

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Spring 2014

Dear Client,

I always like writing this newsletter as it means winter is coming to an end and spring is on its way and along with it longer, lighter and hopefully warmer weather.

It also means lots more puppies and kittens being born which you can't fail to get that warm fuzzy feeling when you see them.

The warmer weather also means the fleas start to have their own babies. Luckily we have some exciting new flea treatments available. Read more about these on page 2.

As the clinic has got busier we have expanded our team to make sure we maintain our high standard of service to you. Don't forget, if you want to see a specific vet, remember to ask when making an appointment. We also appreciate you making appointments. It is very hard to keep everybody happy when we get "walk ins".

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

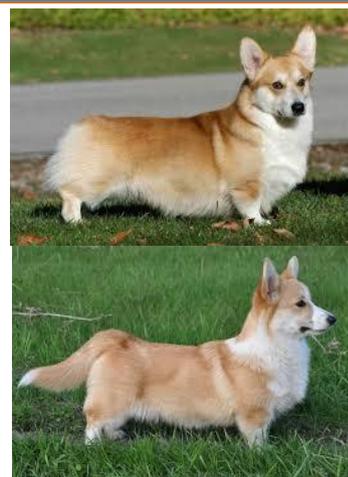
Tail Docking: Good idea or Not?

In the UK they have done a huge study on diseases affecting the pet population. 400 000 dogs went into the study.

It showed that 500 tails need to be docked to prevent one tail injury.

Based on that statistic can we really say that docking is a good idea?

At Blockhouse Bay Vets we have refused to dock any puppies tails for nearly 20 years now.



Interesting cat facts.

- A cat can jump up to five times its own height in a single bound.
- A group of cats is called a "clowder".
- A cat can't climb head first down a tree because every claw on a cat's paw points the same way. To get down from a tree, a cat must back down.
- Cats make about 100 different sounds. Dogs make only about 10.
- A cat has 230 bones in its body. A human has 206. A cat has no collarbone, so it can fit through any opening the size of its head.

Are you struggling to control fleas on your pets?- We have the answer.

A bit like buses, you can wait for ages then three come along at once. Well the same seems to be true for flea treatments. In the last month, three new and exciting flea treatments have been launched in New Zealand.

In the last few years we have certainly had feedback from our clients that the older flea treatments are simply not lasting as long as they claim. Some recent studies now support that feedback.

The good news is these new products launched are completely new drugs that the fleas would never have been exposed to and therefore will not have developed any tolerance to.

ACTIVYL– This is a topical application that lasts one month. It can be used on dogs and cats, is very effective at killing fleas for the whole month and is very safe. The product remains on the skin surface and is not absorbed into the body at all.

This product is sold as singles and also in packs of four.

NEXGUARD– This is a tablet for dogs that kills fleas and ticks for one month. The tablet is very palatable with most dogs eating them as a treat. A tablet can be especially helpful with dogs that swim a lot. The product is sold in boxes of three.

BRAVECTO– This is also a tablet for dogs that kills fleas and ticks, but lasts up to three months from one tablet. This product will appeal to people who tend to forget to keep giving treatments every month or have a dog that is difficult to medicate.

Unsure which is the best option for you? We are here to help, so come in and talk to one of our friendly staff who can discuss what is the best for your situation.



My cat is peeing blood!

We all know that blood in our urine just isn't right, so when we see it in our cat we often get very concerned. This is however not an uncommon problem. We would see a case every day of cats having difficulty urinating and often passing blood.

Surprisingly enough only a small percentage of cats actually have an infection, most do not. Some cats will have crystals, that can form stones and this can result in an obstruction (males only).

The majority of cats with blood in their urine have no infection and no crystals. The condition is a sterile inflammatory condition of the bladder wall. Although common, it is important that your cat is checked if it is showing these symptoms.

I recently attended a conference on this very subject and a new study done showed that cats with this problem fed a special urinary diet had **80% less reoccurrence** of the condition than cats on a non-urinary diet. It was also interesting that feeding a wet diet only over a dry diet made very little difference in preventing reoccurrence.

If your cat suffers from this problem and is not already on a urinary diet then have a chat with one of our vets who can advise whether a urinary diet could be the answer for your cat.





CASES OF THE MONTH

Liam has no tongue!

Liam is a 12 week old male kitten who came into the clinic very unwell. He was very lethargic and would not eat. On opening Liam's mouth the problem became very obvious. The front half of his tongue was missing and the rest of it looked very rotten.

We are not 100% sure how this happened. Sometimes cats will lick food on a hot plate and burn their tongue, but it is also possible that this could be a severe case of a virus called Calici virus that causes a fever and ulceration in the mouth.

Either way, we were very concerned as to whether Liam had a viable future with so little tongue and we were worried he may lose more.

Liam was a fighter so we decided to give him a chance. He was put on intravenous fluids to maintain his hydration and started on an intensive course of antibiotics and pain relief.

Poor Liam could not eat on his own, so over the next week our nurses patiently syringe fed him a high calorie liquid diet.

Liam is a tough wee kitten and despite missing a lot of his tongue he managed to start eating on his own.

He is now back home and growing well. He is a little messy eating, but on the whole doing very well.



Natural, healthy cat food in a biscuit.

Do you want to feed your cat natural, healthy food free from artificial colours and preservative, but want the convenience of a dry food?

Hills has launched a new range of pet food called **Ideal Balance** that achieves just that. The food is made from high quality chicken, which is highly digestible. It also contains vegetables such as carrots, peas and broccoli for vitamins and minerals and fruit such as cranberries and apples for vitamin C and E. Ideal Balance contains **NO** corn, wheat or soy.

The great thing about Ideal Balance is it is a completely balanced diet created with natural ingredients for your pets overall health.



SPECIAL OFFER

Buy a 900g bag of **Feline Ideal Balance GRAIN FREE**

And receive

2 FREE Ideal Balance Tins

1 FREE Bag of Feline Ideal Balance Treats



Offer available until 30th November 2014

Radish's Column— How to train your servants.

I am still a young cat and must admit I am struggling to train servants to do what I want.

Unlike the common dog, which would eat its own faeces, a cat is a much more refined creature with much more sophisticated requirements.

One of my basic requirements is fresh food. I am hardly going to eat food that has been sitting out.

What if a fly landed on it?

This is my problem I get very hungry at about five in the morning but my servants will not get up and refresh my food.

I have tried doing my cat gymnastics and rattling my bells as hard as I can but all I get is a grunt. Sometimes I think I have succeeded and one of them gets up. I run down to my bowl but it turns out they only went as far as the human litter tray room. I wait patiently but they simply go back to bed. I know cats are famous for sleeping a lot but I tell you my servants sleep for ages.

One morning I had a brain wave, or brain explosion, I am not sure which. I saw a toe poke out from under the covers. If I bit it, I was sure they would wake up. What did I have to lose?

Now cats please don't try this at home as it did not go well for me. The foot violently kicked out and sent me flying across the room. Supposedly cats always land on their feet but on this occasion something went wrong.

Did those no good lazy servants get up? No just another grunt and the toe disappeared under the covers.

Fellow cats if you have any ideas on training your staff then let me know on the newsletter Blog on the web site.

Radish



Does your pet have a microchip? Important information you should know.

Before 2008 New Zealand did not have a standard data base for pets to be registered on. This was rather frustrating as if a pet, usually a cat, was found with a microchip multiple data bases had to be searched including ones based in Australia.

Finally good sense prevailed and the "**New Zealand Companion Animal Register (CAR)**" was started. This is now widely accepted as the New Zealand data base where pets microchip numbers and owners contact details will be kept.

Not all dogs will go on this data base as the council keeps its own records but for cats it is vital they are on the CAR data base.

The SPCA regularly finds cats and dogs with microchips, but cannot find the number on any data base. These pets cannot be returned to their owners and are either re-homed or worse!

If you want to check if your pet is on the CAR then go to www.animalregister.co.nz and put the microchip number in. If you don't know the number or are unsure give us a call and we will help.

Remember it is important to keep your details up to date as well. You can change your own details at the same web site. If your pet is not registered on the CAR then contact us and we can help.

On another issue, a batch of Virbac microchips have turned out to be faulty and are not working. Luckily we never used these microchips so if we inserted one for you then you are ok. If in doubt we are always happy to scan your pet and check it is working normally. If you are unlucky and have one of the faulty chips it can be replaced free of charge.

