

# BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2016

Dear Client,

It is hard to think about Christmas as I write this newsletter at the beginning of November but it will be here before you know it.

Note we are closed for four days over Christmas and another four days over New Years. Please make sure you have medicines and food to last you over this time period as many of our suppliers close completely over this time.

Jacqueline and I took a short break to San Francisco in September. Jacqueline decided she wanted to swim from Alcatraz. The good news is the sharks didn't eat her, but I will let her tell you more later in the newsletter.

Geoff is going back to Tonga again this year to do charitable veterinary work. This is the third year in a row he has done this. I admire the way he spends his holidays doing more veterinary work.

Please send us your pet photo's again this year. We all enjoy starting the morning looking at what all your crazy pets have been up to.

We wish you and all your furry friends a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff, Jess & the Team



## 11th Annual Blockhouse Bay Vets Pet Photo Competition



Cushla Dillon's photo of Besede & Frankie taking a ride in last years competition.

Our pet photo competition is back for the eleventh time. Send us a picture of your pet and they could receive a years supply of **ADVOCATE** flea control kindly sponsored by Bayer.

We all enjoy seeing what your pets have been up to so send us a picture and who knows you could be a winner. Check out previous years entrants on our web site.

### The Rules:

1. Maximum of two photo's per entrant please.
2. Send pictures to [vets@bhbvets.co.nz](mailto:vets@bhbvets.co.nz)
3. Include your name, a contact phone number and the pets name in the photo.
4. Entries close 5th February 2016.

## I never see worms- Why should I worm my pet?

I hear this statement almost daily. "I pick up my dogs faeces and there are no worms in it so I know he doesn't have any worms."

"He is fit and healthy so can't have worms."

Both statements seem logical but sadly are not always correct.

Both dogs and cats can get different types of worms including round worms, tape worms, whip worms and lung worms.

You may see worm segments in the faeces with tape worms but the other types pass eggs in the faeces. These eggs are microscopic so cannot be seen with the naked eye.

Your pet may look very healthy but still have low levels of intestinal worms. As the levels increase your pet may lose weight , get diarrhoea and get a rough coat.

Another thing we hear a lot is "My pet is always hungry he/she must have worms"

The reality is your pet is probably just greedy and actually doesn't have worms.

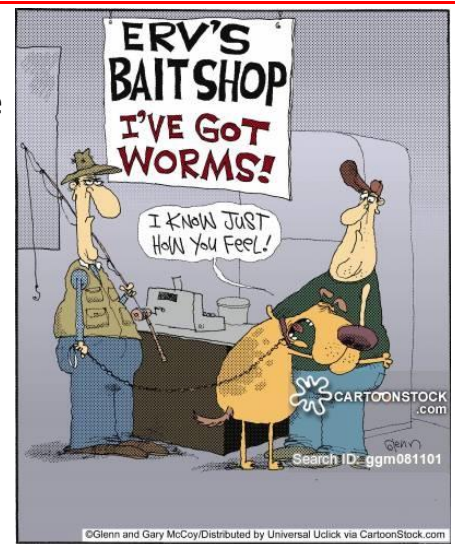
Now I don't want to get gross, but we are at risk of ingesting these worm eggs. These eggs can hatch out and cause potential health problems in us.

Now potentially we are all at risk but children are the biggest concern as their hygiene habits can be somewhat dubious, especially toddlers.

It is therefore important to routinely worm dogs and cats, but this is especially true when small children are handling these pets.

I would recommend treating adult animals every three months. Do it at the start of each season. Puppies and kittens should be done more frequently.

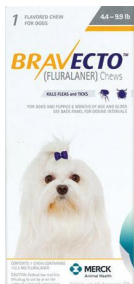
If you find giving worm medicine a chore, come and talk to one of our friendly staff. We have several options including palatable tablets and topical medicines.



## New Flea treatment options for summer.

I know talking about flea treatments can be boring, but when you have a flea infestation it is no laughing matter.

So here are three new products that may just suit your pet this summer.



1 Bravecto: A tablet for dogs that kills fleas and ticks for three months from one tablet. What is more we will send you a text if you wish, to remind you when the three months have passed.



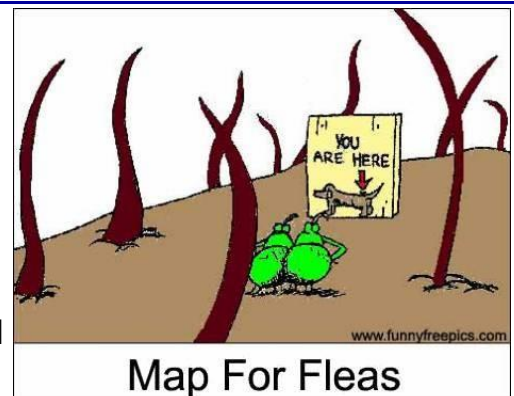
2 Seresto Flea collar: These are nothing like the old flea collars you may have bought. They are highly effective, safe and last eight months on your cat or dog. This really is the set and forget flea control. We can also send a text to remind you when it is time to get a new collar.



3 Nexguard Spectra: This is a highly palatable meaty flavoured tablet that treats dogs for fleas and ticks for one month.

This tablet however has the bonus that it also treats intestinal worms as well.

I give this to my dog as she is exceptionally fussy and suspicious of tablets but will eat these as treats.







# CASES OF THE MONTH

## Simba the bionic dog.

Simba is a young hyperactive male Border Collie who is always on the go. Unfortunately for Simba his excitement had bad consequences when he ran on to the road and got hit by a car. Sometimes we need to take x-rays to see if there are any fractures but in Simba's case it was very obvious when his owner brought him to the clinic that his leg was broken.

Even though it was very obvious the leg was broken, we still needed to x-ray the leg to work out the exact type of fracture and the best method of repair. It is also very important in these cases not to get fixated on the obvious problem and miss another injury. We did a complete set of x-rays of Simba including the chest and abdomen and luckily for Simba he had no other injuries.

Simba had a fractured femur and the only way for it to heal properly was surgery.

It was decided that this fracture would heal best with a metal plate to stabilise the broken bone ends.

Now no two bones are exactly the same and virtually no bone is completely straight, so the plate must be bent using special tools during the surgery to create the exact fit. The bone is then held in place with bone screws. It is important that they are long enough to go completely through the bone but not so long they stick out too far.

The good news is Simba made a great recovery and pretty much wanted to walk on the leg after surgery. The hard part for Simba's owners was resting him for six weeks while the bone healed.

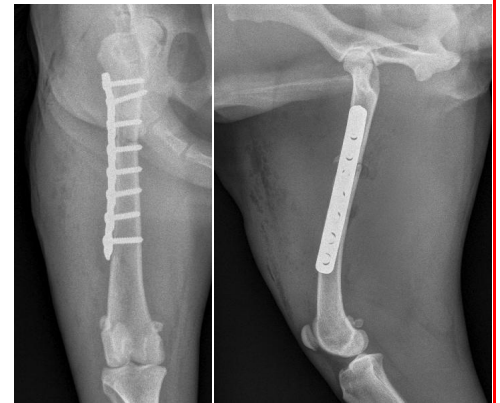
The time eventually passed and Simba is now as hyperactive as ever. Simba will keep the plate on the bone making him a bionic dog.



Simba wearing a collar to stop him chewing at his sutures



A very unstable fracture.



The bone ends are held in place with a metal plate and screws

## Escape from the Alcatraz –AKA The Sharkfest !

What really intrigued me about this event was the mystique that surrounds Alcatraz. This top security prison hosted the baddest of the bad; a prison, built on a rock, in the middle of San Francisco Bay; a body of water notorious for its fierce currents, icy temperatures and ferocious underwater wildlife. No prisoner was escaping from The Rock and living to tell the tale!

So on a grey, foggy San Francisco morning, I and a few hundred other "crazies" took on the seemingly impossible task of "Escaping from The Rock". Like lemmings, we jumped from the ferry into the freezing water and bobbed about in the water listening to the eerie cries of gulls and the fog horns, until the starter gun went and we could mount our escape!

I was determined that I was going to make it back to San Francisco under my own steam; there was no way that I was going to be hauled into a rescue boat...I am a Piha surf lifeguard after all!

Lance was anxiously waiting for me on the beach; boy did he look relieved to see me coming up the finishing chute with a big grin on my face and giving high fives to anyone who would take them!



## Breeze's column -Golden retrievers really are the smartest dogs.

Now I am sure most of you already know that dogs are much smarter than cats but did you know Golden Retrievers are the smartest of all dogs.

I have always suspected this but couldn't prove it until very recently.

I was watching TV with my Mum and Dad hoping they would share their chips with me when a movie came on. It was called Space Buddies and was about five Golden Retriever puppies that became astronauts and travelled into space to save the world or something like that. I imagine being an astronaut requires a great deal of intelligence and they had five retriever pups doing this. There were no Poodles, Collies or German Shepherds in the movie which clearly shows that Golden Retrievers must be the smartest dog.

If you don't believe me just Google Space Buddies and see if I am not right.

I wonder if it is not too late for me to be a dog astronaut?

Breeze



### Is pet insurance a good idea?

I have always been keen on pet insurance as it enables me as a vet to do what is best for a patient without the constraints of cost.

I have however seen cases where people have taken out policies and not had the insurance company pay out. This has often been due to what is called breed predisposed conditions. Simply this means your dogs breed commonly develop this problem so you are not covered.

I was very pleased the other day when I was shown the latest policies from Southern Cross pet insurance. They covered your pet for anything it may develop with no exclusions. I really could not fault the policy. I am not saying other companies may not offer similar policies but it was great to finally see policies that didn't have lots of potential exclusions.

You are obviously not covered for conditions the pet is born with or develop before the policy is taken out but everything after that will be covered.

My advice to you would be to seriously consider taking out insurance as soon as you get that puppy or kitten knowing if anything happens you have the resources to fix it.

### Holiday opening hours

Don't forget to get adequate supplies of food and medicines to cover this period.

24th Dec	Open 8.00am to 5.00pm.
25th Dec- 28th Dec	Closed.
29th Dec- 31st Dec	Open as usual except close at 5pm on New Years eve.
1st Jan- 4th Jan	Closed.
5th Jan	Open normal hours.

