

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Dear Client,

Well with a bit of luck that is winter behind us and the weather should start to warm up.

I have an office down in a basement and three years ago it flooded. I pulled the carpet up and for three years just left it as bare concrete. I recently decided to re-lay carpet and you know what I am going to say, but when those heavy rains came it flooded again.

I know I was not the only one in Blockhouse Bay this happened to, so I sympathise with you.

As the weather does warm up, it is critical that you get that flea treatment on well before summer. Come and see us and let our team show you some of the new and exciting flea treatments we have available. Don't forget we do run all consults by appointment. The clinic has got progressively busier over the last few years and with limited parking we need to run things as smoothly as possible. Everyone benefits when we are able to run on time.

Thanks to all you guys who send me the funny e-mails. I have put some of the recent pictures below.

Look forward to seeing you soon.

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff, Jess & the Team

Moving away from snail mail.

If you work for NZ Post you probably won't like the fact that new technology enables us to communicate much faster without the need for sending a letter.

We like to embrace new technology at the clinic to help treat our patients but when it comes to communicating with you, we have been a bit behind the times.

I must admit that I don't like it when I give my email or mobile number to a company only to be bombarded with messages that I have no interest in.

We want to find out from you how you

would like to be contacted to receive treatment and vaccination reminders for your pet.

Next time you are in the clinic let us know if you would like reminders via text, e-mail or snail mail.



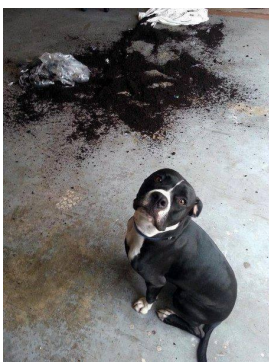
Puppy Classes

Sindy has been running puppy classes at the clinic for nearly nine years now. It is great to see those puppy graduates still keen to come into the clinic.

If you are getting a new puppy or need some help with training then check out Sindy's puppy information on

www.blockhousebayvets.co.nz

or phone Sindy on 0272932894



New digital dental x-rays for pets.

I am sure virtually every person reading this newsletter has had their teeth x-rayed at some time. So what about our pets teeth? We have always been able to take x-rays of pets teeth but the cassettes used for normal x-rays are big and bulky and very awkward to fit inside the mouth.

In the last year the practice purchased a digital x-ray processor, and although at the time the cost made my eyes water it has made a huge difference in our ability to diagnose problems with your pets.

Recently the clinic has purchased digital dental plates to enable us to take high quality images of teeth, the nasal cavity and the jaw bone.

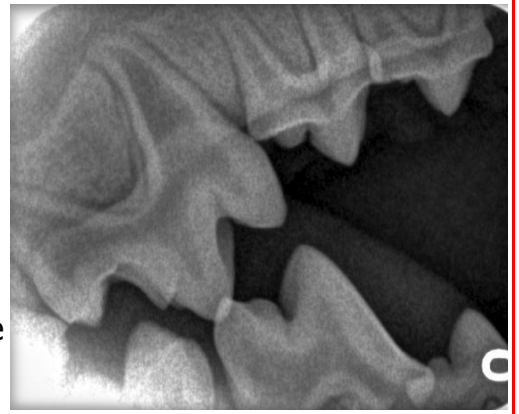
The digital plates are very small so fit inside the mouth. Each plate is put inside a disposable plastic cover to keep clean then placed in the mouth. The x-ray is then taken.

The digital plate is taken out of its plastic cover and put into a standard digital x-ray cassette. This is fed into the digital processor and like magic the image appears on the computer screen.

The great thing with digital x-rays like photo's is if the picture is not perfect we can adjust the brightness and contrast to get a clear image.

Dental x-rays will enable us to make better decisions when deciding whether a tooth should be saved or extracted.

For those of you who actually read this newsletter instead of using it to light the fire, will often read about my latest acquisition. I believe it is important to embrace the latest technology to provide the very best care possible for our pets. Some things we will never get as they are simply too expensive. I don't have a spare million for an MRI. We will however continue to add the latest equipment where practical to offer your pets the best care.



What does a stray cat look like?

How would you identify an unwanted stray cat?

You would possibly imagine it being thin, maybe very hungry. Hanging around looking for food. It may have a scruffy coat and look unkempt. It might be very nervous and wary of people.

To be honest none of these descriptions above separate an unwanted stray cat from a much loved lost cat or a cat that simply has a large territory and likes to check out his neighbours.

We do not confine cats in the same way we do dogs. This is why the number of "stray cats" in Auckland is so huge. I believe there are very few truly feral cats in Auckland.

A large number of strays have been de-sexed so someone loved them enough to have this done. Imagine if every cat that was de-sexed was micro-chipped at the same time (The SPCA does this with all its re-homed pets).

If these cats were ever separated from their owners at any point in their lives they could be easily reunited. I believe if you get a pet you are responsible for its care for the whole of its life. In some cases you may have to pass on that care to someone else but it is still your responsibility to do this. A microchip does not guarantee you will not lose your cat but it is your very best chance of getting it back. We get clients every day who take on a new cat that just "showed up" but had no chip. I am sure they would have been delighted to reunite the cat with its owners if they simply knew who they were.

We can insert a microchip during a routine visit to the clinic. It only takes a few minutes. The real question is why wouldn't you do it?





CASES OF THE MONTH

Chico needs help with number two's

Chico is a seven year old male Papillion who was brought into the clinic as he was constipated. His owner had noticed him taking a very long time straining to go on the lawn. On examination it was noticed that Chico had a swelling to one side of his anus. This swelling contained faeces. As poor Chico strained, instead of motions coming out his anus they were filling up in the hernia swelling.

The swelling is a Perineal hernia, which is caused by a weakness in the muscles around that area. As the muscles get weaker the bowel pushes through them creating a pouch that faeces can collect in.

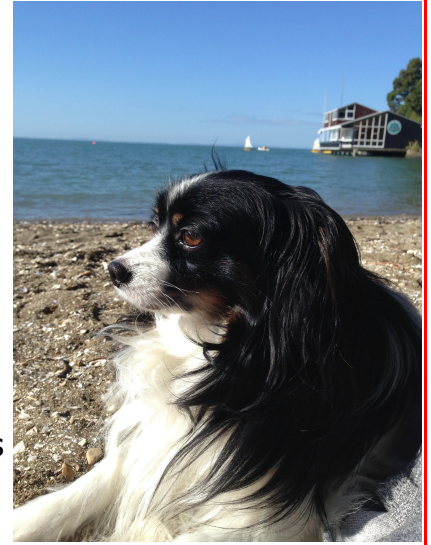
Chico needed surgery to reconstruct the muscles around his colon. This is not an easy job as most of the muscles have pretty much disintegrated.

At the same time as reconstructing the new muscle wall it is important to avoid trapping some very important nerves in the area.

In Chico's case a flap of muscle from the bottom of the pelvis was elevated upwards to close the deficit.

Chico came through the surgery well and although he was a bit uncomfortable going to the toilet for a few days once this passed he has never looked back.

Perineal hernia's are nearly always seen in un-neutered male dogs. We decided to neuter Chico at the same time to hopefully prevent the same thing occurring to the other side.



Chico looking and feeling great once fully healed.

Honey needs surgery for wonky knee.

Honey is an eight year old female small cross bred dog.

Honey is a lucky dog as she was taken on by her new owner as a rescue dog.

Honey did however have a funny limp on her back right leg. She would run along then skip that leg off the ground for a few steps then use the leg again.

On examination we found that we could luxate her patellar (knee cap) easily out of its groove. This was clearly occurring when Honey was running along. When the patellar luxated (popped out of the groove) she would skip and when it popped back she would walk normally.

Surgery was the best option for Honey. There are several different procedure to fix this problem but on examination of Honey's knee it was decided that a Tibial transposition was the best option. This involves cutting the front of the Tibia bone (bone below the knee) and moving it over to create a straighter line for the patellar to move up and down in. The piece of moved bone is now pinned in its new location.

It is not the easiest thing to describe but the good news is that after the surgery it was impossible for the patellar to luxate (pop out).

Honey had to be strictly rested after the surgery but is now doing great with no more skipping.

Luxating patellars are relatively common, especially in small breeds. They are usually a result of poor conformation of the leg allowing the knee cap to pop out easily. In most cases we will pick this up as puppies but in some cases will occur after an injury.



*Honey recovering at home.
The crate is a great way to
ensure she rests properly.*

Breeze's new flag

My Dad said NZ may get a new flag and they needed people to come up with designs. Dogs are people too so I have done my own flag.

I have kept the blue as I love swimming and water is blue. I also kept the pretty stars as I liked that bit on the old flag.

I have added rubber balls and chewy bones as these are some of my favourite things. I was going to add cow poo as I love rolling in it, but my Dad thought this was inappropriate for a flag.

I have added a cat in the corner as cats do live in New Zealand but have made it small as they are not very important.

Finally I have put me in the centre as I am very beautiful and would look great on the flag. I can't wait for the next Olympic games to see my flag raised up the flag pole.

Anyway don't forget to vote for my flag in the referendum. Not sure what a referendum is but just remember my flag is the best.

Breeze



Do pets become senile?

Many of you will have had elderly pets whose behaviour changes as they get older. The sort of changes we see are:

1. Activity— Increased wandering, pacing and restlessness.
2. Disorientation— Getting lost in familiar locations, decreased recognition of familiar people, pets or places.
3. Interactions and social behaviour— Development of fear, avoidance or aggression towards familiar people or pets. Decreased greeting behaviour or inappropriate vocalisation.
4. Sleep-wake cycle— Restless sleep or waking at night. Increased daytime and total sleep.
5. House soiling— Indoor elimination at random sites.



These signs are caused by Cognitive Dysfunction which is a result of progressive degenerative changes in the brain. The condition has many similarities to Alzheimer's in humans.

A study in the UK showed 28% of cats between 11-14 years showed some signs of cognitive dysfunction and this rose to 50% in cats over 15 years. Similar results are recorded in dogs.

In many cases we simply accept these changes as part of getting old but in many cases our much loved pet can become very difficult to live with.

The good news is we can now offer a treatment to help with this condition. **Aktivait** is a synergistic combination of nutrients, antioxidants and mitochondrial co-factors which has been demonstrated to be of benefit in Cognitive Dysfunction.

The exciting thing about this product is it has undergone clinical trial and has been shown to improve symptoms in these elderly pets.

If you are worried your elderly pet maybe going senile then bring them in for a check up and if suitable we could try them on **Aktivait**.

Tradesman Wanted.

I often have small jobs around the clinic that need doing but don't know who to call.

I currently need to fit an extractor fan above a stove.

If this is your sort of thing then give Lance a call at the clinic on 6263456