

# BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Dear Client,

I can't believe another Rugby world cup is upon us. I won't make any predictions on the outcome as that hasn't worked out well for me in the past. What ever the result I hope all New Zealanders can embrace the tournament and show our overseas visitors some great Kiwi hospitality.

Normally I tell you about some crazy endurance event Jacqueline has completed. Not this time however as she stayed behind while I headed off to Canada for two weeks of mountain biking. Maybe not exactly endurance but certainly an adrenaline rush that lasted two weeks.

Geoff and Jacqueline were both very busy while I was away and the clinic ran well without me. I suggested I could be a full time mountain biker but this did not go down well with Jacqueline. I guess you are stuck with me for awhile yet.

I know I often sound like a broken record but the weather will warm up soon so make sure you get that flea treatment on all of your pets NOW.

Look Forward to seeing you soon  
Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff & the Team



## THE TEAM

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

## PRACTICE HOURS

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



## Being Loyal

It seems everything these days has some sort of loyalty scheme whether it be your local coffee shop, Sushi outlet or local baker.

Using Loyalty cards can be beneficial resulting in a reduced price overall. 10% may not seem much but it always seems great to walk away with that item you haven't paid for. Nearly all of our pet foods have loyalty cards effectively making it cheaper for you. We keep a record of all your purchases so if you lose your card no problem we can generate another one.

Even better, if you are like me and can never actually find the right card when standing at the counter we can keep it for you.

Don't forget also that if you can't see the size of bag or exact flavour of the food you want we can order it for you often having it in the same day. If you want to order a food regularly we can make sure a bag is always available for you. If you are a fan of loyalty cards then Revolution the flea treatment has the ultimate one for you. Buy four boxes of three pipettes and get the next box free.

## Bear Watching in Canada.

I have recently returned from a trip to Whistler, Canada to study the behaviour of the Brown bear. Well that might be a slight lie; in fact it was a mountain biking holiday but I certainly saw lots of bears.

I have wanted to go to mountain biking in Whistler for many years and had been planning this trip for some time. Whistler was truly amazing; you could take your bike up the chair lift right up into the snow if you wished then race down the mountain on a wide choice of tracks. When you got to the bottom you did then whole thing again. I would never have got bored of doing this, but just in case we were, we were taken by 4WD to other areas around Whistler to ride the trails in the surrounding mountains.

I must admit one of my other passions is wildlife photography and we literally saw bears every day of the holiday. It is quite disconcerting to come flying down a track to find a bear standing in your way. Luckily I did not hit any. The bike park chair lifts ran from 10.00am to 8.00pm so we literally rode until exhausted. Riding exhausted is never a good idea and did result in the odd mishap. Four to be precise, but apart from a sore hand and leg I basically made it home in one piece. It would have been nice to rest up for a while after the holiday but given Jacqueline had stayed behind to run the clinic so I thought I had better get back to work. I am already planning/dreaming of my return to continue my study of the Canadian brown bear.



Luckily I managed to land this one ok



Note this bear and her cub are standing directly under a jump!

## Be Warned Dogs will Eat Anything!

Now dogs can be strange things at times they can turn up their nose at a different brand of dog food but gladly scoff their way through a load of sheep poo.

In a word they can be unpredictable and this is especially true of puppies that are naturally curious and explore their new world by putting it in their mouth.

We see lots of dogs who have eaten things they shouldn't and their concerned owners wondering if it is going to be serious. One of the most common things is **human medications**.

The vet is left with the dilemma of is a packet of contraceptive tablets eaten by a five kg puppy serious or just rather funny?

If we are not familiar with a drug we will often ring the poison centre who can give us some advice on likely toxicity of an overdose. Often there is no information directly related to pets but often effects on people are similar but not always.

Cats are much more sensitive to a lot of drugs but luckily are not renowned for eating tablets voluntarily. I am sure many of you have experience of trying to give a cat a tablet.

If your pet eats medications phone the vet straight away. DO NOT WAIT to see what happens.

In many cases we will make the dog vomit but in some cases this is not recommended. Induction of vomiting needs to be done soon after ingestion, as drugs will be absorbed quickly.

Keep human and pet medications safely out of reach of your pet. Just because they are in a childproof container doesn't mean your dog can't eat it!





# CASES OF THE MONTH



## No More Itchy Bums for Bertie.

Bertie is a eleven year old male Labrador who has suffered with anal gland infections over the last few years.

Anal glands are two small sacks either side of the anus that are full of a foul smelling material. Once upon a time they were probably used as scent glands but dogs now are unable to empty them voluntarily. In most dogs they never cause a problem except for the occasional bad smell especially if they get a big fright.

In Bertie's case however they kept getting infected and caused discomfort around his bottom. He would try to lick the area or rub his bottom on the ground.

Bertie would have to come into the clinic and have the glands squeezed empty by the vet. A job that neither Bertie or the vet enjoyed. The infections would clear up with antibiotics but tended to re-occur.

It was decided that the problem needed to be solved for good.

Bertie was admitted for surgery to remove the glands. This is a rather delicate job as removing too much tissue around the glands can damage the anus and possibly result in incontinence while leaving some of the gland behind can result in fistulas breaking out through the skin.

The secret is to pack the glands full of material before starting the surgery so they can be easily visualised. I use cotton wool to do this.

The gland is then carefully dissected out and the skin closed.

This is not what I would call fun surgery staring at a dogs anus for thirty minutes but I find it very rewarding and Bertie was no exception.

Bertie recovered well from the surgery although he wasn't so thrilled at having to wear one of those big lamp shade style plastic collars to prevent him chewing at the sutures.

The good news is Bertie will never have problems with his anal glands again as he no longer has any.

## Nip and Tuck for Bess

Bess is a four year old Springer Spaniel who has always been fit and healthy.

She did have one annoying problem though that just couldn't be cleared up.

Bess had smelly sore infections in her lower lip folds. Antibiotics and anti-bacterial washes helped but wouldn't get rid of the problem.

The problem is not uncommon in Spaniels and is due to the tight folds and excessive skin on either side of the lower lips.

The answer to the problem is a bit of a nip and tuck. Under general anaesthetic an incision is made along the side of the mouth on both sides just below the lip margin. A second incision on each side is made to remove all of the folds and excess skin. The two incisions are closed, effectively tightening up all the skin on the chin and removing any folds for infection to develop in.

The surgery was a great success and Bess now no longer has any infection around her lips. Her owners say she has been a much more playful happy dog since the surgery.



## Breeze's Column- Do pets have favourites?

I know a dog shouldn't really have favourites but to be honest I like my Mum the best. She always talks softly, smells nice, and lets me lie on the carpet even when muddy and best of all if she is eating something she will always share with me.

Recently however my Dad went away for two weeks (That's nearly 4 months in dog years). It was during this time I learnt to appreciate some of his qualities. You see when my Dad takes me out for a walk, he ambles along slowly throwing the ball for me to fetch. I love chasing balls but also enjoy lying in puddles to cool off or rolling in a dead seagull on the beach.

Walkies with my Mum is not so much fun. Firstly she doesn't take a ball which is bad enough but then she makes me run. I like to run especially after balls but this is different, she just runs in a straight line for what seems like forever. If I try to stop for a swim or to eat some possum poo next thing I know I have to run like crazy to catch up. Some times when we get back to the car and I think it is all over she makes me do another lap!!!

Luckily Dad is back and my usual walkies have returned. I still think Mum is my favourite but Dad please don't leave me with her again, its exhausting.

The Breeze.



## Getting a new Puppy

One of the perks of my job is getting to play with your new puppies. Many of you have had dogs before but for some it is the first time owning a puppy. Either way there always seems a lot of information to get through on that first visit. I could fill up several newsletters telling you about caring for puppies but here are some of the important points.

1. Food- Initially I would recommend continuing to feed the pup the same food as he or she was fed at the breeders. If you want to change the food do so gradually, changing to a high quality puppy food for the size of the adult dog. Good quality foods would be Hill Science Diet, Eukanuba or Royal Canin.
2. Worming- Puppies should be wormed from four weeks of age. I would advice 4,6,8,10 & 12 weeks then maintain about every 3 months.
3. Puppy Classes- We are very lucky at the clinic to have Sindy run Puppy socialisation and training classes in the evenings. I would strongly recommend attending the classes with your new pup. For further information check out our web site.
4. Spay/Neutering- This is usually done at five to six months of age. The vet will gladly explain the pros and cons of having your pet desexed.
5. Microchipping- This is compulsory for all newly registered dogs. It can be done at any time but we often like to do it at the time of desexing.
6. Registration- All dogs should be registered with the council from 12 weeks of age.
7. Vaccinations- It is important that the pup receives its vaccinations at a young age as this is the



greatest risk period in their lives. The vet will advice you on what are the best vaccines and when they should be given to your new puppy.

8. Flea Treatment- Puppies seem very susceptible to fleas so it is advisable to treat them as soon as they are weaned. We can advice you on the safest most effective treatments to use on puppies.

If you are getting a new puppy we are always happy to offer you advice and hopefully get to play with a cute puppy also. Remember it is better to get it right at the start than try to correct mistakes later.