



Is your furry friend being troublesome?

Talk to us about our behavioural services today!

Clinic Website

The clinic has a website up and running – make sure you check it out

<https://www.shirleyvet.co.nz/>

and did you know we also have a Facebook page too?

Make sure you LIKE the page and share it on your page.

[https://www.facebook.com/Shirley-Vet-Clinic-](https://www.facebook.com/Shirley-Vet-Clinic-423092104454362/)

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Parvo Virus

There have been some cases of Parvo Virus here in Christchurch.

Canine parvovirus is a contagious virus mainly affecting dogs. The virus is highly contagious and is spread from dog to dog by direct or indirect contact with their faeces. Vaccines can prevent this infection, but many dogs die each year if left untreated.

Dogs that develop the disease show signs of the illness within three to seven days. The signs may include lethargy, vomiting, fever, and diarrhea (usually bloody). These lead to dehydration and a weakened immune system.

Survival depends on how quickly the virus is diagnosed, the age of the dog, and how aggressive the treatment is. Treatment usually involves extensive hospitalization, due to severe dehydration and potential damage to the intestines and bone marrow.

During Parvovirus outbreak conditions, pups or dogs that are deemed unlikely to have immunity against Parvo virus, including those not yet fully vaccinated, should not be allowed in the environment where they may be exposed to the virus. Until they are fully vaccinated, newborn pups should be kept at home, ideally in a room that can be disinfected with bleach first and people should remove their shoes before entering, as the virus can easily be carried on shoes, clothes and even skin.

Book Online and Save Time

[shirleyvet.co.nz](https://www.shirleyvet.co.nz)



FREE Dental Appointment

ONE day only! Monday 29th
June. Available from 9am -
4pm with vet nurse Laura.

Cats and dogs only*

Like us humans, our pets need regular dental checks to help prevent dental disease and the pain that this can cause.

Dental disease often goes unnoticed by even the most caring of owners, so it is recommended that dental checks be performed regularly, e.g. every six months for senior pets.

Prevention of dental disease is important through all stages of your pet's life. If left untreated, it can cause other issues such as bone infection in the mouth and other areas of the body. If the infection enters the bloodstream, it can affect organ function. Ask one of our veterinarians for. Your pet will receive a dental consultation and advice for the best oral care for your pet – we look forward to seeing your fury friend!

Call our friendly team on
03 385 6156 or email reception@shirleyvet.co.nz today!



Signs your pet may have dental disease.

- Distress and rubbing of the mouth.
- Bad breath.
- Loose or missing teeth.
- Loss of appetite or a preference for soft foods.
- Facial swelling.
- Bleeding or red gums.
- Chewing food in one side of the mouth only.
- Increased salivation.



Staff Update

Brydie – Receptionist

born and raised in Christchurch. She is a mum to one cat fur baby, Khiya.

In her spare time she enjoys travelling, going for walks, watching Netflix and spending time with friends and family. Brydie has also completed her Certificate in Animal Care.

Pauline Howard- Veterinarian

Pauline has been a vet for 39 years and comes with lots of experience in all areas of veterinary medicine. Pauline has a special interest in birds and reptiles. CanCan the poodle lives at home with Pauline.

Puppy Preschool Class

Is your puppy aged between 6-16 weeks? Are you wanting to learn skills to teach your puppy? Are you wanting your puppy to learn good valuable social skills in a safe environment? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, then Puppy Preschool School is a must for your puppy!

The class will cover basic do's and don'ts, feeding, grooming, how to deal with undesirable behaviours, vet advice, toys, travelling in the car, toilet training, teaching puppies to sit, come when called, stay and wait, walking on the lead, lie down and many other useful tricks and commands.

Puppy Preschool classes are held at the Shirley Vet Centre on Sunday nights from 5pm. The class is run over 4 weeks and the classes have a mixture of both theory and practical information. The cost of the course is \$115 for the 4 classes and puppies that graduate will receive a puppy pack and certificate. When your puppy attends the classes please bring puppy with a collar on and on a lead, their favourite toy, and a smile.

To enrol your puppy in a class please contact the Shirley Vet Centre on 03 3856156 or email reception@shirleyvet.co.nz or laura@shirleyvet.co.nz



Winter and Pets

TLC FOR OLDER PETS IN WINTER

Pay special attention to your older pets as they can find the cold weather over winter a bit of a challenge, especially those with arthritis. They may find it difficult to walk on wet surfaces and will be more prone to slipping or falling. Go slowly when walking them outside and avoid any slippery areas.

As our pets age, they become less resilient to the cold weather meaning you need to make a few adjustments to help them get through the winter months with ease.

All species of animals can be affected by arthritis; however, dogs tend to show the more obvious clinical signs. Cats on the other hand can hide their signs of arthritis and pain, so be aware of any changes in behaviour during the colder months. If your pet suffers from arthritis, discuss with your vet changes that you can make to help your pet be more comfortable. General adjustments that will help your older pets in winter include:

- A raised bed with padding – out of the way of draughts, in a warm area.
- Maintaining an ideal body weight (excess weight will make things harder and more painful for your pet)
- Maintain a sensible exercise level – arthritic joints benefit from being kept mobile, however hard exercise can cause inflammation and increase pain. Walks may need to be shorter and more frequent to allow dogs to meet their exercise.
- For older dogs, especially large ones, there are plenty of innovative bedding options to help ease their pains. Along with a warm, soft and supportive bed, a good diet and supplements to improve symptoms of arthritis are invaluable.
- For older rabbits or guinea pigs, ensure their bedding is swapped out regularly as wet bedding can easily freeze on cold nights.

While most animals are very well adapted to handle cold weather, ensuring that they have adequate water, appropriate feed amounts and some shelter from wind, cold rains or wet snow will ensure that your animals handle winter conditions with no ill effects. Keep in mind that very young, sick or very old animals may require even more attention to their special needs.

Address 15 Marshland Rd, Shirley, Christchurch New Zealand
PH. (03) 385 6156 | **E** shirleyvet@xtra.co.nz



5 golden rules to fight fleas, 95% of the flea population isn't found on animals at all... it's found as eggs, larvae, pupae or pre-emerged adults in the environment. If you have been seeing fleas regularly on your correctly treated pet, then treating the environment too is vital to get rid of fleas sooner. The aim of environmental control is to break the life cycle and stop infestation of the animal. Targeting the most vulnerable stages is important. Pupae are virtually impossible to kill or remove so are not the ideal stage to concentrate on.

Dual action pet treatment

Use a pet flea treatment that kills BOTH adult fleas AND targets another lifecycle stage too. Advantage, Advocate and Seresto all kill adult fleas on your pet and larval flea stages in the pet's surroundings. The active ingredient is shed in pet's dander and hair around their sleeping areas and so larvae are exposed this way.

Treat the house

Use an Insect Growth Regulating (IGR) flea fogger/ flea bomb and/or target spray in your pets' environment. Asking your vet clinic for their recommendation on brand is a good idea. Follow the instructions carefully, and don't forget to treat the car if your pet spends time travelling with you.

Remove off-host life stages

Remove as many flea eggs and larvae as possible in the house. Washing the bedding initially in hot water helps physically to remove the eggs and kill larvae. Wash pet's blankets, beds, pet carriers and throw rugs.

An initial vacuuming of floors will remove up to 90% of the eggs but is unlikely to remove many pupae or larvae. Larvae crawl deep into carpet and floor board cracks and can even grip onto carpet fibres! Once vacuuming is done once, repeat vacuuming does little to remove any further eggs or larvae but might encourage new fleas to hatch in response to pressure and vibration – then once they are out in the open, rather than hiding as pupae, we can kill them with repeat fogging or use your treated pet as a flea hoover! Vacuum very regularly (every couple of days) for best effect and include the car and furniture. Larvae are the most vulnerable stage and our efforts should be concentrated on eliminating this stage. They will concentrate in hot spots where the pet deposits a lot of flea eggs and which are conducive to larval survival. Bedding and carpets where the animal lies are obvious spots. Less obvious spots are areas at carpeted doorways where the animal jumps to greet you when you return home. It makes sense to concentrate on the areas your pet spends most of their time... this is likely where flea eggs will have fallen off their coat and developed into new fleas – your pet's favourite sleeping area can become a 'flea nest' or 'nursery' if you like! This might even be happening at the foot of your own bed. Don't forget the car upholstery, furniture or underestimate wooden floors and tiles for places for flea development to occur.

Tackle outdoor areas

The garden is also a place where the flea stages develop. A tidy backyard discourages wildlife (including rodents) which can carry fleas and allows less favourable areas for fleas to develop. Leaf litter should be removed from areas where the pets like to rest. Animals often pick up new infestations outdoors, even in their own backyard. E.g. under house access, in garden borders, bushes... places where other animals (stray cats or dogs, rabbits, hedgehogs, possums, rodents etc.) could have passed through without you realising and shed flea eggs many months ago...which have now developed and waiting to jump on your pet! Fleas seem to like plants such as Agapanthus...these provide a nice moist environment for their eggs to survive underneath. So prevent pet and stray animals from entering crawl spaces, foundation vents, porches and garages. Ask friends to make sure their pets are flea treated before they visit your house for doggy play dates too.

Exercise your patience!

It may take 2-4 months to control flea populations. Fleas that are seen during this time are not adults that have survived previous treatments, but are new fleas still emerging from their cocoons. They will be killed soon after they jump onto their host...provided the host has correctly applied treatment on them. If you live in a rural area or have a really big garden with heaps of wildlife reservoirs harbouring fleas, it can be very difficult to eradicate off-host stages altogether – do your best to tidy the area near the house and your animals resting areas and expect that you may see fleas on your pets from time to time. If you do see fleas and they are moving slow enough to catch – success – they are busy dying!



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