

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Dear Client,

If I had my way our staff would never change. I see our team at the clinic as part of my extended family and feel sad when one leaves the nest.

Amber one of our nurses is flying off with her partner to the UK to start her OE. We wish her all the best with her travels.

Now I was not looking forward to interviewing for a new nurse, so was very happy to find that Natalie, a nurse who worked here a few years ago and had moved to Perth was joining the migration back to good old New Zealand.

Natalie is a great nurse and fitted in well with our team, so we have one family member doing their OE and another returning.

Just because it is winter and is getting cold outside it does not mean you can stop the flea treatments. Fleas will survive all year round in Auckland especially in a warm cozy house.

Your pets should also be wormed every three months. Once a season is a good way to remember.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff, Jess & the Team



Flea collars are back

Many of you will remember that flea collars were commonly used back in the day on cats to help control fleas. They used to contain some pretty nasty chemicals and



smelled pretty bad too. They eventually got phased out for more effective treatments.

Bayer has released a new flea collar that is much safer to pets and humans while being much more effective at killing fleas.

The collars come in three sizes for cats, small dogs and large dogs and continue treating fleas and ticks for eight months.

Seresto flea and tick collars are great for that "set and forget" type of treatment. Put one on and do nothing more for eight months.

These collars may not be for everyone. I personally wouldn't put them on a cat or dog that slept in bed with me. You may also want to think twice about putting it on a cat that gets collars off easily.

Since the launch of Seresto collars however they have been very popular and seem to work well.

If pets could talk

Have you ever wondered what your pets would say if they could talk. To be honest I am not sure I would want to know. I am pretty sure when I am preparing food and the dog is looking up at me with those eyes she is not thinking what a great chef I am.

I think sometimes we can actually be quite poor at interpreting what our pets are thinking and feeling.

I often hear clients say "the cat can no longer jump onto the bed anymore" or "the dog stands up very slowly now". When I explain that the most likely reason for this is the pet is uncomfortable and doesn't behave the same as it used to because it hurts.

Most clients will say "I don't think he is in pain as he never cries out". The reality is most pets don't complain when in pain unless it is quite severe. They simply avoid doing things that make it uncomfortable or do them slower.

As a vet I would love to ask my patients "so tell me where does it hurt". It would certainly make my job easier.

In reality sometimes we simply have to trial pain relief for these patients that we believe could be in chronic discomfort from arthritis. I have seen patients that were nearly crippled and the owners felt the end was near, make dramatic improvements when put on pain relieving medications.

Have a really good look at your pet getting around. Could they be trying to tell you something?



Prescription Rules

We like to think we are a pretty laid back lot at the vets and will try and help our patients in what ever way we can.

We do however have to abide by certain rules and regulations.

Medicines have different classifications. Some can be purchased over the counter without your pet needing to be seen, while others need a consultation before they can be prescribed. These are called prescription only medicines POM.

Repeat prescriptions can be given for POM's but these can only be done for six months without checking the patient. This is exactly the same as when you see your doctor.

The next time you ask for more medicine and the vet requests a check up he or she is doing this to comply with these regulations.

There are also benefits from monitoring patients on long term medications. We can make sure it is still effective at the current dose and check for any signs of side effects developing.

With some medications monitoring can involve blood tests to check the body is tolerating the drug ok. If you have any questions regarding your pets medications we are always happy to offer our advice.





CASES OF THE MONTH

Pea in the Ear

Ruby is a five year old female Shih Tzu who kept shaking her head. To look at the ear it looked like yet another ear infection. However when an otoscope was placed down the ear canal a polyp type growth was present right down the bottom of the ear canal.

Dogs have much longer ear canals than people, and to make it even more difficult to examine they have a 90 degree bend in them also.

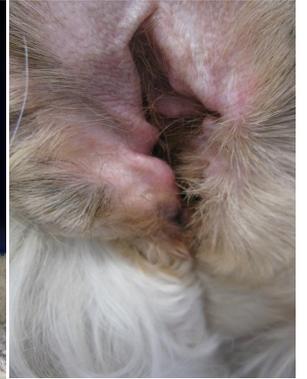
The polyp needed to be removed but access is the problem.

It was decided to do what is called a lateral resection or Zepps operation.

The operation involves making two parallel incisions down the ear canal then folding this flap of tissue down. This effectively removes the outside wall of the vertical ear canal allowing access to the horizontal part. The growth was removed and the edges of the canal are stitched into this new position.

Ruby ends up with an ear very much like our own, with a short horizontal canal and no vertical canal. The good news for Ruby is the growth is gone and so is the head shaking.

This case is a good example of the importance of examining a patient properly. Simply prescribing ear ointment would be of no help in solving the problem.



The end result once healed looks surprisingly normal

Nasty break for Chilling

We often get people ringing up saying their cat has broken its leg. In the majority of cases it turns out to be only a bite wound from another cat. However when Chilling's owner brought him into the clinic there was no doubt he had broken his leg, as it was pointing in a very strange angle.

Chilling is only seven months old and like any young male he had got into some sort of mischief.

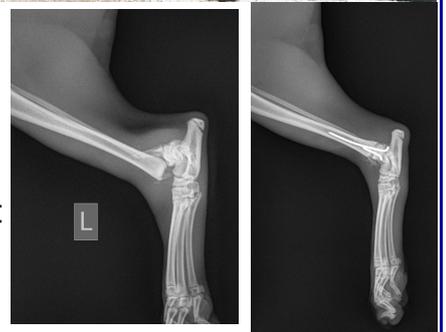
Chilling was given an anaesthetic and x-rays were taken to assess what type of fracture was present. The fracture was not an easy one to repair with the break very close to the hock (ankle) joint. Generally fractures are easier to repair if they are in the middle of the bone with two decent pieces to join back together.

Chilling is a young cat and not fully grown yet which means his bones are much softer especially near the joints. This does make the surgery more difficult.

We decided to call in David our orthopaedic guru, who is becoming quite the regular visitor to the clinic.

David brings all his specialist equipment to our clinic that is required to fix the fracture. He ended up drilling two holes in the small piece of bone of the hock and passing metal pins through the holes and up into the Tibia bone.

The advantage of being young is you heal faster, so Chilling should be back on all four feet in no time. The bad news is he still has to spend a month at home in a special cage to rest.



Breeze's column-I'm Back.

Last year was my "dogos horribless" year. I snapped both my knees and then had them chopped open at the vets then tied up with string. I was not allowed to run, no balls, no trips to the beach and I wasn't even allowed to chew the string out.

Even when I was allowed to play again my knees were still a bit sore so I couldn't go very far.

Finally the pain is all gone, my hair has all grown back and I feel GREAT. I am back running with my Mum and can even keep up with her now. My old friend Mr Ball is back and I have been chasing him constantly and when I don't chase him I chew him.

I don't fully understand why Dad cut my knees open. I was not very happy about it at the time, but what ever he did to them they are working great now.

The Breeze



FOOD, FOOD and more FOOD

You have probably noticed we have some pet food in our waiting room. We stock the high quality brands Hills Science Diet, Eukanuba/Iams and Royal Canin.

These three manufacturers make a huge range of foods to cover different life stages, different breeds and to support different medical conditions. It is simply not feasible to stock all of these foods as our building is not big enough.

The good news is if the food you are after is made by these companies then we can order it for you. For many of our clients we can do a standing order so **your specific bag of food is always ready when you need it.**

We will also record your purchases and **after ten bags the next one is free.**

You don't need to keep yet another loyalty card in your wallet, we will do it all for you.

So if you are after a specific bag of food and can't see it in our retail area then ask one of our friendly staff for help.



5 Tips to get the most from your vet visit.

1 Make an appointment- We can then allocate adequate time to deal with your problem with the most appropriate vet .

2 Tell the vet **all** of your pets problems at the start of the consult- A list can be a good idea.

3 Don't send your pet in with someone who knows nothing about what is wrong with it- If you do have to do this be available on the phone so the vet can get a medical history from you.

4 Ask to see a specific vet- You don't always need to do this, but if you have an ongoing problem it is much easier for the vet familiar with the case to continue the treatment.

5 Avoid distractions- We love children coming into the practice but in some cases a serious consultation is almost impossible if a distressed screaming child is in the room at the same time.

