

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



24 Donovan Street, Blockhouse Bay

Phone: 626 3456

Fax: 627 1073

E-mail: vets@bhbvets.co.nz

www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz

SUMMER 2015

Dear Client,

People say as you get older the years go faster and this one seems to have raced around. On the whole it has been a good year. The clinic has been very busy and Jess has established herself as our fourth vet and is developing her own following. Geoff has been working hard at the clinic and spending his free time working at home renovating his house.

Jacqueline is still training like mad and recently won the Waitakere half marathon. I am back racing mountain bikes again and touch wood no more broken bones.

The only one having a bad year is poor old Breeze who has had to have both legs operated on this year. You can read what she has to say on the matter on the back page.

Don't forget to get adequate supplies of food and medicines to cover you over the holiday period. Also don't forget your flea treatments as every year we get people frustrated as they are infested with fleas as the population takes off in the warm weather.

Wishing you and your furry family a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff, Jess & the Team

10th Annual Blockhouse Bay Vets Pet Photo Competition



Yes it is back and still going strong after 10 years. Send us your picture and you could win a years supply of **Advocate** flea and parasite treatment for your pet. Bayer the makers of Advocate have been the generous sponsors of this competition for the entire 10 years.

Please send entries to vets@bhbvets.co.nz
Please include your name, the pets name and a contact phone number.

Entries close 5th February 2015

Maximum of two photos per entrant.

Photo must be taken by the entrant..

Holiday opening hours.

Closed –Christmas day, Boxing day, 1st and 2nd of January.

Open – All days in between including Saturday 27th and Saturday 3rd.

Note – We will close at 5pm on Christmas eve and New Years Eve.



New Surgical Procedures now available at Blockhouse Bay Vets.

Over the last ten years or so veterinary medicine has become much more specialised. This is especially true for orthopaedic surgery, with more complicated procedures requiring specific equipment and advanced training.

We have sent these complicated cases to referral clinics and most of our clients are very happy with this arrangement.

Some however find the cost prohibitively expensive.

The good news is I think I have found a solution. I have managed to secure the services of an experienced surgeon who can come to the clinic and perform the required surgery. He brings all of the specialist equipment that the clinic does not have plus the required plates and screws to fix the fracture or ruptured cruciate ligament.

Dr David Mc Cormick is a Massey graduate who learnt his surgery skills while training at Washington State University.

David's first case was to operate on my own dog Breeze who ruptured her second cruciate ligament recently. The first one was operated on at a referral clinic so I thought it would be a good comparison. The surgery went very well. I scrubbed in with David and acted as his assistant. It is a little weird operating on your own pet but I had great confidence that she would be fine so that makes it easier. Since Breeze has had her operation, David has plated a cat with a fractured pelvis, done another cruciate repair and done orthopaedic surgery on a young dog with a damaged growth plate.

Although these procedures cannot be described as cheap they still offer a significant saving to our clients.

We have great working relationship with the local referral clinic and will still use them for certain procedures such as spinal surgery and hip replacements and any case that would require intensive 24 hour post operative care.



Puppy classes still going strong after eight years.

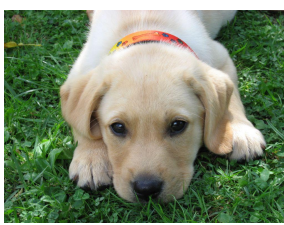
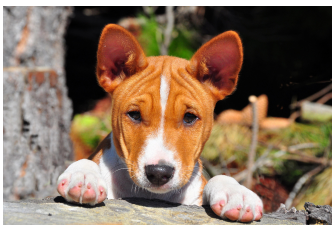
I remember taking Breeze to puppy classes run by Sindy some eight years ago. Sindy had been running puppy classes and doing dog training for many years before that, but it was her first class for the Blockhouse Bay Vets.

Eight years later and Sindy's puppy classes are still going strong. Breeze doesn't get to see Sindy very often but when she does she gets very excited. I think that early development period in a puppy is so crucial and positive experiences at that age will be remembered their whole life.

Over the eight years Sindy has helped train countless numbers of puppies and I see the benefits on a daily basis. I love it when adult dogs come running into the clinic as they see it as a fun place to be rather than a scary hospital.

If you are getting a new puppy this summer then Sindy's puppy classes are a must. The puppy gets a chance to play and socialise in a safe environment while you will learn what is required to bring up a well trained well adjusted dog.

For more information about puppy classes check out our web site www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz





CASES OF THE MONTH



Nero walks again with the help of a plate.

Nero is a young female cat who sadly like many cats got mixed up with an automobile and came off second best. She came into the clinic very unhappy and was immediately given pain relief and stabilised for shock.

X-rays were taken which showed a badly broken pelvis.

We had two options for Nero, one was to rest her and let the pelvis heal on its own and the second was to repair the pelvis with a surgical plate and screws.

Many cats will do fine with rest only but there is always the risk the pelvis heals with a much narrower opening resulting in chronic constipation issues.

Nero is a much loved cat and lucky for him his owners had the good sense to get pet insurance. It was decided that surgery would give Nero the best chance of a full recovery.

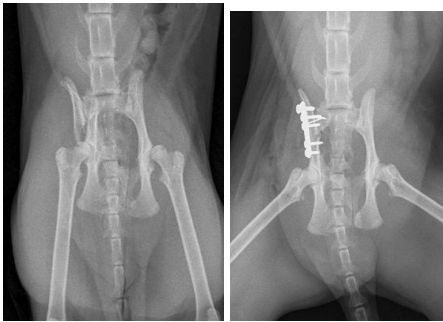
This is not an easy surgery so we called in the services of our orthopaedic surgeon David McCormick (More information about him on page 2) to come and do the job.

Under anaesthetic David with assistant Jess dissected down to expose the pelvis then realign the bones. A plate with screw was inserted across the fracture site to create stability of Nero's pelvis.

This may sound like glorified mechano but knowing your anatomy well is crucial as this area is full of nerves and misplacing a screw could result in paralysis for the cat.

After several hours of operating Nero was back in one piece. She is now recovering at home in a special recover crate.

With time Nero should return back to normal and hopefully will have learned to avoid the cars.



Left– Fractured pelvis.

Right– Repaired with plate.

Jo gets much more than a fat lip.

When Jo's owners got home and saw their dog, their first reaction was she had a fat lip from a bee sting. On closer examination though they realised that all her front teeth were sticking forward at 90 degrees to their normal position.

She was rushed in to see me on a busy Saturday morning and I must admit on first glance I wasn't too sure if it could be fixed.

Under anaesthetic I realised that the top of the jaw was broken with all the teeth still present in the broken segment. The piece of bone was able to be clicked back down and just like that Jo had her smile back. I placed some heavy duty suture material through the upper jaw to prevent it lifting back up again.



Jo was sent home with instructions for soft food only for awhile and on her recheck looked great.

One thing working with animals is they are unable to tell you what they did so we often end up postulating as to how the injury occurred.

I think in Jo's case she likes to jump up at birds and surrounding their house is a wire fence. One theory is she has jumped up at a bird and caught her front teeth on the wire and fallen back breaking her upper jaw. Hopefully she won't try it again.

Breeze's Column– Yet another shaved leg.

Last time I wrote to you I told you about how I injured my leg and had to have surgery. The worst part was the bald leg as I looked ridiculous.

Well my hair had nearly grown back and my leg was feeling good so Dad took me to the park to chase the ball. I hadn't been allowed to chase the ball for six weeks, which is nearly a year in dog years, so I was very excited to be back with my beloved ball.

I was having a great time when suddenly I felt a sharp pain in my good leg. I screamed out then sat down. My Dad did not look happy with me.

I explained that I think I will need to be carried back to the car or maybe even the Westpac helicopter like they have on Piha Rescue.

Dad decided I could walk back to the car slowly on three legs. He did lift me into the Ute though as it is very high.

Well you guessed it I ended up falling asleep again and woke up with another leg completely shaved. Last time this happened I woke up in a specialist referral clinic but apparently my Dad said I was too expensive and he and some "Bloke" fixed it at the clinic. I hope this bloke knows what he is doing as my legs are very important.

To be honest I was much happier waking up in a familiar place with Mum and Dad and all my friends around me. I just hope they have fixed me real good.

Yet again it is no ball chasing or trips to Piha for six weeks. This year has really sucked but the good news apparently is I have no more cruciate ligaments to rupture.

Merry Christmas from Breeze & Radish



Pheromones shown to help new puppies.

Pheromones are substances released by an animal that can be detected by another of that species and can affect the behaviour of the second individual.

Many pheromones are present in nature but one of interest in the dog is produced from the mammary region of a lactating bitch. This pheromone makes the pups feel much more secure and relaxed.

This pheromone has been able to be synthetically manufactured and can now be purchased as a product called Adaptil.

A recent study was done with puppies who had recently gone to their new homes, showed the puppies exposed to Adaptil were more relaxed, easier to control, more likely to engage in play and react better to new experiences.

In some ways this is of no great surprise as the change from being with your Mum and siblings to moving to a new environment where nothing is familiar must be quite a shock.

Adaptil has also shown to be beneficial with fear of travelling, separation anxiety and also fear of thunder storms and fireworks. This can help in dogs of any age.

Adaptil comes both as a spray and a plug in diffuser. Being a pheromone it can only be detected by the target species so will have no effect on us. Sadly it will not chill out and relax your nagging partner (not a problem for me obviously).

If you are getting a new puppy or a rescue dog and want to give it the very best chance going forward then feel free to have a chat with one of our friendly vets about Adaptil. Likewise if your dog suffers from some of the behavioural problems above we are glad to offer advice.

