

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Autumn 2020

Dear Clients,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2020.

Summer took its sweet time in turning up at the end of 2019 but when it did, it got hot and dry in a hurry.

While we are technically in autumn, many of the issues that we are seeing at the clinic are hangovers from the summer period.

Dry grass has meant a large number of dogs have been seen with grass seeds embedded in various parts of their body. After exercise, or a walk in the park, it is a good idea to check feet, inside legs, and under the ears for any seeds that have hooked on for the ride. Your dog licking at a foot may not be just because it is itchy. Early removal makes for a much happier dog, and remember it's not just the shaggy coated dogs that have issues with grass seeds.

A hot dry summer has also been a great season for flea breeding. Fleas breed all year round in Auckland but when it is hot and dry the lifecycle speeds up. Little lapses in treatment coverage allow for the environmental levels to rapidly build up. Talk to one of the team about your flea treatment needs, specific to your circumstances.

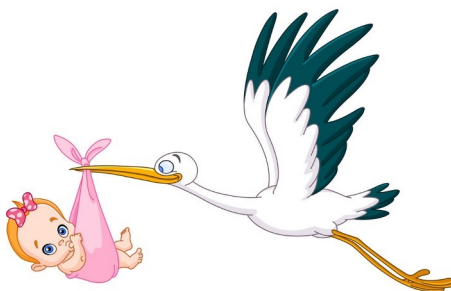


Geoff, Caroline, Miki, Fiona, Rebecca, Fiona H, Vanessa, Anouska, Rachel, Ashleigh, and Hannah.

Dr Fiona

At the end of February Dr Fiona Tritton headed away on maternity leave.

We wish her well with the arrival of her new baby and are looking forward to her return to Blockhouse Bay Vets at the end of October 2020.



Pet Photo Competition

Due to the popularity of this annual event, we are happy to announce that the 15th annual Blockhouse Bay Vets' photo competition is open for entries. Each year the quality of the entries has been amazing and we are looking for the best photo you have of your furry friends.

This year we have a new sponsor **MSD** the makers of the **Bravecto and Bravecto-Plus flea and worm treatment range**. For the winning photo **MSD** have offered a year's worth of Bravecto tablets or topical flea control. This will be judged by a highly esteemed panel of judges (Geoff and the rest of the BHB vets team).

Look over your summer photo library and send through your best entries to:

vets@bhbvets.co.nz



Last year's winning photo of "BB" out enjoying herself

T&C's:

- Competition entries must be received by May 1st 2020.
- Please include your name and contact details plus the name of the pet featuring in the in the photos, in the subject or text line.
- Maximum of two photo entries per person.
- Please do not send us your entire back catalogue worth of photos of your pet, just your best two.
- The winner will be chosen and notified in June 2020 and must be able to collect their prize from the clinic.

Chocolate and other Easter Toxins

With Easter coming around in April it is a timely reminder to watch out for those Easter goodies and your pets. Many of us will be indulging in some Easter sweet treats and many of our furry family members will be interested in them as well.

Chocolate:

Chocolate comes in various forms from white to dark, cocoa powder to cocoa nibs. All of these are derivatives from the cocoa bean that is fermented, dried, ground, and then has the fat and liquor extracted from it. The two main issues with chocolate consumption in our pets (and we are mostly taking dogs) is the presence of methylxanthines (theobromide and caffeine) in the chocolate and the fat content of the individual product.

Theobromide and caffeine are stimulants that can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, hyperactivity, tremors, seizures, a racing and/or abnormal heart rhythm, and in severe cases even death. The darker the chocolate or the higher the percentage cocoa, the higher the levels of methylxanthines. White chocolate, having low or no cocoa, has almost no methylxanthines, whereas cocoa powder, cocoa nibs, and very dark chocolate, contain very high levels.

The toxic dose for a 10kg dog stealing your Whittaker's 50% cocoa chocolate bar is equivalent to:



HALF a 25g sante bar, **TWO SQUARES** of a 50g chunky bar or **THREE SQUARES** from a family block.

The other issue with chocolate is the fat content. Many chocolate bars are 30% fat or higher by weight. In moderation, fat is an essential nutrient for the body, but a sudden high fat intake can give dogs pancreatitis. This inflammation of the pancreas is both painful and potentially fatal if it causes the pancreas to become damaged beyond repair.

If your dog has eaten chocolate please get in touch sooner rather than later and tell us what type of chocolate and approximately how much they have eaten, and we can then work out if we need to see them down at the clinic.



Raisins, Sultanas and Grapes:

The other staple of Easter fare (although they seem to appear in the supermarkets in January nowadays) is the Hot-Cross Bun. Loaded with dried currents, raisins and sultanas, they are a toxic mix for our canine friends, due to having ingredients that are derived from grapes.

Grapes can cause acute renal failure due to sudden damage to the kidneys themselves. The actual toxin itself and how it works is still unknown, but there does appear to be a huge variation in susceptibility between dogs unrelated to breed and with no ability to test who is most at risk.



What is known is that the grape can be in any form, including fresh, dried (sultanas, raisins etc), peeled, cooked, mixed in with other ingredients (like buns and cakes, or fruit and nut chocolate) and still be toxic.

If you think your dog has eaten grapes or dried fruit, the sooner we can induce vomiting the greater the likelihood we can avoid the chance of kidney damage.



After-Hours Emergency Clinic Numbers

Animal Emergency Clinic - 97 Carrington Road, Mt Albert. (09) 849-2121

Western Afterhours - 2/348 Rosebank Road, Avondale. (09) 820-7273

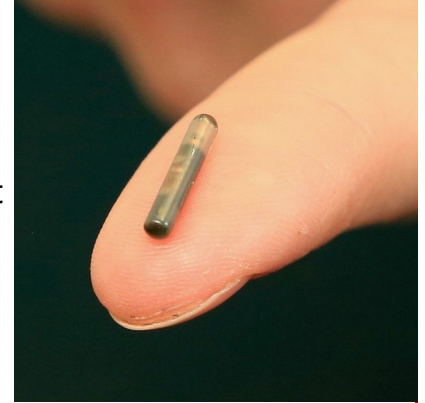
Lost and Found

Identifying lost and found pets has always been a challenge. Collars and tags fall off and photos are only really useful if they are very clear and the pet has a distinctive feature. The pure black cat with no collar looks just like the next black cat with no collar.

Thankfully these days we have the ability to microchip our pets as a form of identification. A microchip is a small RFID chip about the size of a piece of long-grain rice that sits under the skin. They are completely inert and cause no issues to the pet.

What most people do not realise is that the microchip does not give off a signal (like a GPS device) so tracking them with your phone is not possible (yet), and, more importantly, that the chip itself does not store any of the owners actual details.

The microchip itself is best considered as a barcode, put under the pet's skin. It is a 15 digit number (although in some parts of the world the chips also have letters in the code) and it is simply that number that pops up on the scanner when an animal is scanned. The information about the owner is stored on the New Zealand Companion Animal Database (NZCAR), but only if you actually fill out the paperwork for that to happen. We see a number of puppies and kittens "microchipped" at breeders, pet stores, and council adoption centres that have no database registration. If that pet is found and scanned, that microchip is useless at helping to return the pet to its rightful owner.



If you are getting a puppy or kitten, or adopting a dog or cat that is already microchipped, ask whether it is on the NZCAR database, especially if you are being charged for the act of "microchipping" before purchase. If you are unsure if your pet's microchip is on the NZCAR database, simply ask us when in clinic and we can check. If it is not on the NZCAR, then the process of putting them on the database is quick, cheap and easy.



BUY BRAVECTO products and you could WIN this hamper!



**Bravecto products
provide long-lasting
flea and tick protection
for your cat or dog in
one dose.**

Competition available for a limited time. Refer to staff for full details. This promotion is being run by the veterinary clinic displaying this promotion, not MSD Animal Health.

**Purchase any
Bravecto product
(cat or dog) and
go into the draw
to win a fabulous
Barker's goody
hamper.
Promotion runs
February 10th -
May 10th 2020.**

Making the most of your visit to the vet

1) Make an appointment

We can then allocate a time to see you and your pet. Walk-in visits will usually result in a significant wait for the person involved and an inconvenience for other clients who have their appointments delayed by someone walking in.

2) Ask to see a specific vet

There are now five veterinarians working at Blockhouse Bay Vets. For many visits a specific vet is not needed, but for ongoing cases it is best to get continuity of care by the same vet. Simply ask for that vet when making your appointment.

3) Come in with your own pet

It might sound strange, but it is really hard to do a proper consultation on a sick pet when the person presenting the pet knows nothing about what is wrong with it. If possible come in with your own pet or at least be contactable on the phone while we are in consult so that the best care for your pet can take place.

4) Remember to mention the problem to the vet and when booking the appointment

In a consultation we will often attempt to tease bits of information out of owners through the questions we ask. "Have you noticed any increase in drinking? Any vomiting?" These questions will hopefully prompt owners to mention anything of concern that they might have with their pet. However, if your pet has a specific issue you would like us to look at, please mention it. This is especially important when you book the appointment, as it can allow the staff to book additional time for your pet if there are a number of health concerns for the vet to go through with you.

5) Book multiple appointments for multiple pets

If you are planning on bringing both your pets for a check-up then remember to make that known when booking your appointment. Nothing makes a consult schedule fall apart faster than multiple pets being presented when only one appointment has been made. To allow proper time for each of your pets, and as a courtesy to fellow clients, please book each pet its own appointment slot.

6) Tell the vet what medications you have given your pet at home

Tell the vet, at the appointment, if your pet is on any medications, especially ones that we have not prescribed or that you have administered at home from left over supplies. Tell them even if they were given a couple of days earlier. Some medications can create serious health problems for your pet if mixed with other medications. Unfortunately mindreading was not part of the veterinary school curriculum, so knowing what you have self medicated your pet with is very difficult unless you tell us. We don't want to cause drug cross-reactions if we can avoid it.



Easter and Anzac Day Public Holiday Opening Hours

Thursday April 9th - 8.00am - 7.00pm

Good Friday April 10th - CLOSED

Saturday April 11th - 8.30am - 2.00pm

Easter Sunday April 12th - CLOSED

Easter Monday April 13th - CLOSED

Tuesday April 14th - 8.00am - 7.00pm

Thursday April 23rd - 8.00am - 7.00pm

Friday April 24th - 8.00am - 7.00pm

ANZAC Day Saturday April 25th - CLOSED

Sunday April 26th - CLOSED

ANZAC Monday April 27th - CLOSED

Tuesday April 28th - 8.00am - 7.00pm

Due to changes to the Holidays Act, as ANZAC day 2020 falls on a Saturday, both it and the following Monday are now classified as public holidays, and as such the clinic will be closed.