

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Spring 2018

Dear Clients,

Welcome to the Spring 2018 edition of our newsletter.

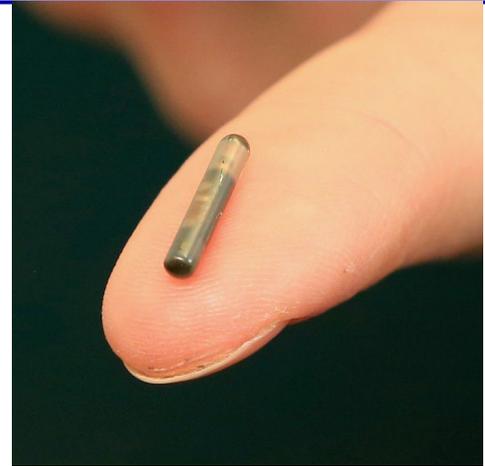
Hopefully by the time you are reading this the last of the wet Winter weather will have passed and the promise of Summer will be near.

In September we also farewell vet Kate who is heading over to Australia. Kate's partner has been offered the job of a lifetime and he could not say no. Unfortunately this means Kate is following him over to Sydney. We will miss Kate but we wish her well with her new adventures over the ditch.

We also in September welcome a new vet, Miki, who is joining us from another clinic in Auckland. Miki has been in New Zealand since 2002 and is going to add to our quartet of vets.

Unfortunately the transition of Winter to Spring also delivers us the stresses of Guy Fawkes. Vets dislike Guy Fawkes because of all the issues that fireworks cause for our pets and wildlife over that time period. There are things that can be done to help reduce stress in your pets over this time period. Talk to one of the team here at the clinic for ideas and options to suit your pet's individual needs. Please however be aware that we cannot simply dispense prescription sedatives for your pets if we have not seen them in the preceding six months.

Geoff, Morwenna, Lara, Rebecca and Miki
Fiona, Vanessa, Mariska, Jaime, Anouska and Rachel



MICROCHIPS

We have had a busy Winter here at the clinic and surprisingly, given the weather conditions outside, a large number of dogs and cats have decided to go exploring the neighbourhood on their own. We have had a lot of dogs and several cats, found wandering about Blockhouse Bay and near-by suburbs brought to the clinic by members of the public to see if we can locate their owners. Thankfully many of these pets have been able to get home quickly due to them having a microchip and being on the New Zealand Companion Animal Database.

Microchipping is a simple process and can be done at any age in your pet. It is also a legal requirement for all dogs over 3 months of age to be microchipped when being registered with the Auckland council for the first time.

NEW RABBIT VACCINE

The recent release of a new Rabbit Calicivirus strain (K5) and the discovery of a new, existing, strain (V2) in New Zealand, has meant that we are now stocking the new Filavac RCD vaccine for rabbits.

Each vaccine is a single dose vial so we no longer have to "batch" rabbits to do multiple rabbits on a single day as with the older Cylap vaccine.

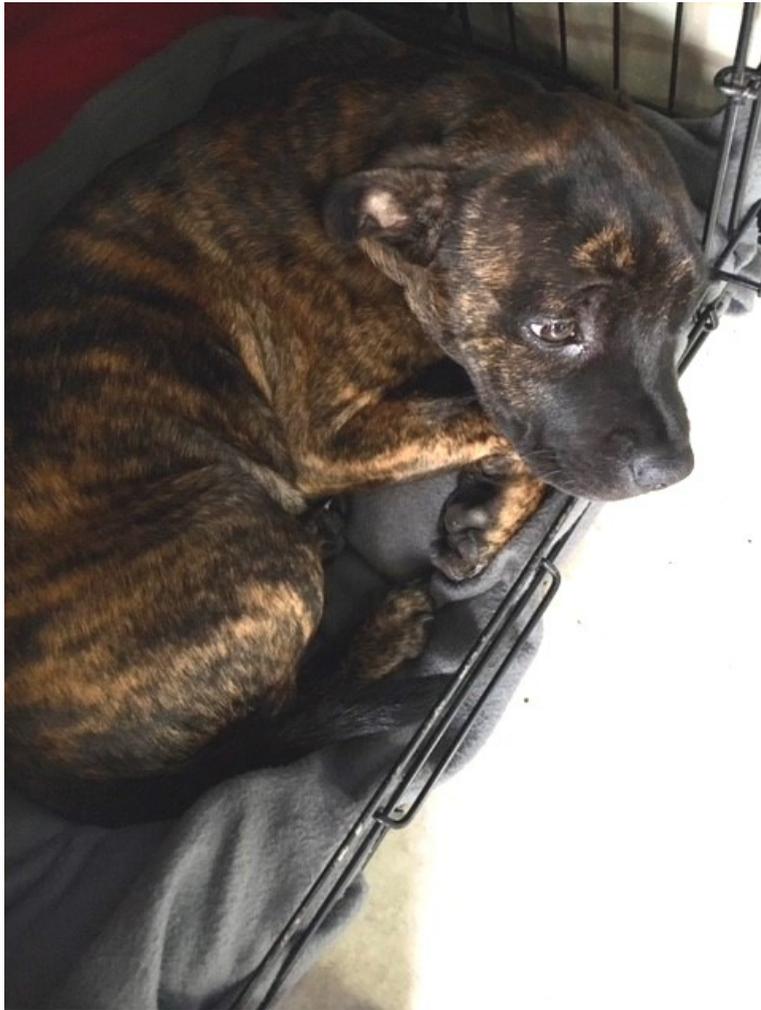
If you want to have your rabbit vaccinated then please call the clinic to make an appointment.

Spring and Summer are the highest risk seasons for transmission of Rabbit Calicivirus due to the activity of flies in spreading the disease.



Squeaky Toys - A Cautionary Tale

Nothing is cuter than a puppy, sitting contently chewing a little toy and the background "squeak" as it chews on the squeaker apparatus inside the toy. Well that is until the puppy decides to destroy the toy and eat the squeaker.



Bear is an inquisitive young lad and one day after destroying a toy, his owners became aware that the squeaky bit of the toy was missing and had in fact been eaten. Being a plastic, balloon-shaped object, the concern was that it would cause a blockage to the stomach and/or the intestines which could be life-threatening. Attempts to make Bear vomit at an after-hours clinic failed to produce the squeaker. This is not uncommon for some objects which are easy to swallow but not so easy to bring up.

The options for Bear when presented here at Blockhouse Bay Vets were to either have an operation and remove the squeaker from his stomach surgically or to refer him to the specialist Medicine Team at VSG to have the squeaker removed from the stomach with an endoscope, bypassing the need for surgery. Bear's Mum and Dad opted to have the squeaker removed at the specialists with an endoscope and thankfully it was able to be removed without the need for surgery.

Toys are always a tricky one with pets. Many love them and can be great mental stimulation for the dogs receiving them. Some however can be dangerous but not necessarily for every dog. The individual dog's behavior with the toy will be the determining factor. Many of us will know of dogs that have a toy that is still intact years being offered but others where by the dog will have eviscerated a toy in less than a minute.



Some toys are of better quality than others but even some toys that are advertised as indestructible are not once a determined dog gets hold of them.

If you have a dog that likes to rip toys apart or chew and swallow pieces of toys then try to avoid those toys with squeakers within them.

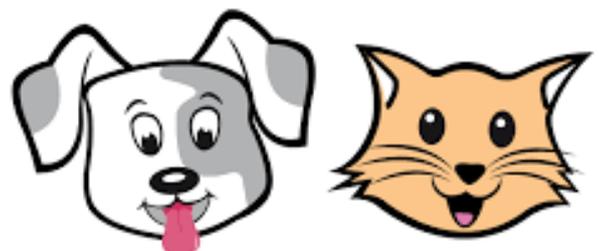
That \$10 toy can become a very expensive toy if they swallow the pieces and have to have them removed.

Clinic Hours

Monday - Friday: 8.00am - 7.00pm

Saturday: 8.30am - 2.00pm

Sunday and Public Holidays: Closed



Dog and Cat Age Chart



HOW OLD IS MY CAT?

People often ask us how old is 'old' for a cat. The answer to this is that it really does depend on the cat, with some obviously showing significant signs of aging at 12-13 years, and others still full of life at 16+ years.

Signs to watch out for that suggest your cat is starting to age include:

- weight loss
- increase in drinking
- changes in appetite (both increase and decrease)
- not jumping or climbing as much as they used to
- regular episodes of vomiting or diarrhoea
- sleeping more
- behaviour changes including vocalisation

There are a number of conditions that are more common in older cat. These include:

- kidney degeneration
- overactive thyroid gland (hyperthyroidism)
- arthritis
- high blood pressure
- dental disease

Most of these problems can be managed, and some permanently treated, extending the length and quality of your cat's life.

If you are concerned, a vet check up is recommended for examination. Blood, urine and blood pressure checks may be recommended. Ideally, it is recommended that from 10 years of age cats have routine blood and urine tests, which can be done at the time of vaccination checks.

But what about dogs? Many of the above issues can affect them also as they age.

If you are concerned that there are changes happening with your older pet, simply give the clinic a call to make an appointment and one of the veterinary team will be able to give your pet a thorough check over for you.

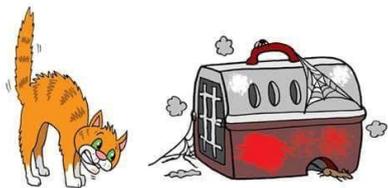
»»»»»» **Forward planning** »»»»»»

By the time some of you read this your Christmas plans will be well underway. Don't leave your pets vaccinations to the last minute ahead of going into a cattery or kennels. Most facilities have a compulsory stand-down period between vaccination and going into the kennel/cattery. Every year people leave it too late and have problems with their pets vaccinations not being done in time.



A trip to the vet!

Your appointment starts before you leave the house so here are a few tips to make it less stressful for you and your cat.



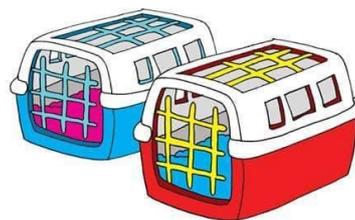
Don't hide your carrier between visits. Your cat may identify it as something scary.



Do try to make it an additional piece of furniture your cats' enjoy. Let them play in or around it and take the top off to open it up.



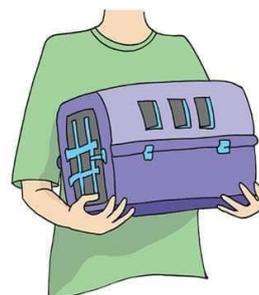
If you need to bring more than one cat to the vet **Don't** put them in together as this may cause additional stress and tension.



Do give each pet their own carrier and place securely on the floor behind the front seats so they won't slide around during the trip.



Don't carry your carrier by the handle as the motion may upset your cat and cause them to be eye level with dogs!



Do carry the carrier close to your chest while supporting the base. This will cause less motion. Once there, sit with the carrier on your lap or on a ledge. Never place on floor.

Remember -**Never** try to force an animal into a carrier. To make the carrier more appealing try a pheromone infused piece of bedding or an item of your clothing. And don't forget to bring their favorite treats and toys with you to the appointment!

Nexgard and Nexgard Spectra

Keep an eye out in clinic over September, October and November for monthly promotions and deals involving Nexgard and Nexgard Spectra; a palatable flea and flea/worm treatment for dogs.

Giveaways, competitions and bonus product on offer.

See in clinic for more details.

