

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2014

Dear Client,

I can't believe I am writing the Christmas newsletter again. That must be the fastest year ever.

The year started with me being off work with a broken wrist and slowly rehabilitating back to work. Jacqueline and myself took a trip to Whistler in August where I managed to get back on my mountain bike without injuring myself. Jacqueline on the same trip managed to fit in an Ironman. That's a 3.8km swim, 180km bike and 42km run in 12 hours 40 minutes.

The clinic has been so busy this year we have taken on another nurse and vet. I really appreciate having the extra pairs of hands around.

Don't forget to stock up with your pets foods, medication and flea treatments over the holiday period as many wholesalers close over this time.

We are closed on the Statutory holidays only.

Have a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff, Jess & the Team



Radish opening her presents last Christmas

THE TEAM

VETS: Lance Eastman, Jacqueline Eastman
Geoff Neal & Jess Paton
NURSES: Fiona Hammond, Amber Corney
& Kirsty Pomeroy
RECEPTIONISTS: Margaret Galbraith & Vanessa Harrison
ASSISTANT: Debbie Officer

PRACTICE HOURS

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

9th Annual Pet Photo Competition



Entries are now open for our annual pet photo competition. The winning entrant will win a years supply of Advocate for their pet to keep them free from fleas and worms.

There are rules so please read carefully.

Photos should be emailed to vets@bhbvets.co.nz

A maximum of two photos per entrant. I know this one is a struggle for many of you.

Please include your full name, the pets name and a contact phone number.

Entries close the 5th February 2014.

Results will be posted on the web site on the 1/03/2014

Help for the blind

Hi I'm Java and I'm Geoff's dog. Usually Breeze and Radish write about their exciting adventures but I'm going to tell you about my eyes. Two years ago I started bumping into things at home; the French doors, the stairs, the cat! This gave my parents a bit of concern especially after they had a look in my eyes at work with the ophthalmoscope. After a trip to Dr Collinson, the eye specialist, I was diagnosed with Progressive Retinal Atrophy and told that unfortunately I would go completely blind in a couple of years. Apparently I have faulty genes but that doesn't make sense as I don't wear pants??? My mum and dad were a little upset but promised me that when I went blind that they would get me a guide dog. Ha ha, very funny. Then guess what. In November last year a guide dog turned up at my place. He lived with me for nearly six months while he was attending guide dog training with his trainer during the week. He was good fun to play with but when he had his red coat on it was "business time" especially when out on walks. He worked really hard in his training and graduated this year and he now lives in the South Island with his human blind person. I missed him a bit but then another guide dog turned up, then another and then another. Apparently these dogs are not for me but my parents, Geoff and Becs. They are boarders for the Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB) Guide Dog Services. They look after guide dogs in training when their puppy-walkers or trainers cannot have them (like when they are on holiday, overseas, jury duty etc). My parents and I like having the guide dogs and don't feel sad when they have to leave, as they know that these dogs are destined for greater things in helping blind and partially sighted humans make the most of their lives.

The hardest thing about having a guide dog in the house is that they come with some rules like not being allowed on the sofa and not being fed food from the table, that by default I have to follow when they are about.

Going blind hasn't been too bad. I've had six new guide dog friends live with me in the last year and apparently some more are coming next year also.

If you are interested in knowing more about guide dogs or helping to support the work that the RNZFB do, you can check them out at www.rnzfb.org.nz

Java



Java and Guide dog

Bird Rescue Fund Raiser

I would like to thank every one who donated money to bird rescue over the last few months. It will all be put to very good use by Lynn McDonald and her team in Green Bay.

I would also like to thank Mary Scurr who kindly donated a basket of Avon goods to be raffled with all proceeds going to Bird Rescue. The winner of the basket was Debbie McKenzie.

If anyone wants to buy any Avon products, we can put you in contact with Mary. We will continue to take donations for Bird Rescue at the clinic if you would like to help.



New vet joins the team.

Some of you may have seen our new vet in the last couple of months. Dr Jess Paton is a local girl who graduated last year from Massey vet school. She did some practical work with us during her studies and we were so impressed with her knowledge and skills decided to offer her a position with us. Don't panic though as no one has left, rather the clinic has become so busy we need four vets to cope with all the work. Given we now have four vets it is a good idea to request your pets favourite vet when making an appointment so you get to see who you want.



CASES OF THE MONTH

Nano gets a face lift.

Nano is a twelve year old female Cocker Spaniel with an embarrassing problem. Well to be fair it was more embarrassing for her owner. You see Nano smelt bad.

The smell was coming from an infection of the folds of skin around the lower lips. Nano's owners cleaned the area daily with antibacterial washes and gave courses of antibiotics but the infection never cleared up and the smell never went.

The reason for the chronic infection is that certain breeds, especially Spaniels, have folds of skin in the lower lips that never dry out and create the perfect environment for bacteria to grow.

The solution was to have all of the loose skin removed, so no folds were present.

Nano was admitted for surgery. Bloods were taken before the anaesthetic to make sure she was healthy and in a fit state for the surgery. She was then placed on an intravenous drip to help maintain her blood pressure and the surgery was started.

An incision was made from the corner of her mouth along the lip margin to near the front of her mouth. A second incision was made along the same length but lower down including all the infected folded skin. The large wound was closed with buried sutures so nothing was on the surface. The whole thing was repeated on the other side.

The end result was smooth skin over the chin and no discomfort for Nano.

The best part was that you could give Nano a big hug without gagging from the smell.



Custard Apples no laughing matter.

There are certain things that we can eat that dogs cannot. Examples are chocolate, onions and raisins to name a few. I just learnt recently of a new one- the Custard apple or Cherimoya fruit.

I found this out when Bear, a large boisterous one year old male dog was presented to the clinic very depressed and vomiting after eating a Custard Apple. A quick check on the internet and sure enough, these things are toxic to dogs, especially the seeds.

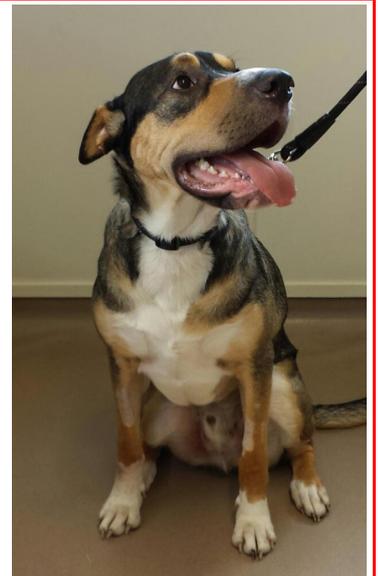
Like many poisonings there is often no antidote and the only thing that can be done is to give supportive treatment to the patient by preventing dehydration, very important when vomiting.

Bear was placed on intravenous fluids and given anti-emetics to prevent further vomiting.

Bear was a good patient which was just as well as he only just fitted in our big dog cages. He had only eaten one piece of the fruit but took about four days to recover.

The good news is Bear is back to his boisterous ways and his owners will make sure he never sees a custard apple again.

My advice would be to make sure your dog never gets access to one either.



Radish the Rastafarian Cat

I like to think of myself as a free spirited rebellious cat. Some cats like to keep their coat immaculate but I decided to join the feline Rastafarian movement instead. I'm not really into Bob Marley's music but love his hair. I decided it would be cool to get dreadlocks too. My servants on the other hand were not keen on this idea and tried to brush them out. I hissed and screamed and yelled "Leave my dreads alone". I didn't want to, but had to resort to biting them to put them in their place. A cat should be allowed some creative expression and I wanted dreadlocks.



Now I thought I had won this battle when one day my servants picked me up. I was suspicious but they didn't have a brush or flea treatment so figured I was probably ok. Was I wrong! I suddenly felt a small prick in the back of the neck. The rotten scoundrels had injected me with something. I was about to give them a good earful when I suddenly felt very sleepy, I knew I must stay awake but my eyes were soooo heavy.

I don't know what happened next but all I can remember is waking up, looking round and realising my beautiful dreadlocks were gone.

It was a dirty rotten trick and I am not happy. I am growing them back and I will be ready for those sneaky servants next time.

Radish

New Fluid Pumps make critical care so easy.

Having a modern well equipped clinic is very important to me as I want to provide the best level of care possible to our patients. We have just recently purchased several new fluid pumps. We have had fluid pumps before but nothing as good as these ones.

When a pet is unwell, they are very often dehydrated either because they are not drinking fluids or are losing fluids from vomiting or diarrhoea. Dehydration in many of these cases is actually what kills the patient.

To correct this dehydration we will set up an intravenous drip.

The hard part is controlling the rate of fluids given especially when the patient is very small. We may only want a small cat to have 10mls per hour.

This is almost impossible to do accurately without some sort of pump.

The new pumps we have purchased can deliver these small volumes continually for days at a time if required.

These fluid pumps will enable us to treat critically unwell patients even better than before, which has got to be a good thing.



Christmas Opening Hours

We are closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day and 2nd January.

We will close at 5pm Christmas Eve and New Years Eve.

All other days we are open our normal hours.

