

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Hopefully we can soon say good bye to winter and enjoy a mild spring. I am sure our pets are just as excited as us to enjoy some more sunny days. With spring does come some issues we need to be aware of in regard to our pets.

Itchy Pets – some pollens and new grasses can make our pets a little itchy, its best to get your pets checked sooner rather than later to prevent the problem from getting worse, things to watch for is:

- Scratching, licking or chewing of the ears and body
- Red marks on your pets' body
- Any lumps or bumps on your pets' body
- Any hair loss

Some People enjoy spring cleaning their houses, but we must be aware of the chemicals that are used as some can be toxic to our pets including natural cleaners too. always follow instructions that are printed on the label and keep out of your pets reach. If you feel they may have been exposed to any chemicals, please contact the clinic immediately

Baits are tasty for pets but toxic and fatal if ingested. Keep all baits out of nose reach and pet proof the area that you have laid the baits. If you have reason to believe your pet has ingested any type of baits they must seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Some plants can be poisonous to both cats and dogs and to be aware If you have any in your garden and to make sure you have pet proof the area. The Lily family of plants are poisonous to cats and they can die if ingested.



Worming and Flea Regime – making sure that our pets are up to date with their flea and worm regime. Fleas and worms are here all year round and having a good treatment schedule is the key to preventing your pet from attracting these nastys! We will be setting up a reminder system for you to let you know when your pet will be due via a txt message so watch the space for this

FOOD FOOD AND MORE FOOD! -We have had a change in food we stock on the shelves and will now be selling the full range of Royal Canin Veterinary Care Nutrition, Hills Science Diet and Blackhawk Pet Food.

We will NOT be stocking on the shelves Iams, ProPlan or Eukanuba anymore but we can still order it in for you, you will just have to ring and order it. If you are wanting to change your pet to a stocked product we do have vouchers on our new food range for you to have. For any information about the food we stock please talk to our friendly staff who will be more than happy to talk to you about your pet's needs.



Watch out for WORMS!

Out of sight, out of mind?

It's easy not to think too much about the worms our furry friends might be carrying around... they're usually out of sight, living in your pet's intestines as adults or traveling around their insides as migrating larvae.

There's roundworm, hookworm, whipworm, tapeworm and lungworm. Each type of wormy parasite has a unique lifecycle and set of problems they can create for their hosts. Health effects on hosts range from no visible signs/ apparently healthy, through to itchy bottoms and poor condition, to life threatening illness like severe gastrointestinal diarrhoea, anaemia or gut impaction.

Worms can also spend a lot of their lifecycle as eggs in the environment... canine whipworm eggs can even live for up to 5 years in the soil! So protection relies on routine treatment as the threat of re-infection from the environment is always present.

Pups and kittens, too young to build any innate tolerance against worms, generally suffer from infections more than adults, and are very often born with worms – infected from their mother while still in the womb or passed through her milk. This is why young animals require more frequent treatment than adults.

That said, many untreated adult pets have low adult worm burdens that are continually shedding microscopic eggs into the environment, which in turn infect other animals, and some can cause serious illness in other pets and even humans. Children who are often closest to family pets, and love to cuddle and kiss and be licked on the face by their pets, are most at risk from developing a condition that can cause blindness, 'ocular larval migrans'. Unfortunately, worm eggs and larvae can be swallowed in the process of just being friendly. Another good reason for taking proactive action and worming your pet regularly.

As most people don't actually see the worms that their pets carry, for their sake and yours, please discuss your

pet's individual lifestyle and worming needs with one of our helpful vets or clinic staff. Don't even wait until you've had the unpleasant experience of seeing a wiggling white tapeworm segment on your cat's rear end! Trust us, this is the last thing you want to glimpse if you have guests around for dinner and your beautiful cat is rubbing up against their legs... the horror! .

Tips to keep worms away

- **Make a worming treatment plan for your pets with the clinic and follow it year round**
- Clean kennels and sleeping areas regularly. Remove faeces from the environment and cat litter trays. They poop – you scoop!
- Cover play-area sandpits so pets don't use them as a toilet.
- As Flea Tapeworm larvae develops inside fleas, control fleas on your pets all year round.
- Avoid feeding untreated raw meat or offal. Feed a good quality wet or dry diet.
- Prevent pets from eating the intermediate hosts of worms for example slugs, rodents and birds. Controlling rats and mice with traps might help.
- Wash hands after playing with your pet and avoid pets licking your face.

Tips to make worming treatment easier

- Weigh your pet at the clinic before treatment. Give the correct dose for their current weight.
- Treat all cats and dogs in the household.
- Time between treatments depends on product used, age and lifestyle factors of each pet. Always read the treatment instructions in the pack or ask our friendly staff for complete dosage instructions.
- Your cat won't take pills? Use the convenient spot-on Profender® Allwormer.
- Your dog is a master at spitting out tablets? Use Drontal® Chewables that are more like a treat!

STAFF NEWS

The clinic is now open for consultation Monday to Friday 8.15am to 7pm and Saturdays 8am to 3pm. We are still open on Sundays as well from 9am till 3pm

DB is heading north for a reproduction course and will bring back some great knowledge to upskill the clinic in our reproduction section.

Laura now has a 5 year old ! Louie turned 5 in July and is enjoying heading to school

The clinic won a recent promotion for Bayer with their "Worm Display" and as well for their "Winter Display" with Bravecto and look forward to enjoying their prizes

Dawn attended a Surgical anesthetic and Surgical Fluid Therapy course in Queenstown last month

Natasha has been busy with children's birthday parties with Wyatt turning 1 and Cohen turning 5 next week, Natasha is considering a side career of party planning.



PROMOTIONS WITHIN THE CLINIC

With every purchase of a Drontal Worm tablet for either a dog or cat you will receive a FREE fridge magnet

Receive a FREE food bin with every purchase of Hills T/D diet of 3kg or larger while stocks last

Buy any 1.5kg bag of the Royal Canin Feline Veterinary Care Diet range and receive x6 wet food pouches FREE or buy any 3kg Royal Canin Feline Veterinary Care Diet and receive x12 pouches of wet food – while stocks last



STAFF CHANGES

We have two new staff members to introduce

Jessica Boden – Veterinarian - Jess graduated from Massey in 2013 and recently moved back to Christchurch after practicing as a Small Animal Vet in Taranaki. In her spare time Jess enjoys spending time with her partner, little boy and newly adopted greyhound "Fliss", catching up with her family and trying out Christchurch's newest restaurants

Chelsea McLean – Diploma Veterinary Nurse -originally from Timaru and moved to chch in 2015 to study Veterinary Nursing. She has one big fluffy cat called Franklin and he lives with her mum in Timaru

In Chelsea's spare time you can find her at the gym, catching up with friends or working on her online nutrition business

Lead Veterinary – Catherine has taken on the role in the clinic of Lead Veterinary

Practice Manager – Natasha has been working hard with all the paper work and the running of the clinic since being back from Maternity leave since the end of Jan as the Practice Manager but still likes to flick on her Vet Nursing hat and helping with shifts where she can.

How can I recognise if my Pet has Osteoarthritis?

It's tempting to think that our beloved dog or cat is getting slower, sleeping more, and less active due to old age. We all know that old age is not a disease, but Osteoarthritis is. Chances are your pet is probably just too sore to run, fetch the ball and jump around as they used to. Inside their inner kitten and puppy might just be bursting to get out!

As 26% of New Zealand's 700 000 pet dog population are 8 years old or over, it's likely that many of them are suffering from undiagnosed arthritis, as global studies have shown a high proportion of senior pets have joint issues. Kiwi's love their cats too, and currently there are approximately 1.1 million pet cats in NZ, many in their senior years, 22% are 11 years old and over.

Osteoarthritis is a debilitating disease whereby pain and stiffness develop as a result of wear and tear on the joints. Cartilage reduces stress on bones by acting like a shock absorber, minimizing impact on joints. When cartilage is damaged, inflammatory changes occur, eventually leading to destruction of the cartilage and subsequent damage of the underlying bone; joints become painful causing lameness. These changes are not curable, but you can lessen the pain and inflammation associated with them.



Is your cat or dog showing any of these signs?

- Difficulty jumping on and off the bed/sofa/surfaces
- Difficulty getting in and out of the car
- Difficulty going up and down stairs
- Slowing down on walks, especially going up or down slopes
- Reluctance to play, go for a walk, lacking energy
- Limping or stiffness
- Licking a single joint frequently (pain)
- Change in character or getting grumpy
- Reluctance to be patted or picked up



What can I do to help? Calling the vet clinic to book a health check is a great place to start. An examination by a vet can be enough to indicate where your pet is sore, and often a vet can diagnose arthritis with a thorough exam. The vet may then prescribe you some pain relief and/or recommend a joint supplement such as Bomazeal® Mobilize.

Things to ask your vet about:

Weight management – joints that are already sore and stressed are made worse when they have to support extra weight. Reducing weight leads to significant improvement in the quality of life of your pet.

Therapeutic exercise – Exercise must be a balance between not over exerting the joints, but getting enough exercise to reduce stiffness and muscle wastage. Little and often, gentle lead walks can be preferable to epic runs just once a week. Hydrotherapy and physiotherapy options are increasing for pets in New Zealand now too, and can be very effective at promoting muscle strength, tone and joint motion whilst limiting impact on joints.

Help around the home – Thick padded comfy beds help pets alleviate excess pressure on sore joints and provide more warmth from a cold floor during the winter months.

Pets need good footing to avoid slipping and falling. Carpet runners work well on hardwood floors. Move feed bowls to another location if your pet is slipping on tiles or lino. Ramps can be used to minimize stair climbing or to assist dogs getting in and out of cars.

Medications - In moderate to severe cases the vet may prescribe pain relief/ anti-inflammatory medication. There are also joint supplements available without prescription for mild arthritis, or to use in conjunction with anti-inflammatories. Bomazeal® Mobilize is a tasty tablet that can be used as a safe, natural alternative for dogs with osteoarthritis, based on NZ Green-Lipped Mussel Extract, available over the counter at the clinic. Or ask about Bomazeal® CatPep, specially formulated to increase your cat's mobility.