

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Dear Client,

The clinic has been very busy of late and I am pleased I decided to take on a fourth vet last year. Jess has settled in very well and is developing her own following.

Don't forget when making an appointment, if you wish to see a specific vet, just ask. Jacqueline went back home to the UK recently and combined her visit with a run in the London Marathon. She didn't do as well as she had wanted but still managed 300th woman. Now 300th may not sound that impressive but when you take into account 13,000 women did it, that's not a bad effort.

I say this every year but don't forget to keep up with the flea treatments through the winter months. Prevention is better than cure and this is never more true than when it comes to a flea infestation.

Look forward to seeing you soon,

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff, Jess & the Team

THE TEAM

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

PRACTICE HOURS

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



New All in One Flea and Worm Treatment

A new product is available that treats all worms including tapeworms, and treats fleas at the same time.

It comes in a single treatment pack and is applied to the skin on the back of the neck.

So if you find getting that worm tablet down your cat a bit of a nightmare then why not try BROADLINE.

"Good morning, Mr. Morton! We were just calling to see if you've been getting Binky's pills in ok!"



Blockhouse Bay Vets Goes DIGITAL

I am always keen to keep the practice up to date with the latest technology wherever possible and practical.

I have wanted a digital x-ray processor for a long time but the cost was just out of my reach. Like digital cameras though, the price has been gradually coming down and I have finally taken the plunge.

So what is digital radiology? Well let me explain the old system first.

An x-ray plate contains film which is exposed by an x-ray machine. The

plate is then taken into a completely dark room and developed using

chemicals. The image of the patient then appears on the film and can be viewed on a light box.

The x-ray taking process is exactly the same for digital except the plate does not contain film but rather a sensor that detects the radiation from the x-ray machine.

The digital plate is put into a processor and the image appears on a computer screen.

So why is this better?

1. It is much more environmentally friendly as no chemicals are required anymore.
2. There is no time spent changing these chemicals and cleaning the film processor. My nurses are ecstatic about this one.
3. The image quality is far superior meaning we can make better decisions about your pets health.
4. Images can be moved around easier. In the past we posted x-rays away if we wanted a second opinion. Now we can e-mail them. If the client wants a copy of the x-ray they can have one.
5. The image can be adjusted after it is taken. With film, if the exposure was slightly out ,you could do nothing about it. With digital you can adjust the contrast to look more closely



at different parts of the image.

I believe this new technology enables us to care for our patients better. This is something that all the team is passionate about.



Felix finds his way home after two years on the road.

Felix was brought into the clinic recently by a lady who had been feeding him for a month and wanted to see if he was owned.

To our delight he was micro-chipped. We contacted this owner immediately who was very surprised as Felix had been missing for over two years. Needless to say he was ecstatic to get Felix back.

We had another cat recently that had gone missing from Albany and was found in Blockhouse Bay. Felix on the other hand was found less than one kilometre from where he went missing two years earlier.

We strongly encourage our clients to microchip at de-sexing time.

I often hear the excuse that the kitten doesn't go very far. True that may be for a kitten, but as it gets older that is almost certainly going to change.

If every cat was micro-chipped, then cat charities like the SPCA and Lonely Meow would find their work load would diminish.

If you would like us to micro-chip your cat let us know at your cats next check up. It only takes a few minutes and it could save a life.





CASES OF THE MONTH

Breeze Ruptures Cruciate Ligament

I must admit I was hoping never to have to use my own pets for case of the month but sometimes these things can't be avoided.

Breeze and I had nipped out at lunch time to the park for a run around. Well, when I say run around, I mean I sit on the park bench and throw the ball and Breeze fetches it. Well one time she didn't come back, so I went to investigate and she was standing on three legs.

I took her back to the clinic where I sedated her to get some x-rays and have a good assessment of her ligaments. Poor Breeze had a complete rupture of her Cruciate ligament in her knee.

It clearly needed to be repaired; the question was how? I have done many of these surgeries over the years creating an artificial ligament to stabilise the joint. However, in more recent years, newer specialised techniques have superceded this by cutting the tibia, changing the angle of the joint and plating the bone in this position. This is called a Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy (TPLO).

It sounds a bit weird I know, but it works and the results are much better.

It was a tough decision. Do I do surgery at my own clinic or send Breeze to a specialist surgeon to have a superior technique with better long term outcomes?

Well, given Breeze is our baby and nothing is too good for her, it wasn't that hard a decision. So off to the Veterinary Specialist Group (VSG) she went for a TPLO.

The surgery went well and after an overnight stay in the hospital, Breeze was able to come home and recuperate. She is already looking at me as if to say "why are we not going to the beach?", but she is on strict rest at the moment. I have a feeling the rest thing will get tougher as the weeks pass.

Ruptured Cruciate ligaments are very common in dogs and people (I have had mine done so know how Breeze feels). They are also expensive so it is seriously worth thinking about pet insurance. If you have a large breed dog make sure you get a policy that covers Cruciate repairs adequately as some pay out only \$800. This is not enough for a surgery which costs over \$4000.



Rotten Bottom for Ellis

Most of the time as an experienced vet you will take one look at something, know exactly what it is, and go about treating it.

When I saw Ellis, a ten year old male tabby recently, I was not so sure. He had large firm lump near his bottom that was discharging a foul smelling fluid. This however did not look like your typical cat bite abscess.

It was decided that the lump was too large to remove and probably not a good idea until we knew what it was.

Under anaesthetic Ellis had a biopsy taken of the lump and it was cleaned as much as possible. The good news was that, rather than the lump being a tumour, it was actually steatitis or inflamed, infected necrotic fat. Ellis was put on a month of antibiotics and slowly the lump got smaller. After one month Ellis went back into surgery and had the open wound closed.

Ellis has had the sutures out now and has made a full recovery.

The moral of Ellis's story is it is often better to find out what something is and deal with it appropriately rather than just try and cut it out. It may take longer and cost more but you are much more likely to get a good result for the patient.



Breeze's Column– THE OP

I must tell you about what happened to me just recently. It is all very weird and I am not sure I understand it myself.

It all started when I was out chasing my ball at the park, when suddenly there was a snap and my leg went all funny and wouldn't work. It was pretty sore but I could still run on three so was keen to continue my ball chasing, but Dad decided we must go home immediately.



Anyway it turned out I had snapped a ligament in my knee and needed surgery at a specialist. My Mum and Dad are very special to me but apparently are not specialists.

I was taken to this place I had never been before which was a bit scary as I don't like being left with strangers. The strangers were very nice to me although they did give me an injection in my leg which made me very sleepy.

I am afraid there is a big blank section as I simply don't remember what happened but when I awoke I looked down at my wonky leg and it was completely bald. I looked like some demented Poodle. I also had a sticky plaster on my leg. That was no real challenge getting off but chewing the string out of my leg was more difficult. I had just got one of them out when a nurse came up and told me I was being naughty! I think she must have been mistaken as naughty is something bad dogs do and I am the perfect dog.

The good news was Mum and Dad turned up to pick me up. Was I pleased to see them?!

The bad news is the specialist was rubbish as I still couldn't walk on my wonky leg. My Dad said he has had the same thing done and it will take time. I wonder if my Dad tried to chew his sutures out? Hopefully when I see you next I will be walking again and not have a bald bum as it is rather embarrassing.

Cheers The Breeze

Blood Test– Part of a Thorough Clinical Exam

Getting annual health checks is very important in our pets and even more important as they get older.

We can learn a great deal from our "hands on" clinical exam. It may look at times like the vet is playing with your pet but they are feeling for any lumps, swellings or signs of discomfort.



Although we can get a great deal of information from this exam there is still a lot of information about your pets health that cannot be obtained.

This is where additional tests can be useful and the most common place to start is blood tests.

A small amount of blood can give a lot of useful data about your pets health. Early detection of diseases like diabetes, kidney and liver disease can make a huge difference to the long term outcome for your pet.

Taking blood as part of a routine senior health check can be very beneficial. Even if all the results are normal it gives us a base line. For example; your pet gets sick later that year and its liver enzymes are elevated. They were normal a few months back so it is likely that this is significant and involved in the reason for being unwell. If we had not done bloods earlier then it is possible that the liver enzymes had been elevated for years and are unrelated to the current illness.

The next time we are giving your pet a check up and vaccination, ask us about whether it would be a good idea to do a blood test.

We can do a basis screening test for as little as \$55.

