

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2012

Dear Client,

Summer is on its way and the All Blacks won the World Cup, what more could you ask for.

I think like most New Zealanders we are relieved that the World Cup is behind us and we finally won. I think a loss in that final could have taken us to a very dark scary place.

Jacqueline did the Auckland marathon recently. She did her first one five years ago in a time of 4 hours 20 minutes, she did this one in 3 hours 17 minutes to place 15th. She still reckons she can go faster! I think she believes she is ageing backwards like that film the Curious Case of Benjamin Button.

Don't forget to get extra medications and food for your pets to cover the holiday period and I say it every year but don't forget those flea treatments. Every year we see clients desperate to get rid of their flea infestation. Prevention is better than a cure.

Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy, Healthy New Year

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff & the Team

7th Annual Pet Photo Competition



Send us a picture of your pet and receive a years supply of **ADVOCATE** flea and worm protection for your pet.

- . Send photos to vets@bhbvets.co.nz
- . Entries close 7th February 2012.
- . Maximum of two photo's per entrant.
- . Photo must be taken by entrant.
- . Please include your name & address plus the pets name.



Holidays Opening Hours

- Dec 24th Sat OPEN 8.30-12.00pm (Closing 2 hours early)
- Dec 25th Sun CLOSED
- Dec 26th Mon CLOSED
- Dec 27th Tue CLOSED
- Dec 28th-30th OPEN 8.00am-7.00pm
- Dec 31st Sat OPEN 8.30-12.00pm (Closing 2 hours early)
- Jan 1st Sun CLOSED
- Jan 2nd Mon CLOSED
- Jan 3rd Tue CLOSED
- Jan 4th Wed OPEN as usual (8.00am -7.00pm).

Dry Eye– The importance of early detection.

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca or Dry eye is a condition where the tear glands do not produce enough tears.

The condition is caused by an autoimmune destruction of the tear glands and is a progressive condition ultimately resulting in little or no tears being produced. Tears are important in the normal protection of the eye, if they are inadequate the eye is prone to infection, inflammation and ultimately scarring and loss of vision.

The good news is that the condition is easy to diagnose with a test called a Schirmer Tear Test, which is basically a piece of special paper that measures the tear production in one minute. If the reading is low then the eyes can be treated with a special ointment. The ointment contains a drug called cyclosporin, which is used in humans to prevent rejection after organ transplantation. The drug stimulates the tear glands to produce more tears, prevents further tear gland destruction and reduces inflammation in the eyes.

It is important to detect the disease process early, as if left too late when no tear gland tissue is left then the drug will have no glands to stimulate and may fail to work.

If your dog gets lots of eye infections, has red eyes or a chronic mucky discharge then it would be worth getting the tear production measured. This is a condition where pro-active treatment can make a huge difference so if in doubt ask your vet.



15 Feline Facts

1. It has been scientifically proven that owning cats is good for our health and can decrease the occurrence of high blood pressure and other illnesses.
2. Domestic cats are capable of sprinting at approximately 50km/hr.
3. The life expectancy of the cat has nearly doubled in the last 50 years.
4. Nearly 30% of a cat's life is spent grooming.
5. When grooming, cats lose almost as much fluid through saliva as they do when they urinate.
6. The cat's heart beats twice as fast as a human heart at 110 to 150 beats per minute.
7. The average life expectancy for an indoor cat is 15 years while the average for an outdoor feral cat is only 3-5 years.
8. At birth a kitten can't see or hear.
9. A cat can jump 5 times as high as it is tall.
10. Cats have the largest eyes of any mammal in relation to body size.
11. Cats are the sleepest of all mammals. They spend an average of 16 hours sleeping each day.
12. The nose pad of a cat is ridged in a pattern that is unique, just like the fingerprint in a human.
13. Purring doesn't always indicate that a cat is happy. Cats will purr loudly when they are distressed or in pain.
14. Cats see 6 times better in the dark than humans.
15. There are over 100 different cat breeds.





CASES OF THE MONTH

Kaya's wound a mystery.

Kaya is a two year old Staffy cross female who gave her owner a huge fright when she came home with a huge wound right across her head exposing her skull below.

The wound was an almost perfectly straight cut from between the eyes to the back of the head. I must admit I was somewhat puzzled as to how the wound came about. Kaya's owner was concerned that some one could have done this to her dog but I actually think it would be quite hard to make a wound like this even if you tried.

I wondered could Kaya have crawled under a fence and caught her head on something sharp like a nail as she went under.

However on close examination of Kaya she did have other small wounds and some oil on her coat, so it was decided that the most likely cause was she had been run over by a car, with something sharp on the car catching the top of her head.

Kaya was admitted to our hospital and given a general anaesthetic and her head cleaned up and sutured.

Kaya being a typical tough Staffy was on her feet and ready to go home shortly after her anaesthetic. She was sent home with pain relief and antibiotics, as I imagine she had an almighty headache and the wound healed uneventfully.

She will probably end up with an impressive looking scar on her head but will otherwise be fine.



Pancreatitis a Challenging Diagnosis

Molly is an eleven year old female cat who had been eating poorly for several weeks, losing weight and vomiting. Her owners were obviously very concerned about her and feared the worst.

Molly was admitted to our hospital and a blood sample was taken for testing and she was placed on an intravenous drip to correct her dehydration.

The blood test results came back but did not give a definitive diagnosis. We needed to see what was going on inside Molly's abdomen and elected for an ultrasound as this is non-invasive and gives us lots of information.

The results were very positive as no cancer was found, instead an enlarged inflamed pancreas was found. A presumptive diagnosis of Pancreatitis was made.

Pancreatitis is relatively common in cats but has always been a challenge to diagnose, as there has been no specific blood test available. A new blood test has just become available and we elected to try it with Molly and sure enough it confirmed that she did have Pancreatitis.

Molly was kept on the drip for several days and started on medication to help settle her Pancreas. She was then introduced to a special low fat, highly digestible diet.

Molly was discharged from the clinic after a week and is now doing well on her new diet.

Relapses of Pancreatitis are quite common so Molly will stay on her special diet permanently.

Her owners are very happy to have Molly back as they were very worried she had something terminal.

It shows it is always worth doing some investigation with these old sick cats as it may be something readily fixable.



CC's First Column

Many of you will have been reading Twisty's column for the last 5-6 years and been sad to hear she passed away last December. You may also have read about me CC, who had an accident with a car and was fixed up at the clinic and has never left.

I am a young extremely beautiful, intelligent cat who some say has an attitude problem, but they don't call us naughty Torti's for nothing.

So this is my first attempt at writing a column and I guess I should start with my name. I was given the name CC and to be honest there is some controversy over how it was derived.

Some say CC stands for "Clinic Cat" which doesn't sound very loving, "Car Crash" sounds even worse. I like to think that CC stands for "Cool Cat" because that is exactly what I am.

Many of you will have met me at the clinic and I may have played some of my tricks on you. My favourite is to wait by the front door and when someone comes in I will run out the door. People always panic as they think they have just let a cat escape from the clinic! I then come back in and wait by the door for my next victim.

I have more tricks but will save them for next time.

CC



Leptosporosis in Dogs

Leptosporosis, commonly called Lepto, affects many animals including people. There are lots of different types of Lepto and not all types affect all species but a significant cross over occurs.

In dogs the biggest risk comes from contamination by rat urine.

The disease causes a fever, depression, weakness, muscle pain and vomiting. The dog may also become jaundiced (the development of a yellow colour) as the liver and kidneys become affected.

In this acute form of the disease many dogs will not survive even if treated.

In some cases with supportive care of intravenous fluids and appropriate antibiotics the dog may survive.

Although the acute form is the most deadly, many dogs will get a chronic infection which is often undiagnosed and can result in ongoing kidney and liver damage.

The reason I have brought up this topic is we recently saw a dog that had Lepto and sadly despite our best efforts we were unable to save it.

The good news is a vaccine is available to help protect against Lepto in dogs and if your dog is up to date with its vaccines then it is most likely covered. If you are unsure about your dog then give us a call or mention it to the vet on your next visit.

Lepto is a serious disease that can make your dog very sick and potentially make you very sick. It makes sense to prevent the disease with vaccination.



Puppy Classes Available at the Clinic

Phone Sindy on 09 8373909 or 027 2932894

Or get more information at www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz

