

BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Winter 2021

Dear Clients,

Welcome to the Winter 2021 edition of our newsletter.

As some of you may or may not know, changes have been afoot at the clinic. It is with much sadness that we have said our goodbyes to Dr Geoff Neal. Geoff spent the last 12 years dedicating his time to the care and wellbeing of the much loved pets that frequent our doors and had developed many very close relationships with all the pet parents. He will be missed but we wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

On that note, I would like to introduce myself to those of you who I have not yet had the pleasure to meet. I am Dr Fiona Tritton and will be stepping into my new role as Clinic Manager/ Veterinarian. I have been working at Blockhouse Bay Vet Centre since May 2018 after spending several years at a clinic in Te Atatu Peninsula. I am really excited to step into this new role and I look forward to providing your pets and yourself with the highest level of care and attention.

We also welcome Dr Ben Wilson who has returned to NZ after 2 years in the UK. Ben graduated in 2016 and started his career working in a mixed animal practice involving both large production and small companion animals. Ben quickly found his passion lay with treating and caring for companion animals and enjoyed the interaction with clients that this field of veterinary medicine provides. Ben is particularly passionate about surgery and is currently enjoying expanding his knowledge in rabbit medicine.

Dr Miki Miljkovic and Dr Caroline Elvy are also ever present with their extensive knowledge, skill and kindness they have provided our clients over the last few years.



Dr Ben Wilson

If you would like to book in with a particular Veterinarian, please let the reception staff know who you would like to see at the time of your booking. Alternatively, all of us are more than happy to see urgent medical cases on an as needed basis.

Wishing you all the best for the season.

Fiona T, Miki, Caroline, Ben, Fiona H,
Anouska, Hannah, Larissa, Ashleigh, Vanessa
and Louise

WE'RE TAKING ON NEW CLIENTS!

With the recent staff changes we are
now able to take on new
clients

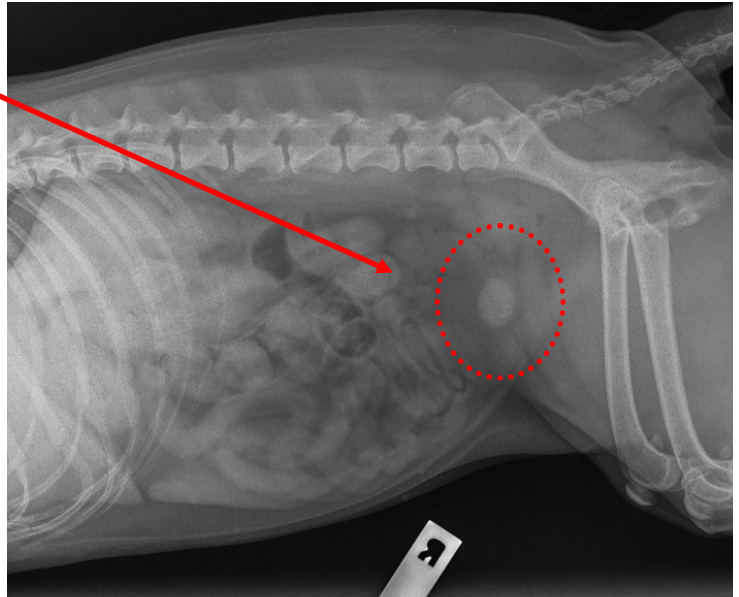
Not all stones are precious...

We recently have had the pleasure of having a particularly sweet little Schnauzer called Jaeger come into the clinic. Jaeger had been having issues with her bladder and her owners had noticed that she was wanting to pee more frequently but was only able to pee out small amounts at a time. We collected a urine sample off Jaeger and sent it away to the lab. It was found that Jaeger had a urinary tract infection and was subsequently placed on antibiotics. Unfortunately for Jaeger, her symptoms did not resolve while being on antibiotics so we went looking for a further cause to her discomfort.

Jaeger had her abdomen xrayed and in particular, we were closely looking at her bladder. There we found a 2cm round stone within her bladder.

Bladder stones are relatively easy to see on a xray as they show up as a dense white material, similar to that of bone.

Unfortunately for Jaeger, this finding meant that she was quickly booked in for surgery to remove the bladder stone



After a well deserved rest, Jaeger is currently on the mend and is already showing improvement with her clinical signs. Jaeger will have to stay on a special diet to prevent these stones from forming again.

Bladder stones can form as a complication of a urinary tract infection or sometimes due to a complex mix of several factors including genetics, diet, water intake and toileting behaviours.

We do tend to see bladder stones more commonly in smaller breeds of dogs, in particular: miniature schnauzers, shih tzus, bichon frises and yorkshire terriers, however given the right circumstances, any dog has the potential to form bladder stones.

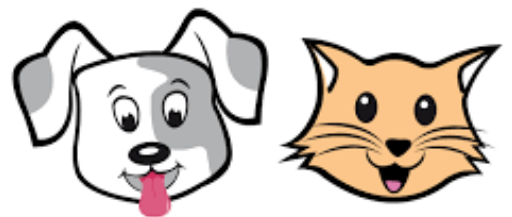
At the end of the day, if you notice your dog's toileting behaviours have changed, in particular, wanting to pee more often, straining to pee or the presence of blood in their urine, it's best to get them checked out.

Clinic Hours

Monday - Friday: 8.00am - 6.00pm

Saturday: 8.30am - 2.00pm

Sunday and Public Holidays: Closed



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

Breeze's Column

Hey, guy's I am back. No I did not retire I just took a sabbatical.

I am sure the longstanding clients will remember my columns but for you newbies my name is Breeze and I first started working at the clinic as a puppy over 14 years ago.

My job was basically meet and greet and clean up any food that was dropped.

These days I move much slower as I have had surgery on three of my four legs. I think my Mum and Dad just did it for practice. I am not sure how good a pet doctors they are as my legs are pretty stiff these days.

My parents, Lance and Jacqueline in case you did not realize think I am deaf and senile, but I am an elderly lady now and play by a different set of rules. If they are calling me, I will come if I feel like it. If I want to go in the opposite direction, I pretend I can't hear them and go my way. Anyway, if you see a beautiful elderly Golden Retriever behind the counter say Hi. I may ignore you, but what can you expect I am senile right.

The Breeze.



Is your cat always hungry but is losing weight?

I must admit I constantly feel hungry and eat a lot but sadly keep gaining weight. This is called being greedy and many of our cats fit into the same category.

However, the cats we are talking about are older cats, usually over ten years of age and despite eating normally and in some cases excessively are losing weight. This condition is very common and is called Hyperthyroidism or simply an overactive thyroid gland producing too much thyroid hormone.

In simple terms the cats metabolism is running super fast. Other symptoms often noted are drinking more, changes in behaviour such as increased vocalization and not sleeping normally, poor coat condition and long nails. The cat will often also have a very fast heart rate and, if left untreated, these cats usually go into heart failure.

The good news is this condition is very treatable. In fact it is one of the few conditions I know of that has so many different treatment options. These include tablets, transdermal gels, dietary change, radioactive Iodine treatment and in some cases surgery.

Many of the changes can be reversible but not always, so it is important to start treating as soon as diagnosed and diagnose as soon as possible. Many of the cats we see have probably had the condition for more than a year and some times several years.

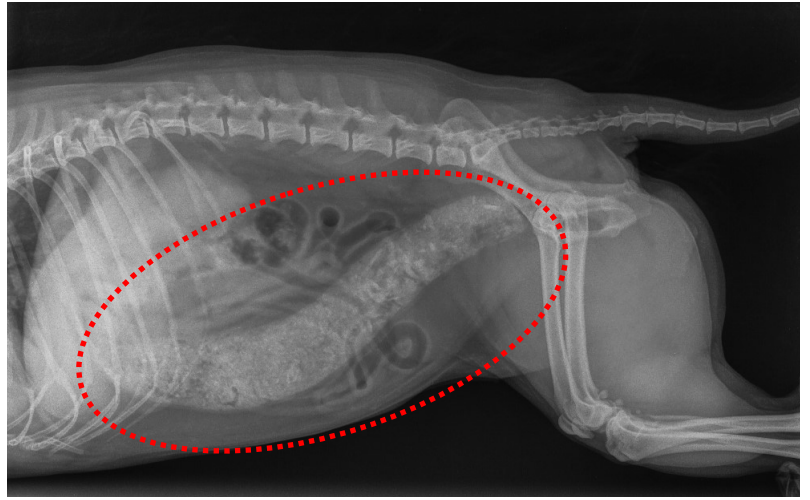
This is why having an annual health check especially for the older patient is so important. If you think this could be your cat then make an appointment to see one of our vets. Hyperthyroidism can be diagnosed from a simple blood test. While we are there we can also check for other common problems elderly cats may suffer from.



When bones go bad

As a vet, I must admit I have become very jaded against feeding bones to dogs. I know there are thousands of dogs out there happily eating bones that never have a problem with them BUT unfortunately I see the poor dogs that do have a problem, and the problems are NEVER small.

The most common complications of eating bones include fractured teeth, nasty cases of gastroenteritis/upset stomachs, intestinal blockages and perforations and every vets 'favourite'.....the constipated dog.



Let me introduce you to 'Shine'. Shine is a very sweet little Foxy cross who decided to over-indulge on a tasty treat of bones. All seemed well until a couple of days later when Shine's owner noticed she was desperately trying to go to the toilet to no avail. Another day passed and she started vomiting so she was brought down to see us.

On clinical exam Shine had a really sore abdomen and was reluctant for us to touch her at all. We sedated her, took an x-ray and found the route of her woes.....one giant solid sausage poop as hard as concrete.

Poor Shine was connected up to IV fluids to correct her dehydration, given a general anaesthetic and then arduous process of what we colloquially refer to as 'de-bunging' began.

After a lot of sweat, sore fingers and a not-so-pleasant smelling room later, Shine was free from obstruction and pain and happily went home that evening. Shine's owners are now on strict instruction to never let her have bones again!!!



Poppy's Puppies

We were lucky enough to have some cuddles with these little cuties when they came in for their first vaccinations. This was actually their second visit to the clinic after being delivered by Caesarian section 6 weeks ago. Proud Mum Poppy was very happy to show off her beautiful babies, 3 boys and 3 girls. Unfortunately to say, they all have homes already but aren't they the cutest??

Prescriptions

Please give us at least 24 hours notice when requesting repeat prescriptions to avoid disappointment. Some medications may take longer if we need to order these in especially for you.

