

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Winter 2012

Dear Client,

Well summer may have been a disappointment but April and early May were pretty great.

Jacqueline and myself went down to Mt Ruapehu for the T42 race. I did a 48km mountain bike race and Jacqueline did a 24km off road run. Jacqueline won her age group and was 5th overall. Sadly for me it is more about participation than glory. The weather and the scenery were stunning.

Jacqueline is off in June to do the Edinburgh marathon and spend some time with her folks. I would love to go but Breeze and Radish would not like being left on their own.

Thanks to every one who made submissions on the proposed new dog registration fees and by laws. We need to continually make noise or we will end up all squashed into one small park with our dogs stuck on a lead paying a fortune for the privilege.

Look forward to seeing you soon

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff & 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



Puppy Classes available at the clinic.

Check out our web site for more details or ask a staff member next time you are in the clinic.



Buy a 6 pack of Frontline cat and receive a FREE cat carry bag.



Buy a bag of Hill Science Diet Dog food 12 kg or Larger and Receive a FREE Storage Bin on Wheels.



Buy a 3 kg bag of Iams Cat food and receive a FREE Storage Bin.

All offers available only while promotional stock lasts so be quick to avoid missing out.

CIB Syndrome- Serious Health Warning For Cat Owners

Owning cats has been shown to be good for our health but there are some risks. I recently discovered CIB Syndrome and although I came through it ok, it could have been a lot nastier.

I should take you back to the beginning. I was lying in the bath relaxing reading my mountain bike magazine when my little mate Radish climbed up on the windowsill to join me.

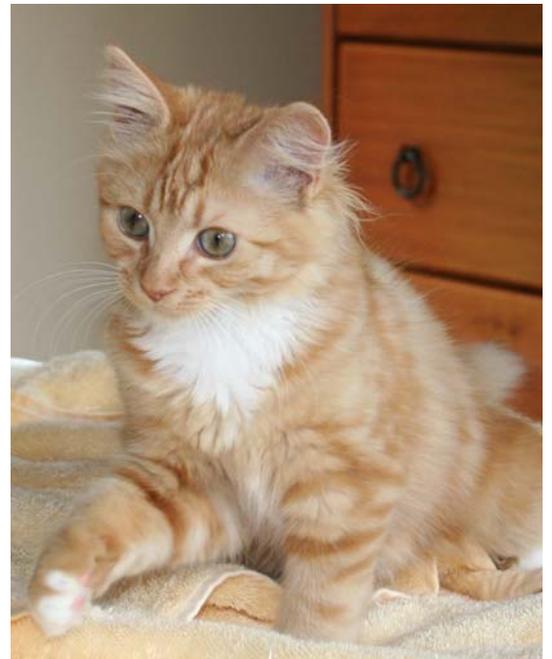
It seemed like an idyllic situation until I heard a splosh. I raised my magazine to see this wet kitten between my legs.

I was about to burst out laughing but this is when things got scary. Radish decided she did not like baths and started thrashing around with her claws trying to get a grip on anything that would get her out of the bath.

I think you probably have got the picture.

I managed to grab her by the scruff of the neck and haul her out before serious damage could be done.

So that is how I discovered CIB or cat in bath syndrome. I am not sure how widespread this problem is but feel free to e-mail me your stories. NO pictures please!



Arthritis Treatments– Natural options

Like people many dogs and cats develop arthritis which can be a painful and debilitating condition. Our pets are often not very good at expressing this pain and will simply avoid doing certain things like jumping or simply do things slower.

Anti inflammatory drugs can make a huge improvement in the quality of life of these pets. Studies have also show that the use of some natural compounds such as Glucosamine and Chondroitin can also help reduce discomfort in the joints of our pets and also ourselves.

Glucosamine and Chondroitin are generally found from marine sources such as Green lipped mussels. Scientific studies have also show that results are much greater if the two compounds are used together. Glucosamine on its own is much less effective than if combined with Chondroitin.

Of the two Glucosamine is very cheap and Chondroitin is relatively expensive. So when checking out your options look closely at the amount of Chondroitin in the product.

The next bit may shock you a little. These products are not drugs and are classified as foods and as such do not require registration or testing like a drug. As a result many of these products, and there are hundreds of them available, may not have what they say is in them!!

I have seen a study were products were tested and many had considerably less active ingredient and some had ingredients missing altogether.

I guess if you see a very cheap option in a shop ask yourself why?

If you would like to try your pet on a natural arthritis treatment come in and see us and we can explain your options and what is best for your pet.



TEACHING A OLD
DOG NEW TRICKS.



CASES OF THE MONTH



Skip regrets eating pin.

Skip is a three year old male little dog who came in very depressed with a painful abdomen. He was placed on an intravenous drip and had blood taken for tests. Skip did initially improve with pain relief and antibiotics but then started to get more uncomfortable and depressed.

An x-ray was taken and to our surprise Skip had swallowed a sewing needle. We had only one option and that was to go in surgically and remove it. Skip was given a general anaesthetic and prepared for surgery.

I was hoping the surgery would be a simple matter of making a small hole in the intestine and removing the needle. This was not the case. The needle was still attached to cotton which had travelled down the bowel. The cotton was pulling the needle along, except the needle had perforated through the intestine wall so couldn't follow. The cotton had then started to cut through the intestine wall. You would think once you had the needle you could simply pull the cotton back but it wouldn't come.

The end result was we had to make several holes to remove all of the cotton and the severely damaged area of gut was removed and joined back up again.

It always amazes me that you can sew two pipes together and make them water tight. This never works when I try it on my plumbing at home.

The good news is Skip made a rapid recovery and was back home with his owners in a few days. His owner remembered the pin and said he must have taken it off the coffee table. Why he did it we will never know.

Are Cats smarter than dogs?

After reading the case above all you cat owners are smugly thinking that dogs are pretty stupid and cats would never do such a thing.

Well in most cases you would be right but in the case of Caesar you would be wrong.

Caesar a 18 month old male cat came in not long after we had removed the pin from Skip. The owner saw Caesar swallow the needle so we immediately took an x-ray and sure enough a large sewing needle could be seen.

Now it is possible that the needle could pass but given the damage a needle had done to Skip we didn't want to take the risk.

Caesar went into surgery and in his case it was much more straight forward. We simply located the pin made a small incision in the stomach wall, removed the needle and cotton and carefully closed the hole.

Caesar recovered quickly and hopefully his sword swallowing days are behind him.





Radish goes on holiday.

Although cats are the smartest of all animals I am only a kitten so still have a lot to learn. I am also somewhat disadvantaged as I was an orphan and never knew my mum, let alone my dad.

I was somewhat curious when I was told I was going on holiday to a cattery. "Keepin Katz" in Huia, apparently. Breeze was going to the beach with mum and dad but I was going to a cattery. Apparently I was lucky and would love it and get to

"mix" with other cats. I was not so sure.

Well the big day arrived and I was taken to "Keepin Katz." The first thing I saw was a place that looked like some giant cat amusement park. I would have been excited, however the next thing I noticed was on every perch was a cat, not small cats like me but giant cats. Now given I am an orphan and never seen a cat before, I now find myself in a room of giant cats. Will they like me? Will they eat me?

I decided not to find out and was going to leave with Mum and Dad. Too late, they were already driving away and I swear Breeze was laughing at me.

I decided I had better harden up and slowly introduced myself to the giant cats. It turned out they were very friendly and assured me it wasn't a bad place to chill for awhile.

In fact after a couple of days I went from the new kid on the block to Radish the terroriser. Barney the big fat Persian would lie sleeping on his perch. I would hide in attack mode and when I saw my chance would run, jump and grab his tail then return to my hiding spot. He would wake up but not have a clue what happened. As he settled again I would do it all again, it was hysterical.

It wasn't all cats though, the hotel came with servants called Alison and Roy. I really liked them as they were very nice to me and kept bringing me more food when I got hungry.

Mum, Dad and Breeze turned up one day and I must admit I was sorry to leave my new friends but you never, know I might go on holiday again some day.

New advancements in Genetic testing.

You have know doubt heard of DNA testing in the news whether it be for detecting criminals to parentage testing.

DNA tests are becoming more common in veterinary medicine and have made detection of genetic defects much easier.

One such example is Collie Eye Anomaly. This is a condition that results in a defect in the eye that results in poor vision. The condition can be detected quite easily by examining the retina at the back of the eye in young puppies.

The problem is by this stage it is too late as no treatment is available.

With the development of genetic testing it is possible to test the parents before they breed. The test can detect if the dog has the disease, is a carrier of the disease or is completely free of the defective gene.

To develop Collie Eye Anomaly both parents must be carriers of the defective gene. If one or both parents are free of the defective gene then none of the puppies will develop the condition. With careful selection and breeding it would be possible to eventually eliminate the condition all together.

At present several different genetic diseases can be detected in both cats and dogs by a simple swab from the inside of the mouth. As more diseases are linked to specific genes this will grow.



Paracetamol poisonous to cats.

I occasionally get told by clients that they gave their cat some paracetamol as it was in pain. Paracetamol may be safe in babies but in cats it is highly toxic. Please please never give a cat Paracetamol.