glands.

Steroids often get a bad rap and certainly too much of them will cause side effects. However the body needs steroids to function normally. If the Cushings treatment causes the adrenals to stop producing enough steroids then Gianni could get sick and even die. This is why it is so important he has his regular blood tests.



Before Treatment

After Treatment



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



Twisty & Breeze's Column-Dodgy Guts

I want to tell you about a really bad night I had recently. Now since I was just a wee pup I could hold on all night without needing a trip to the bath room. However one night my stomach really didn't feel right and I knew I couldn't hold it. I really didn't want to wake Mum and Dad but I really didn't want to have an accident in my bed!

I started to whine, quietly at first but when I got no response I got louder. It wasn't too long before Mum came to the rescue. She opened the door and let me out. As I ran outside I heard a noise in the bush and momentarily forgot why I was running outside so fast. I charged into the bush barking at the top of my voice. My Mum then yelled at me to come inside in her angry voice. I ran back inside to my bed and Mum went off to hers.



Bugger I still needed to go real bad. I had no choice I would have to start whining again. It took a lot longer this time and I was really getting desperate but eventually Dad came to my rescue.

Dad opened the door and I ran out as fast as I could. Wait a minute I think I heard something in the bush again. I charged into the bush and barked at the top of my lungs. I then got "BREEZE get in here" in Dads angry voice, which is a lot more scary than Mums angry voice.

I ran inside and back to bed and Dad went back up stairs. I heard Mum say "What did you let her out for? She will wake the neighbours!"

BUGGER BUGGER BUGGER I still hadn't gone and it was too late! The smell was so bad Twisty left out her cat flap. How I wish I could have got out that thing.

I was worried about how angry Mum and Dad would be in the morning but they took pity on me and gave me a bath and cleaned my bed.

In future I will try to remember, go to toilet first, bark at possums second.

Breeze.



Internet payments becoming very popular

A few years back I got the occasional internet payment from a client and had to remember to look out for them. That number has grown dramatically and now I need to check them off on a daily basis.

Many of our clients find this a very helpful way to budget for their pets veterinary care. They set up a payment to come out of their account on a regular basis. We have clients who would struggle to pay a bill of several hundred dollars but then started putting in payments of \$10 per week. Before they know it they are in credit and when the next problem with their pet arises they have money to pay for it. If they don't have enough it doesn't matter as we know they make regular payments which will settle the account in the next few months.

In the past clients would offer to come in and make regular payments but would fail to do so. They would then be refused any credit in the future. Now with the internet these clients can set up small regular payments and end up with a good credit history.

If you are keen to set up internet payments then give the clinic a call and we can give you the account details.

A quick note to those clients who use this service or are thinking about it. **Please put as much information in the reference box as possible.** Simply putting in your name like "Smith" can be quite a challenge to find out which client has sent the money. Even harder when your pet is registered under your partners name of "Brown"! If you put in your surname followed by your pets name and possibly even the street number that should be plenty.

