

# BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Dear Client,

When Jess joined the team last year I was not sure the clinic was busy enough for three vets every day. I figured if it wasn't I could ride my bike more and Jacqueline could do more triathlon training.

I can't believe how busy it has become whereby we struggle to cope if we only have two vets on that day.

Please remember we run by appointments only. We always do our best to fit you in but don't be offended if we ask you to come back later if we are fully booked.

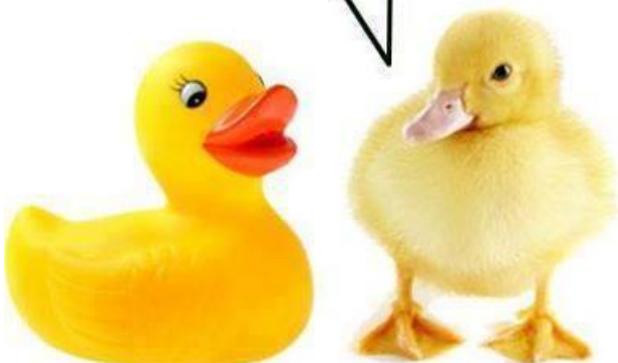
Talking of triathlons, Jacqueline recently came 4th in her age group at the NZ long distance Triathlon championships in Tauranga and has qualified to represent NZ in Sweden this year. Not sure if she will get over there though. May need to discuss that one some more.

Geoff went back to Tonga in December last year to do charitable veterinary work. I must admit I am not sure I would want to spend my holidays doing more work but good on him.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff, Jess & the Team

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU  
GOT PLASTIC SURGERY!!!



## 10th Annual Blockhouse Bay Vets Pet Photo Competition Winner



The winner this year is Chris Long for his picture of Mini me. This photo looks amazing when seen on a big monitor. Chris has used a very narrow depth of field with the eyes and nose perfectly focused but the feet are blurred in the background. Mini me is also a perfect clean cat with no runny eyes or dirty scabby nose.

I think Chris has entered the competition most years but this is his first win.

Mini me will be free of fleas and worms this year with a years supply of ADVOCATE kindly sponsored by Bayer.

Thank you to everyone who entered. This year saw a record number of entries. We all loved seeing your pictures.

Some of the picture are now on the web site. Check them out at [www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz](http://www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz)

## Karaka Berry Toxicity

I like to keep this newsletter fairly light hearted with lots of happy positive stories. Unfortunately this is not one of them, but I believe it is a story that must be told.

Malo is a two year old male King Charles Spaniel who loved to play with his brother Oliver.

One day Malo's owners found him very ill. He had vomited a few times and later collapsed and was unable to stand.

He was rushed to the after-hours clinic but despite intensive treatment he was unable to be saved.

The symptoms looked like many other poisoning cases and initially the cause of Malo's illness was not known. With some good detective work by Malo's owners it was ascertained that the poisoning was due to ingestion of Karaka berries.

As I said this is not a happy story but Malo's owners are very keen that other people are aware of the danger and hopefully save some other dogs lives.

Karaka trees are found all over NZ but are particularly common in the North Island. They can grow up to 15 metres high and have thick, dark green leaves. In the summer months they produce a distinctive large orange fruit.

The fruit contains the poison Karakin which interferes with energy production pathways in the brain, causing the brain oxygen levels to drop, resulting in seizures, loss of co-ordination and paralysis which may lead to death in severe cases.

The fruit is toxic to dogs and humans. There is no specific anti toxin available and there is no definite toxicology test, so diagnosis and treatment is very difficult.

Most dogs won't eat the berries but some dogs will eat almost anything so please be aware of these berries on your own property or when out walking your dog.



Malo and Oliver at play.



Karaka berries.

## Red Dingo Tags

You are probably sick of me going on about the importance of micro-chipping and identifying your pet, but it is something I am passionate about.

A pet that turns up at our clinic (We get about one every day) with a tag or microchip is usually returned to the owner within an hour. In many cases they don't even know their pet is missing yet.

A pet with no identification has a very uncertain fate. A dog is sent to the pound and a cat to the SPCA. You may get them back but it relies on you doing the work.

Think about this. If your cat goes missing and is taken to the SPCA you have seven days to go out there and claim it. If the cat is not taken there for five months do you honestly think you will have gone to the SPCA every week for five months to see if it has turned up?

A dog is usually better as it should be micro-chipped and have a council registration tag. I have known people though who have kept a dog because it is sweet and they worry if it goes to the pound it will be put to sleep. If a dog has a phone number attached to it, most people will ring it.

I still think micro-chipping is a good idea for all pets but another simple insurance policy can be an ID tag.

**Red Dingo** will engrave a tag of your colour and design choice and post it to you.

It could not be easier.

Next time you are in the clinic why not choose a stylish tag for your pets. It could save their lives.





# CASES OF THE MONTH

## Duke gets toggle in hip.

Duke is a young male King Charles Spaniel who had the misfortune of dislocating his hip while playing. This was very painful for Duke and he was rushed to the after hours clinic. The hip was manipulated back into the socket and a special sling type bandage was used to try and get the hip to remain in place.

Unfortunately for Duke the hip did not stay in the joint and it was elected to perform surgery to prevent the hip coming out permanently.

The surgery involved drilling a hole through the centre of the ball of the hip and out through the side of the femur. Another hole is drilled into the pelvis. A toggle is passed through the hole in the pelvis to create a solid anchor point. The toggle is attached to very strong nylon like material which is passed through the hole in the ball of the hip and out the side of the femur. This is then pulled secure and anchored in place.

The hip can no longer pop out of the joint.

Sounds easy on paper but it is actually very fiddly and time consuming.

The good news is Duke is walking well and pain free on that hip now and the long term prognosis is excellent for that hip.

Duke has quite shallow hip joints which may well have explained why it would not stay back in the joint. We all have our fingers crossed the other hip does not do the same.



The hip joint on the left side is dislocate out of its socket.

## Lotus gets two Cherries.

Lotus is a three month old female Bull dog puppy. One day her owners noticed her eye looked very strange. A pink swelling had appeared in the corner of the eye.

The pink swelling is actually a gland that should be inside the third eyelid but in some cases will prolapse out to create the classic "Cherry eye" appearance. This condition is quite common in Bull dogs but also occurs in other breeds.

We booked Lotus in for surgery and on the day of surgery the other eye also prolapsed so we ended up doing both eyes on the same day.

Many years ago we used to just cut the gland out, which was easy to do but sadly the gland is responsible for producing some of the tears in the eye.

These dogs often ended up developing a condition called dry eye.

With Lotus we did what is called a purse string suture. We placed a very fine suture all the way around the gland then pushed it back in place and pulled the purse tight and tied it off.

The suture material is on the inside of the third eyelid which touches the eye so it is very important that the suture is buried below the surface as any rubbing on the eye will cause an ulcer.

Lotus recovered well from the surgery and so far the eyes are looking good.



Lotus several weeks after the surgery.



An example of what a cherry eye looks like.

## Radish's Column– Servants behaving badly.

I don't want to sound like I am ungrateful of my servants as on the whole they do a good job.

They feed me when I demand it, then stroke me when I demand it and generally keep my house the way I want it.

There is one thing that really makes me wild though. I can be sitting quietly minding my own business when my servants give each other this LOOK. Sometimes I have time to make a run for it but mostly it is too late. One of them grabs me while the other pours smelly liquid on the back of my neck from these little plastic vials. I make it abundantly clear that this behaviour is totally unacceptable but they still keep doing it.

When they put me down I run around the house trying to leave this stuff behind. That never works and I can't even reach the stuff as they put it right on the back of my neck. I am pretty flexible but I get a neck ache trying to reach it.

This stuff smells so bad even my fleas jump off. I guess this is not a bad thing as I don't like fleas but that is not the point.

I have tried to predict when this crazy behaviour is going to happen. I think it has something to do with a full moon but I have not completely been able to predict these outbreaks of treachery.

If you have had similar experiences with your servants then feel free to drop me a line.

Radish.



Radish and Breeze enjoying the sun.

## Do worms make good pets?

Well if you like to cuddle your pets and take them for walks then the answer is definitely no.

I did however decide to get a worm farm last year and have been very impressed.

The worms will eat their way through a staggering amount of food waste and turn it into compost and "worm wee" which is a great fertiliser for the garden.

So if you fancy being a little bit greener and sending less waste to land fill then a worm farm may be for you. It will also keep you busy trying to name them all!

If you do get a worm farm though please don't bring us sick worms to the clinic as I have no idea how to treat a worm.



## A shift in the way we treat fleas on dogs.

This summer has seen quite a dramatic shift in the way we treat our dogs for fleas. For the last ten years or more we have been using topical applications on the skin, on the back of the neck of dogs.

Last year several new products came onto the market including **Nex-guard** and **Bravecto** which are tablets rather than topical treatments.

These products have grown in popularity as they are easy to administer, cannot be washed off and can't be touched by children patting the dog.

Nexguard has been the most popular as it is very palatable with 90% of dogs eating it as a treat.

Nexguard is given monthly. Bravecto is also a tablet but lasts up to three months which suits some people who don't want to have to remember to treat so often.

We can also set up text reminders for the Bravecto to make remembering that bit easier.

The topical treatments like Advantage, Advocate, Activyl and Frontline are still good options for flea control but now we also have some excellent, safe oral flea and tick treatments also.

Which ever treatment you choose the important message is treat all year round to prevent any chance of a flea population building up.

