

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Winter 2011

Dear Client,

This is supposed to be a newsletter about your pets health but this one seems to be more about Triathlons. Jacqueline finished her Ironman but she will tell you about that on page 2. Breeze has also offered her opinion of the day in her column.

Sindy has been busy with lots of puppy classes lately, which is great as we all love to see new puppies coming into the clinic, especially after the classes, as the pups love coming into the clinic and see it as a place of play and treats rather than a scary hospital.

Louise, one of our nurses, son had heart surgery at Starship Children's Hospital.

He is now doing great but if we can help the hospital that would also be great. If you have an old mobile phone working or not, drop it into the clinic and we will forward them on to Starship. Apparently they can recycle them and this generates funds for the hospital.

I would also like to thank all those who gave money to help the animals displaced by the Christchurch earthquake.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff
and all the team.

Directions for making Lasagna



Step 1: Remove cat from dish...

THE TEAM

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

PRACTICE HOURS

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

SPECIAL OFFERS

\$10 OFF

Microchipping

Mention this add when booking in your pets microchip and receive a \$10 discount.

Offer expires 31st August 2011



**Iams
Hairball Formula 1 kg**

Only \$10

Normally \$17.50

Offer available while promotional stock lasts.



**FREE
Cat Bean Bag**

With purchase of
Iams Chicken 3kg

Offer available strictly while stocks last.



My Journey to Ironman

Some of you may have seen me doing my training to become a Surf Lifeguard on Piha Rescue... that was a huge challenge and a great achievement.

This year I set myself another challenge; to complete an Ironman Triathlon. The Ironman Triathlon takes place in Taupo, the first weekend in March. It consists of a 3.8k swim, a 180k cycle ride and to finish, a marathon (42.2 km) run.

I had been training and planning for the Ironman for nearly a year but my plans had always been for a clear still beautiful day. On the morning of Ironman it was clear the weather gods had not read my plan as it was a wet rainy day and stayed that way all day.

I have done quite a few triathlon swims and have been pulled under, swam over and punched in the face so given the 1500 entrants I decided to start near the back and let them go for it.

The swim went well and it was onto the bike ride. Luckily I had my winter gear and jacket which were needed as it was cold and wet. It was so wet that I could hardly make out the road let alone the other competitors. For the next 7 1/2 hours all I could think about was how sore my bottom was and how great it would be to get off this bike.

Finally I finished the ride and headed into transition which was now a lake, I literally splashed my way through to get into my running gear. I was so cold the volunteers gave me a rain poncho to run in.

Not exactly stylish but a life saver. The run consisted of 2 laps of 21.1km each but I tried to think of it as 20 cookie stops. Every few kms they have feeding stations and I basically ate and shuffled the 42.2km until after nearly 13 1/2 hours after starting that swim I made the finish chute and heard those sweet words "Jacqueline Eastman, You are an Ironman!"



Cleaning Our Pets Teeth– More that Cosmetic.

We often see dogs and cats with lots of tartar on their teeth and recommend we scale and polish them. I think with a lot of people this is seen as merely a cosmetic procedure and therefore is of very low priority.

That brown tartar on the teeth can be doing a lot more harm than just making our pets breath smell.

The tartar provides a constant source of bacteria which is swallowed resulting in digestive upsets such as vomiting and diarrhoea. The bacteria not only get into the digestive tract but are absorbed through inflamed gums into the blood stream and can effect any organ but most commonly affect the liver and the heart.

As tartar builds up the gums become inflamed and start to recede. If left too long this is often irreversible so even if the tartar is removed pockets around the tooth roots are left so that food gets stuck in these pockets causing tartar to rapidly return.

As this process continues, the teeth will rot and become loose and need to be taken out. Once a tooth is lost its opposing tooth has nothing to work against so this tooth rapidly becomes covered in tartar and the process goes on.

Clearly the best course of action is to remove the tartar before any gum disease starts.

How do I know if my pet needs it's teeth cleaned?

Waiting till your pet has difficulty eating is a very bad idea as in most cases the dental disease will be severe. It is not unusual for us to take out 20 or more rotten teeth in one go in some patients that are still eating ok.

The best option is to get your pets teeth checked by the vet. We would normally do this at the annual health check and vaccinations but take advantage of this special offer and get them checked for free.



FREE DENTAL CHECK UP

If Dentistry required receive a
20% Discount

Must mention offer when making appointment.
Offer expires 31st Aug 2011



CASES OF THE MONTH

Putting Bella Back Together

Bella turned up one morning after spending the night at the after hours clinic after being run over by a car. She had both legs bandaged up and we were aware she had broken one of her legs.

One of the special things about my job is I never know exactly what I am going to be doing on any given day and that day was to be no exception.

Bella went into theatre and was put under general anaesthesia and the dressings removed. It was not a pretty sight at all.

Her right tibia was fractured and she had large open wounds on both back legs. Both legs were almost purple with bruising.

It is always important in these cases to make sure you are aware of all injuries and not just concentrate on the obvious ones, so a full set of xrays were taken. Unfortunately Bella had not only broken her right leg but had broken her pelvis on the left side.

Undeterred we started closing the open wounds on her legs and getting them looking as tidy as possible before performing orthopaedic surgery on the fracture. When a leg is broken the muscles contract down making it hard to get the fracture to line up. Although Bella is only little, no amount of pulling would get the ends together. I ended up slowly levering the two pieces together praying the piece of bone wouldn't snap further. It worked perfectly and the two pieces locked in together. Wire was placed around the bone to stabilise it along with a pin down the centre of the bone.

In some patients if something can go wrong it will. With Bella it was the opposite. The next day she was standing even with a broken pelvis and a pinned leg. The wounds healed up uneventfully and she made a quick recovery although she did have to stay rested in a special crate at home for four weeks.



Injuries Front and Back for Bobbi

You have to feel sorry for poor Bobbi. I saw Geoff amputating the end of the cat's tail and then he moved on to the cat's face and was now wiring its jaw together. I was obviously curious as to how this cat had sustained injuries to its tail and face at the same time.

Apparently the cat was going through a door when the wind blew it closed hitting it in the face then jamming the end of the tail in the door as it tried to escape- Ouch!!

The good news for Bobbi is the jaw healed up well and she was hardly put off her food and a slightly shorter tail will not affect her at all.

I guess she will be nervous about that door though.



Puppy classes run at the clinic- For more info go to www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz

Breeze's Column- The Longest Day

My absolute favourite thing is going on holiday with my Mum and Dad and this year was no exception. However I want to tell you about the longest most boring day of my life so far.

I was woken at five in the morning and I am not really a morning dog. We all headed off to this place called Lake Taupo where thousands of people were wearing strange rubber suits, were standing by the Lake while thousands more watched in rain coats and umbrellas. Mum was also in a strange rubber suit but this is not unusual.

All the people and Mum ran into the water and swam away and I wanted to follow as I am an excellent swimmer but Dad wouldn't let me.

Dad and I then found a spot outside a shop and he stood while I lay down for what seemed like an eternity. Bikes kept going passed but these were apparently road bikes and not mountain bikes so I was not allowed to run along with them.

After yet another life time of waiting and don't forget I am aging seven times faster than my Dad, the bike riders stopped riding and started running. Mum ran past but you guessed it I wasn't allowed to run with her either.

I continued to sleep on a cold wet footpath until the sun went down with only the occasional pat from a passer by for comfort.

My Mum finally stopped running at 8.30pm and we finally got to go home for dinner.

Mum apparently got an "Iron man" medal but where is my medal? I don't know what she did all day but it can't have been as tough as my day.

Breeze

Editors note- I strongly concur with Breeze.



My first and hopefully my last ride on a boat. I was so scared Dad had to carry me on board as I wouldn't get in the boat.

Microchips get pets home.

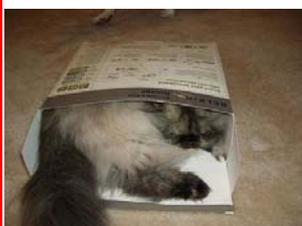
We have always had people bringing in lost and stray animals to the clinic and occasionally we would find they had a microchip in them. With the common practice of micro-chipping we are seeing more of these lost animals having chips.

Just recently we had a small old Bischon Frise who looked like he had been living rougher than he would normally have liked. He was found in Mt Albert and his owners lived in Avondale so how he got that far only the dog knows. The owner was ecstatic to get him home.

Another lady had a stray cat that had been spending a lot of time in her house and she had been feeding this poor stray. She asked if she could put up a sign on our notice board to try and find its owner.

We said "Bring the cat up and we will scan it." Sure enough it had a chip and we looked up the address. The cat belonged to her next door neighbour!

Our advice was to pop the cat back over the fence and maybe introduce herself to her neighbour!



I am beautiful on the inside

I am more than just a cat.

I am an **Iams** cat.

Introducing Iams with PreBiotics

Iams with PreBiotics works inside the digestive tract to promote healthy digestion and strong defenses. Healthier inside. Healthier outside. That's the beauty of Iams ProActive Health. See the power of Iams with PreBiotics at Iams.com



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I have used Iams: Never before Regularly Always

Product purchase: _____

Size: _____ Date Redeemed: _____

Offer expires: 31 August 2011

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*Only completed coupons are valid. Limited to one coupon per bag and one coupon per household. Not exchangeable for cash or valid with any other offer.

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