

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2011

Vets Comment

Dear Client,

Now everybody knows that I am slightly crazy about my pets but I wasn't sure how crazy you guys were. So when I announced Breeze was having a birthday party I wasn't sure of the response. It turns out that a lot of you are as crazy, if not more crazy, than me. We had a good turnout on the day but will leave Breeze to tell you more. I would like to thank all those who attended and everybody who couldn't make it but sent best wishes and even presents. We have been very active when not working. Jacqueline came second masters women in the Legend marathon run in the Waitakeres and second women in the Great Barrier marathon. I don't know if Geoff is catching the bug as he did the Auckland half marathon. As for me I have been doing my mountain bike racing but unfortunately I never bring home trophies like my wife does.

We wish you and all your furry families
A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff & all the team.



Riley couldn't make the party but sends his best wishes

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

6th Annual Pet Photo Competition



Send us your best picture of your furry friends.

The winner will receive a years supply of **ADVOCATE** to keep them flea and worm free.

Check out some of the previous years entries on our web site.

Competition Rules:

Entries can be e-mailed to vets@bhbvets.co.nz or posted to the clinic.

A maximum of two photo's per entrant please.

The photo must be taken by the entrant.

Entries close 7th Feb 2011

Christmas Hours

■ We will be closed Saturday 25th –Tuesday 28th.

■ We are open Wednesday 29th-Friday 31st.

■ We are Closed Saturday 1st– Tuesday 4th.

■ We reopen as usual Wednesday 5th January

■ Note: Friday 24th Dec and Friday 31st Dec we will close at 5pm.

Don't let your pets suffer in silence.

In many ways dogs and cats are like their owners. As they get older they start to suffer from aches and pains they never experienced when they were younger— no wonder they start to slow down!

As with humans, the cause of aches and pains in older cats and dogs is often arthritis, but unlike their owners, they can't call their doctor and make an appointment when they start to "feel their age". They seldom let their owners know as the condition develops slowly. In fact, they often adapt and hide it from you, so when they finally let you know, you can be sure the pain is really severe.



That's why we recommend regular health checks for senior pets. A simple consultation could save your dog or cat from unnecessary pain. We'll look for early signs of stiff joints, and recommend a suitable treatment program. This could include some diet changes, exercises for your dog and suitable medication aimed at reducing pain and stiffness.

Remember, arthritis in cats and dogs is extremely common. In fact, one in two dogs over the age of six has some form of musculoskeletal problem and 90% of cats over the age of twelve.

TAKE THE ARTHRITIS TEST: Does your pet show any of the following symptoms?

Reluctance to walk or play, difficulty in getting up after rest, difficulty in climbing stairs, difficulty in climbing into car/chair, limping or stiffness, change in character, reduced interaction with people, change in toilet behaviour?



Special Offer

Make an appointment to get your pet checked over for arthritis. If he or she is thought suitable for arthritis treatment then you will receive a **FREE trial bottle of Metacam** to try with your pet.

If your pet becomes happier and more active on the medication then you have the option of continuing –What have you got to lose?

Normal consultation and diagnostic fees apply if required.

Who Loves Worming Cats?

If the answer is NOT YOU then read on. I often get people telling me they think the animals know you are trying to help them. If this is the case how do you explain tableting cats? I am sure most of our beloved cats are actually convinced you are trying to poison them and will fight to the death to prevent this happening.

There is good news however. A wormer is available that kills all the worms including tape worms and is administered as a drop of liquid on the back of the neck.

Yes I am aware that some cats still believe this is a form of poisoning and again will run for their lives but as a general rule this is easier than giving a tablet and usually involves less blood shed (usually yours!)

The good news gets even better. We have a supply of **FREE** samples to try on your cat.



Simply come into the clinic and ask to try a **FREE PROFENDER** wormer for your cat.



We have limited stocks so it is strictly available while these stocks last. Only one free worm treatment per customer.



CASES OF THE MONTH

Introducing CC

CC is a young female cat who was at that age where she was coming into season. She must have been in the search for a handsome Tom cat and wasn't paying attention as she got hit by a car.

Luckily a nice lady stopped and brought her straight to us. Poor CC had a broken jaw and a bashed in face and was looking rather sad. We made CC comfortable with lots of pain relief and awaited a call from her owner.

The next day we had heard nothing. We couldn't leave CC with a broken jaw so took her into surgery and placed a wire loop around her jaw to hold the two sides together. Normally it takes a while and some special care from the nurses to get them eating after such an injury but CC wasn't messing about and pretty much ate shortly after surgery.

Days turned into weeks and still nobody came looking for her. CC had a great personality and all the staff had fallen for her charms. It was decided that if nobody wanted her she could be the clinic cat or CC.

She has now been spayed, vaccinated, flea treated, wormed, micro-chipped and has a collar with her own special name tag.

She will have to have one more anaesthetic to remove the wire from her jaw but at present you would never know it was there.

The very first thing we did with CC was scan for a microchip. If she would have had one, we could have contacted her owners immediately and they could have had her fixed and back home in no time. If your cat is an outdoor cat and you actually like the cat and would want it back if something should happen to it, then put a collar on with some ID or microchip the cat or better still, both.



Cherry Eyes for Winston

Winston is a seriously cute 12-week-old male British Bulldog puppy.

His owner got a shock when one morning Winston had a red swelling poking out the corner of his eye.

She brought him down to see us and on examination we diagnosed a Cherry Eye. Now a cherry eye is actually a gland that produces tears in the third eyelid that has prolapsed out.

Once upon a time we simply cut them out, however these dogs often developed dry eyes from insufficient tears.

We didn't want that for Winston so did a surgery whereby the gland is pushed back in place and held there with special suture material attached to the bone on the edge of his eye socket. The surgery in theory is relatively simple but in reality is very fiddly to perform.

Winston's eye did great but unfortunately a few weeks later his other eye did the same. He had surgery on this eye also and has never looked back.

This problem is usually seen in young puppies and certain breeds are much more common, with Bulldogs probably being the most common breed affected.

Once the surgery is done however they do not normally have any more problems with Cherries popping out their eyes.



Breeze's Birthday Party

Now my Mum and Dad often take me to the beach to play with my ball, so I wasn't that surprised when one Sunday we went to Kakamatua.

What I didn't expect was loads of my friends also

turned up. Apparently it was

a celebration of my fourth Birthday. It has never happened before so I don't know if I should have had three previous parties. Never mind.

My good friend Maya the boxer was there, she is very nice but has something wrong with her face and has no tail. Frank was also there, he is nice but has some weird skin condition where he is white with black spots! We also had a couple of dogs with short little legs but most of my friends were just like me, normal.

I was taught never to discriminate against abnormal looking dogs so we all played happily together. I think by the end of my party we were all exhausted and luckily my Dad had goodie bags for all my friends to get some energy back.

I just hope I get a fifth birthday party as I had so much fun.

Breeze.



If you want to see more pictures of Breeze's birthday then look on the back page.

If you can't see the back page it is because you are looking at the old fashioned paper version.

Go to www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz and check out the newsletters there.

While you are there why not send us your e-mail address so you are always kept up to date.



Pet Diabetes Month

Well actually pet diabetes month was in November but never mind you can still take part.

If you didn't realise dogs and cats could become diabetic, you are not alone. Many owners do not realise that diabetes can affect pets too. In fact it is currently estimated that 1 in 100 dogs and cats develop diabetes and this is likely to grow as pet obesity grows.

Symptoms of Diabetes:

- Drinks more water than usual.
- Urinates more frequently or has "accidents" in the house.
- Always acts hungry, but loses weight.
- Is less active and/or sleeps more.
- Has thinning, dry and dull hair.

As part of Pet Diabetes Month we are giving you the chance to **check your pet for diabetes for free.**

If you have received this newsletter by post there should be a glucose test strip inside.

Simply dip the strip in a sample of your pet's urine. If the strip turns green then it has detected glucose in the urine and you should make an appointment to get your pet checked.

If you are looking at this on the Internet and would like to test your pet then request a free strip next time you are in the clinic or bring in a sample and we will check it for you free of charge.

Offer runs till the end of February 2011 or when promotional test strips run out.



Breeze's 4th Birthday Party

Thank you to all who attended and I hope you all had fun.

