

# BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Spring 2010

## Vets Comment

Dear Client,

Winter is now behind us and we have Spring to look forward to. Jacqueline got back from Scotland Ok and now Geoff is off for four weeks holiday in the UK. I know what you're thinking "What about your holiday Lance?" I have been thinking the same thing but it doesn't look promising. We are delighted to have Louise officially back with us from maternity leave. Louise and Luke had a baby boy called Roland and all was going well until he got sick, which affected his heart. It was touch and go for quite some time and Roland ended up having open heart surgery. Roland is now doing well and behaving like any other baby. I apologise for the theme of this newsletter in advance. I have written two articles on Peeing and then unbeknown to me Twisty has written her column on peeing also!

I know at times I must sound like a broken record but don't forget if you are not using flea treatment yet then put it on now. Do not wait until you see them as by this stage your house will already be full of flea eggs.

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

## PRACTICE HOURS

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

## BREEZE'S 4TH BIRTHDAY BASH



That's right I am going to be 4 years old on the 31st of October. To celebrate I am going to Kakamatua to chase my ball and go swimming.

If you are a friendly dog and love a bit of fun then why don't you come and join me.

My Mum and Dad are taking me to Kakamatua at **9.00am on Sunday the 31st of October.**

Will go rain or shine as I plan on getting wet either way. If you are interested maybe drop my Dad an e-mail so he has an idea of how many are coming.

Special Offer– Cut this coupon and receive

**\$10 OFF a Microchip**

coupon valid until 30th November 2010



## My Cat Pees Inside!

This is a surprisingly common problem and in many cases a very serious problem. The cat may not die from peeing inside but many people simply cannot cope and get rid of the cat.

The first thing is to act quickly. The longer the cat does a behaviour, the harder it will be to change.

The first thing we need to work out is, is the inappropriate urination purely behavioural or is there a medical component? In many cases the cat will have a urinary

tract disease resulting in discomfort and urinating in strange places. The vet will often test a urine sample to see if something is wrong and come up with an appropriate treatment.

If it is not medical we need to look at the cat's behaviour. Is the cat squatting and urinating or spraying behind it often on vertical surfaces? Remember both males and females can spray even if de-sexed.

If your cat urinates inside and you don't have a litter tray then get one. It has to be better to clean a tray than clean the couch or the sofa. Put the tray where the cat is urinating even if it seems a weird spot. If the cat uses the tray you can then gradually start moving it to somewhere more appropriate. Use deodorising cleaners to remove the smell of the urine as cats will go back to the same sites. On a practical sense, limit access to some rooms like the bedrooms. A cat can't pee where it can't go.

Cats will often urinate inside if stressed. We have tablets and a pheromone diffuser that can help with this.

There are many reasons your cat could be urinating inside, far too many to go through them all here. My principle message is if your cat starts urinating inside and you can't get on top of it within a few weeks then seek help from your vet.



## You Pee On It You Bought It!

Here at the clinic we are very used to the messes pets make and are more than happy to clean them up.

We do get annoyed however when owners allow their dog to wander around the waiting room cocking their leg all over the merchandise.

Most of these dogs would never do this at home but it is quite common in our clinic environment.

Over the years we have had hundreds of dollars worth of stock damaged and unable to be sold.

The answer is simple keep your dog on a lead so he is unable to walk around the room cocking his leg. If your dog does pee over the stock don't be surprised if you are asked to pay for it!

**Cat Cage Tip-**As this page seems completely devoted to urinating I thought I would offer another useful tip. When you take your cat anywhere in a cage put newspaper on the bottom. If the cat urinates in transit the paper will soak up the urine. The alternative is your cat has to sit in a swimming pool of its own urine-Yuk.

Newspaper is better than a towel as cats will often get underneath the towel.



## Puppy School Classes available at the clinic.

Go to [www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz](http://www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz) for more details  
Or phone us at the clinic and we will send out an information sheet.





# CASES OF THE MONTH

## Everyone Loves Puppies

There are many rewarding parts to my job but bringing new life into the world has to be one of the best.

Milly is a Shih Tzu who has had pups once before but had trouble giving birth. It was decided this time that she would have an elective caesarean to maximise the chances of the pups being born ok.

The hardest part about these is to decide when to do the caesarean. Too early and the pups will be slightly premature, and too late and she may go into labour in the middle of the night.

We were confident with our mating dates so she was admitted to surgery. Milly was given a general anaesthetic and as a result the pups were also under anaesthetic. The surgeon needs to work quickly and efficiently to get the pups out as soon as possible. The pups are not as lively as if born naturally so it is critical to have nurses available to stimulate the pups to encourage them to take those first few breaths. It is always a little nerve racking at first but eventually they will cry out and you know they are going to be fine.

The surgeon must close up the mum's uterus and abdominal wall. Unfortunately poor mum doesn't get long to recover from her surgery as she has lots of pups, in this case five, looking for their first feed.

Milly is a great mum but it has been decided that this will be her last litter.



## Lucy Gets A Boxer Tail

Lucy was a very lucky Boxer as she had a long tail. Unfortunately the end of the tail became traumatised and started to bleed. Now you would think if your tail was sore and bleeding you would be very careful with it. However this is rarely the case and Lucy was no exception. She would stand in a door way wagging her tail banging it against the door frame and redecorating her owners house with a fine splattering of blood.

We tried bandaging the tail for a while but tails can be difficult to get to heal so we decided to amputate the tail. Normally in these situations we take off just a small piece of tail but given Boxers usually have docked tails we decided to amputate it short.

Lucy was given a general anaesthetic and the tail was amputated and the skin was sutured over the remaining stump to protect it. Lucy had a bandage over the tail stump but was also made to wear a Elizabethan collar to prevent her getting at the sutures.

Now some people may say this is evidence we should dock tails. However we see many breeds of dogs who normally have tails also injure them. Clients with Labradors and German Shepherds are very reluctant to have their dogs tails amputated if injured. I don't believe a boxer is any more likely to injure it's tail than say, a Dalmation.

A recent study in the UK concluded that 500 dogs would need to be docked to save one tail injury. The overall risk of a tail injury being 0.23% per year.





## Twisty & Breeze's Column-Giant Litter Tray

I know it is not polite to talk about going to the toilet but it is something very important to us cats. I am an elderly cat now with a wonky hip so having a convenient toilet is critical.

When it is dry I like to walk across the lawn and do my business in the vegetable garden. My servants don't like this but I don't care as I don't eat vegetables. If it is raining I choose to go in the pot plant sitting on the deck as this is under cover.

Now everything was fine until my servants had some sort of brain explosion. One day my male servant removed all of the paving stones outside the house. This was brilliant, what was left was a vast area of sand for me to go in. I knew he really loved me.

However, the next thing I know a digger comes and digs up the entire lawn. Instead of sand I now had mud which I simply refused to walk in let alone do anything else. My servants even removed my favourite pot plant so I have nowhere to go.

I got excited when I saw more sand being laid but the servants covered it up with more paving stones. Apparently this is called land scaping but if you ask me they have made a pigs ear of it all. I once had lawns to walk on and now all I have is mud. I am pretty much trapped in the house.

My servants assure me the grass will grow back eventually but I liked the way it was before.

My only consolation is the dumb mutt, Breeze doesn't care at all about mud and every time she goes outside she gets covered in mud and then runs back inside. My servants gets very frustrated by this but I think it serves them right for ripping up my lawn.



## Ear Mites an Itchy Problem

Ear mites are a small parasite called *Otodectes Cynotis* which live in the ear canals of dogs and cats. They cause a dry crumbling or waxy dark brown debris in the ears which is very itchy.

This will result in head shaking and scratching of the ears. Ear mites are very contagious and will often spread to kittens and puppies from their mothers.

Ear mites can also survive outside the ear canal on the skin. This historically has made treatment a challenge. Ear ointments would be applied to kill the mites in the ear. The ear would clear up but become reinvested by the mites surviving outside the ear.

I use the word "historically" as treating ear mites was made a lot easier when **Revolution** and later **Advocate** were released. These are flea treatments that are applied to the back of the neck, however they are also effective at killing ear mites.

Revolution and Advocate have made getting rid of ear mites so much easier. It is important to treat all the pets at home and this should be repeated after one month. Given the need for flea control it is often simpler to continue to use once monthly.

Although these products kill mites it is also important to clean the ear canals well. Also as a result of the scratching secondary infections can occur requiring antibiotic ear ointments.

Now after reading this article many of you will want to make a self diagnosis of ear mites in your pet. **A word of caution.** I would say 90% of people who see me and think their pet has ear mites especially in dogs are wrong. There are much more common reasons to have itchy mucky ears.

It is important to get the ears checked by a vet first. I won't make a diagnosis of ear mites until I have seen them under the microscope.

