

# BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2013

Dear Client,

This year seems to have flown by and I am now writing the Christmas Newsletter again.

I would normally be looking forward to Summer but this year there will be no water sports for me, as I have had a wee accident. Will tell you more about that on page 2.

The good news is Geoff and Jacqueline and the rest of the team are fighting fit.

Jacqueline as usual is super fit. She has done well this Winter with a third place in the Legend half-Marathon, a win in the Waitakere half-Marathon and 15th in the Auckland Marathon. She reckons she could go even faster if her husband didn't make her work so much.

I just tell her you guys would miss her if she didn't work.

We wish you and your furry friends a happy and healthy holiday.

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff & the Team

## 8th Annual Pet Photo Competition



Win a years supply of **ADVOCATE** for you pet.

Simply send us your picture with your name and the pets name plus a contact phone number.

Send picture to [vets@bhbvets.co.nz](mailto:vets@bhbvets.co.nz)

Maximum of two photo's per entrant.

Entries close 5th Feb 2013.

Photo may be displayed on web site, newsletter or in clinic.



## Holiday Hours

Saturday 22nd Dec OPEN 8.30am-2.00pm

Monday 24th Dec OPEN 8.00am- 5.00pm.

**Tuesday 25th/ Wednesday 26th CLOSED.**

Thursday 27th/Friday 28th OPEN 8.00am- 7.00pm.

Saturday 29th OPEN 8.30am-2.00pm.

Monday 31st OPEN 8.00am - 5.00pm.

**Tuesday 1st/ Wednesday 2nd - CLOSED.**

Thursday 3rd -OPEN as normal.



Protect the whole family  
this summer with



Receive a free bottle of  
Nivea Sunscreen lotion  
with every purchase of  
Advocate.



Strictly while promotional  
stocks last.

## My really bad week.

Ever had one of those weeks you would like to rewind and do again?  
Well last week was one of those weeks for me.

It all started with a routine vaccination of a dog. After twenty years in  
the job I pride myself on my ability to predict animal behaviour. How-  
ever on this occasion I got it horribly wrong, the dog turned around and  
bit my face.

The good news was that some stitches to my nose and lip had me  
roughly back in one piece, although I did look like an extra from the  
Hobbit for a few days.

So I was feeling a little sorry for myself and decided to cheer myself up  
with a mountain bike ride with friends in Rotorua. You know already that  
this is unlikely to have a happy ending. To cut a long story short I fell off  
and ended up in Middlemore hospital where they diagnosed a broken  
collar bone, broken/dislocated wrist and broken thumb.

I now have a plate across my collar bone and pins and wires in my wrist  
plus a cast on my arm which stays on for eight weeks.

I feel incredibly guilty at not being able to work at the busiest time of the  
year and will try to make it up to Jacqueline and Geoff and the rest of the team on my return.

I see many of my clients as friends and have been touched by everyone's genuine show of concern  
for my wellbeing. It does make me feel better when Jacqueline comes home with news of best wishes  
from our clients/friends.

Lance



Yes I am aware I shouldn't still  
be doing this at my age.

## E-mail Address's Please

E-mail is a fast and efficient way to make sure you get the relevant health reminders for your pet.

If we don't have your current e-mail address then please send it to us.

Make sure it is obvious who you are so we can put the e-mail address on the correct client file.



# CASES OF THE MONTH

## Spot doing well on Chemo

Spot is a lively 6 year old female Fox Terrier. One day however she was less active and her owners noticed some lumps on her neck.

On examination it was noted that Spot had multiple large swellings over her body. The lumps were not random but were at the sites of her lymph nodes.

A fine needle aspirate was taken from a few of the lymph nodes. A fine needle aspirate is not a biopsy, but rather as the name suggests, an aspiration of cells from the mass. These cells are then put on a slide and sent to the laboratory for staining and examination.

The results came back as Lymphoma, a type of lymphatic cancer. The results were devastating to Spot's owners as she was still very young and had always been so healthy.

Spot's owners were keen to do what they could to help her, so a chemotherapy treatment plan was organised.

The treatments initially involved having intravenous injections weekly for eight weeks plus tablets given by the owners. Spot also had regular blood and urine checks to make sure she was coping with the medicines.

After the initial eight week course Spot went down to every second week for injections and now four months later is only having injections every three weeks.

If Spot is still in remission by six months we will stop all treatment.

Now many people have had experience of Chemotherapy with family members, and the idea of putting their pet through it seems out of the question. However with pets it is different. We aim to put the cancer in remission to buy some good quality of life. Another year, possibly two, for a pet would be seen as a very successful outcome.

Not all cancers respond to chemotherapy but luckily for Spot Lymphoma is the most treatable cancers. The good news is Spot is doing great and her owners are very happy. She has had a few days when she has felt unwell but on the whole has been back to her normal happy self.



Geoff and Natalie taking good care of Spot.

## Summer Reminders.

**1 Flea treatments**– Fleas love the warm weather so make sure you treat all of your pets at the recommended interval with a good quality product, to avoid those flea epidemics which are hard to get rid of.

**2 Vaccinations**– If your pets are going into kennels then make sure their vaccinations are up to date. It is important not to leave this to the last minute.

**3 Kennel/Catteries**– If you are planning on going away, book a kennel as soon as you can as many people will book a year in advance over Christmas.

**4 Keep cool**– Don't forget cars get very hot in summer and dogs find it harder to cool down than us. Take some water for the dog when going out for the day this Summer and don't leave the dog in the car.

**5 Medicines**– When you are getting a repeat of your pets medicine or special food try to get enough to cover the Christmas holiday period as many of the wholesalers are closed during this time.



## Breeze's Column– The Precious Stuff.

Now ever since I was a puppy whenever I did my number twos my Mum or Dad would get out a plastic bag and collect them up. I have no idea what they do with them or why they are so special but they have continued to do this. I did try eating them when I was younger but to be honest they didn't taste great so I really don't think Mum and Dad would be collecting them to eat.

Now I did notice that if I did it in private on the back lawn nobody would run up and collect it, however if I did it at the beach or park they would collect it straight away.

I decided therefore to only do them when out on a walk. The problem is timing, sometimes I am desperate to go and Dad is messing around at the clinic. When we finally get going sometimes I am sure I won't make it when I am in the car.

So far I have always managed to hang on but as I get older I can't guarantee it will always be the same.

So next time you see me at the clinic in obvious distress with my legs crossed tell my Mum and Dad to stop messing about and get me to the park.

The Breeze.



### **SPECIAL OFFER**

Top loading cat carry cage normally \$65

**NOW ONLY  
\$35**

Limited stock only and at this price you will need to be quick. Every year we get at least one owner who's cat escapes between their car and the clinic. Don't let it happen to you.

## **Puppy Classes Going Strong**

Sindy has now been running puppy classes at the clinic for over six years. In that time she has helped train and socialise hundreds of puppies. Although Sindy is not employed by the clinic and the clinic makes no money from the classes I believe the clinic gets great benefits from the running of them. Puppies that have had classes in the clinic are often eager to come back and expect treats at the clinic rather than seeing it as a scary place. After six years of puppy classes it is great to see so many dogs who see the clinic as a fun place.

If you are getting a puppy this Summer, then check out our web site for more information or ask us for an information pack from reception.

