

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Autumn 2017

Dear Client,

This year has been a truly amazing, eventful and exhausting year. Our clinic has seen steady growth over the last ten years but this last year has been something extraordinary.

I am lucky to have an amazing team working with me who have worked incredibly hard.

To help with the increased work load we have taken on some new staff. We have a new vet nurse Mariska Van Der Berg who has already joined us and has quickly fitted right into the team. We also have a nursing student, half way through her studies who is helping in the evenings called Jamie Tiavale. She is a great help with the discharging of patients and treating any that need to stay overnight.

We also have just had a new vet join us, Kate Rattenbury, whom I am sure will be a great addition to our team.

The down side to getting this busy is at times we are often fully booked. We hate sending good clients away, but if we see someone without an appointment, it means an equally good client is now not being seen who did make an appointment.

I promise our team will always work their hardest to look after your pets and I will do my best to try and increase our capacity. If you are able to phone in an advance for appointments and repeat prescriptions this will enable us to run things more smoothly.

Looking forward to seeing you soon

Lance Eastman and all the team.



Pet Photo Competition Winner 2017.



The winner this year is of a photo of Winston a French Bulldog having a great time with his friends.

The photo was captured by Cathy Lam. Winston will be flea and worm free this year thanks to a years supply of Advocate kindly donated once again by Bayer.

Thank you so much for all the entries this year. When you're having a hectic day and starting to question your sanity, seeing a cute picture of your furry friends always puts a smile on our faces.

I will endeavour to get a selection of some of the pictures up on the web site soon. These pictures are generally a representative selection and if yours does not appear it does not mean it was not a great photo.

Breeze on patrol this summer with Jacqueline at Piha.

Heart Murmurs

A heart murmur is one of several types of abnormal sounds your veterinarian can hear when listening to your pet's heart with a stethoscope. Normally, two distinct sounds are heard when listening to the heart of a normal dog or cat. These are often described as "lub" and "dub". When listening with a stethoscope one hears: Lub-dub...Lub-dub....Lub-dub. The 'lub' and 'dub' sounds that your veterinarian can hear are the sounds of valves preventing blood from flowing back the wrong way.



A murmur is an abnormal extra sound. Murmurs most commonly occur between the "lub" and the "dub" and have a "shooshing" or "whooshing" quality. If there is an extra 'whooshing' sounds heard, in addition to the 'lub' and 'dub' then it means that there is turbulent blood flow, and some of the blood may not be flowing in the right direction.

Heart murmurs can be caused by congenital abnormalities of the heart or can develop as a result of disease processes.

To diagnose what is causing the murmur and the extent of the problem imaging of the heart is required. A chest x-ray can be useful for evaluating heart size and fluid in the lungs but cannot tell us what is going on inside the heart. For this we use an echocardiogram or ultrasound of the heart.

There are many causes of murmurs and the seriousness of that murmur varies dramatically from having no effect on the pet its entire life to resulting in the heart failing and shortening your pets life expectancy.

If the vet picks up a murmur during a consultation feel free to discuss further diagnostic options.

New vet joins the team– Dr Kate Rattenbury

I am Blockhouse Bay's newest vet, joining the clinic after 2 years in a very busy small animal veterinary hospital. I am interested in all aspects of veterinary medicine and surgery, particularly the use of different imaging modalities in diagnosis.

In my spare time I enjoy hiking, swimming and scuba diving. You can find me most weekends walking or running in the Waitakeres or lounging on Bethell's beach with my partner and two rescue dogs Ese and Pablo.





CASES OF THE MONTH

Broken Humerus no laughing matter for Adonis.

Adonis is a handsome male ginger cat who like many cats sometimes gets it wrong when crossing the road. Poor Adonis was brought into the clinic in a very sad state after an accident.

He was given pain relief and stabilised for shock on intravenous fluids until he was in a fit state to be anaesthetised.

When we were happy that Adonis was stable we administered a general anaesthetic to enable us to get x-rays to assess what damage had occurred.

We always x-ray the whole cat to check for chest, abdominal and spinal injuries as well as fractured legs.

Adonis's right front leg had taken all the impact and looked like a jig saw puzzle of bone pieces. I knew this one was going to be beyond my skill level so sent the x-rays away for a specialist opinion.

One of the great advantages of digital x-rays is you can get an opinion very fast without having to physically send the x-rays.

The bad news was the specialist also thought the leg would be very hard to fix and may never work properly. The best advice was amputation.

Adonis's owners were disappointed and were concerned how well he would do missing a leg. The good news is most cats do much better missing a leg, than with a faulty leg, so it was agreed to have the leg amputated.

The surgery went very well and Adonis was up and walking around the next morning. He has gone from strength to strength and is now running around well on three legs.

It can often be a hard decision to make to amputate a leg in a cat versus repairing it. If we can repair the leg that is always our preference but a leg that doesn't function well is more of a hindrance than no leg.



Adonis back home and looking good.

Bunny on death's door makes remarkable recovery.

Bruce a young male rabbit came into the clinic very sick. Well to say he looked sick was an understatement. His temperature did not register and he was completely unable to move. Things did not look good.

His owner was keen to try despite the poor outlook.

Bruce was admitted and put on hot water bottles to raise his temperature. He was also given warm fluids and hand fed special rabbit recovery food. The nurses constantly monitored his temperature and by the time it was back to normal Bruce looked much brighter and enjoyed being hand fed the recovery diet.

Bruce was still completely paralysed. We suspected that this may be caused by a parasite called *E. cuniculi*. Treatment was started for this parasite and sure enough Bruce regained the use of his legs again.

Bruce's owner took him home and continued to medicate him at home. He has now made a full recovery.

I really love these cases. I estimate Bruce would have been lucky to live another few hours and after a few days of intense love and care, he goes home back to normal.



Breeze's column-Health and Safety at work.

My Dad has gone all crazy about this thing called Health and Safety. Apparently he has to identify possible hazards that could result in accidents and remove these hazards or minimise the risk. Now you may be thinking what does a beautiful dog like me care about health and safety? Well apparently I am a hazard in the work place. After all my years of service in the clinic meeting and greeting customers I am now considered a liability. It is an absolute cheek.

Now you may be wondering how a gentle natured dog like me could be a hazard? I supposedly lie down in awkward spots and create a risk of being tripped over.

Now I will admit that I have been tripped over a few times, but seriously guys look where you're going.

I am no longer allowed out the front unless supervised in case I break an old persons hip.

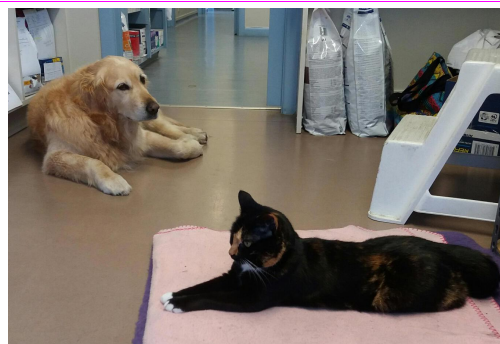
Even out back they keep wanting me to move. I need to be able to see what is going on.

The really annoying part is CC the clinic cat does exactly what she pleases. My Dad's answer to that "It is impossible to control a cat".

So, because I am well behaved I have to do as I am told, while the cat is allowed to do what it wants because it is badly behaved. How fair is that?

I am not a fan of this Health and Safety thing. I have a feeling my Dad may feel the same but he say's it has to be done.

Breeze (the non hazardous dog)



New flea treatment for cats.

Does your cat hate having that flea treatment stuck on his neck? I know my cat does. You could give a tablet-yeah right. My cat says no to that too.

Bravecto has brought out a topical treatment for cats that last three months. The cat probably still won't like you doing it but at least it is every three months rather than monthly.

For those of you who can't remember monthly let alone every three months we offer a service of texting you when the next dose is due. Too easy.

Next time you are in the clinic remember to ask if Bravecto could be a good option for your cat.

Don't forget you need to treat your pets all the year round to effectively control fleas.

Bravecto also make a version for dogs which is a tablet and also lasts three months.



Puppy Classes going strong after ten years.

It seems only yesterday we got our pup Breeze and at the same time Sindy did her first puppy class for our clinic.

I went along to the first class with Breeze and I really learnt a lot. As a vet I know a lot about medicine but I had never actually trained a puppy before. Getting it right at the start is so critical to having a great relationship with your dog.

Ten years on and Breeze is starting to show her age and to be fair so am I. Sindy however somehow has not aged a day and is still doing great puppy classes. Sindy runs her own independent business from us but uses our premises at no charge. I see this as a great symbiotic relationship. We provide her with puppies for her classes and we get puppies that for years later still want to come to the vets as they think they are going to play with their old class mates.

If you want more information on puppy classes check our web site or phone Sindy 027 2932894.



Breeze as a young pup.