

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Winter 2013

Dear Client,

While I was off work with my accident the clinic was very busy and I did start to worry that the clients were happier for me not to be there. I am now back working normally and we are still very busy so that makes me feel better. You may have noticed that we now have two vets on a Saturday morning, as it got too busy for one to cope on their own.

Just a reminder though, the clinic does run strictly to appointments. We are one of the few clinics around that has appointments available all day and we are open until 7.00pm on week nights so we should be able to see you at a time convenient to you. We potentially have 66 appointments slots per day and if we were able to spread the appointments evenly and nobody came in without an appointment, I am confident we would never have a client have to wait to be seen.

Look forward to seeing you soon

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff & the Team

I have had lots of you send me pictures of dog shaming or pet shaming by email. If you need a laugh try googling either of them, they are very funny.



THE TEAM

VETS:

Lance Eastman, Jacqueline Eastman & Geoff Neal

NURSES:

Fiona Hammond, Amber Corney, Kirsty Pomeroy

RECEPTIONISTS:

Margaret Galbraith & Vanessa Harrison

ASSISTANT:

Debbie Officer

PRACTICE HOURS- All consults are via appointment only.

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 7.00pm

Saturday 8.30am to 2.00pm

A healthy change for your cat?



Try Iams today
and get **20% OFF***

Life's Better
IAMS
Cat Foods

* 850g, 1kg & 1.5kg packs. Limited time only. While stocks last.

Iams is a premium cat food with a 100% money back guarantee if your fussy cat will not eat it. Why not try take up this offer of 20% off a trial size bag?

Offer is for bags 1.5kg or lighter and is available while promotional stocks last.

Is Your Pet Fat?

If you answered yes then you are not alone. A very large percentage of dogs and cats are either classified as overweight or obese. As a vet I find obesity a very frustrating condition to deal with. I can see the direct effects on the pet from difficulty breathing, difficulty walking, diabetes and a generally much shorter life span. Fat pets are not "happy" pets which some people may struggle with especially as eating is their favourite activity.



A study was done some years back with two groups of Labradors, the only difference between the two was the amount of food they received. The ones with less food lived on average two years longer and developed arthritic problems two years later. I have no doubt that many of the dogs that we treat for arthritis long term with medications would not need them if they were to lose a substantial amount of weight.

Now I am sure this information comes as no surprise, we all know the danger of obesity on our own health so it should be no surprise that our pets suffer the same.

In the past I have come up with calorie reduced diets for pets but I must admit in 95% of cases they lose little or no weight.

I was interested then when Hills launched a new diet called **Metabolic Advanced Weight Solution**. A trial was done in people's homes rather than a feeding centre and **88% of cats and dogs lost weight** in two months at home. This certainly beats anything I have tried in the past.

Instead of simply offering a low fat, low calorie food which often had poor palatability, Metabolic diet aims to activate the body's natural ability to burn excess body fat and affect calorie utilisation.

The food is also very palatable so Hills are sure your pet will love it and if it doesn't, they have a 100% money back guarantee.

I would really like to see if we can get some of our patients down to a healthier weight.

SPECIAL OFFER

FREE in clinic weight assessment and weight loss plan.

HALF PRICE bag of Metabolic diet to start the weight loss journey with every weight assessment.



Half price bag can be any size.

Offer ends 31st August 2013

All free weight assessments are by appointment only.

Any other services will be charged at normal clinic rates.



Do dogs and cats like each other?

The answer is, well, sometimes. Cats and dogs can grow up together and be very close companions and best of friends. This is not the case for many however and many cats are frightened of dogs and for good reason as some dogs will kill cats.

Now in our waiting room sometimes it can get busy and we may have clients with both dogs and cats waiting. It always amazes me how many people will let their dog go up and sniff some poor cat in a cage.



If a staff member says "Please keep your dog away from the cat" the answer is always the same "It is no problem he is very good with cats, we have them at home." Yes that may be true but the cat may still be terrified. If being put in a cage and brought to the vets wasn't stressful enough it gets within centimetres of a dog which it is terrified of.

Please be considerate to others and keep your dog on a short leash and don't assume everyone will love them as much as you do.



CASES OF THE MONTH

More lives than a cat.

Stig is a much loved 14 year old male Staffy who has had his fair share of medical problems over those years. These included a large mass removed from his abdomen, prostatic problems and ongoing arthritis.

Stig had been showing his age for some time but recently he really starting to get very slow and then started vomiting regularly.

Blood tests failed to show the cause and symptomatic treatment didn't help. X-rays were taken of Stig's abdomen and a mass effect could be seen.

Stig's owners had a hard decision to make, did they have him operated on at his age when the prognosis for a cure in these cases is not great. It was a tough decision but Stig is a tough dog, so it was decided to have a look. If the cancer was not removable then Stig would not be woken up from the surgery.

Stig was anaesthetised and prepared for a laparotomy. We opened up his abdomen and examined all of his organs carefully. What we found was a tumour in his intestine that was now blocking passage of any food. A phone call was made to the owner who decided that removal was worth a try.

A section of Stig's intestine containing the tumour was removed and the healthy sections joined back together.

Stig made a slow recovery which is maybe not a surprise at his age but eventually his appetite improved and the vomiting stopped. His owners say he is now much more active again and seems a lot happier.



This is an earlier photo of Stig who won a prize in our photo competition

Coal no match for car.

Coal was rushed into the clinic one morning after he had got in the way of a car on his driveway. On examination he had an obviously broken jaw and a swollen eye. Of more concern was that Coal was having difficulty breathing. Although the jaw and eye didn't look pretty the breathing difficulty is the life threatening concern.

X-rays were immediately taken to see if he had a collapsed lung. The good news for Coal is his lungs were inflated and his diaphragm was intact. Coal was hospitalised and placed on an intravenous drip along with pain relief while we waited for his breathing to settle.

Coal's breathing actually got worse during the day and x-rays were repeated on several occasions to make sure the lungs were inflated ok. Luckily Coal's lungs were just bruised and the swelling in the face also made breathing harder.

Two days later we were happy with Coal and he went into surgery to have his jaw wired. This went very well and on recovery Coal was clearly keen to start eating again.

Now if you had a broken jaw, do you think you would prefer liquid soft food or hard chewy food? Well Coal, like many cats, was quite fussy and only liked one brand of cat biscuits and wasn't about to change because he had a broken jaw. He wouldn't even accept them soaked in water.

Coal is now back to normal and eating his favourite biscuits without a problem.

Hopefully he will also learn to keep clear of cars in the future. I reckon that about 1/3 of all cats we see that have been hit by a car have been run over in their driveway and often by their owner. It actually happened to us many years ago with our cat Twisty. Something to think about when you rush off to work in the morning.



Breeze's Column– I hate painting.

My Mum and Dad have been painting in the clinic on weekends which to be honest is very boring.

Dad says it is a waste of time as nobody even seems to notice. I would much rather go for a run with my Mum or a trip to the beach to chase my ball, but lying for hours watching paint dry is so BORING.

I even got in trouble for doing nothing. I was lying down watching all the action when I got told to move out the way, which I did. How was I to know I was lying in paint and that moving onto the carpet would spread paint onto it?

Do you think they were worried about this patch of white in my lovely golden coat? No, they seemed more concerned about cleaning some piece of carpet.

Never mind when I got home I still told Radish the cat that I have had the most exciting day ever as she gets jealous as she never goes anywhere.

The Breeze.



Vet nurse training at the clinic.

When I first started working as a vet, qualified vet nurses were unheard of in New Zealand. You simply trained someone on the job to be a vet nurse. Now vet nursing is a highly skilled profession and various degrees and diplomas are available from different teaching institutions.

Most nurses, as part of their study, have to do in clinic training under the supervision of a qualified nurse. Fiona our head nurse has been involved in training nurses for quite a few years now. We get many more requests for placements in the clinic than we can offer and it is always hard to tell a young student that we don't have room for them.

I thought I would get one of our current students Kirsty to put in her words what is involved with being a vet nursing student. So over to Kirsty.



Woof, meow, squeak and hello! My name is Kirsty and I am currently studying at Unitec for a diploma in Veterinary Nursing which I will finish at the end of this year. The course is two years long and for the last year and a half I have been coming to Blockhouse Bay Vets as part of my training.

My role at the vets includes monitoring anaesthetics, collecting blood samples, assisting during surgeries and providing comfort to your loved ones. All this is done under the close supervision of the vets and Fiona, the head nurse.

Being at the clinic has been a great opportunity for me as I am able to broaden my knowledge through all the different animals that are seen in the clinic. Ever since I was a young girl I have always wanted to work with animals and help them when in need.

I must be doing something right as I have been offered some part time work at the clinic which will help pay the bills. I look forward to meeting you and your furry friends in the near future.

Kirsty

\$20 OFF MICROCHIPPING VOUCHER

Voucher expires 31st August 2013

Normal cost is \$50 plus \$20 for registration on NZ Companion Animal Register (Optional for dogs)