



THE STRAVEN ROAD
VETERINARY
CENTRE (LTD)

VETERINARY SURGEONS

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Newsletter – Autumn 2013 Issue 19

CLINIC NEWS

In January we farewelled Linda Sorenson, who has taken on a role at CPIT following her passion as an educator. While we were very sad to see her go, at CPIT she is able to pass on her wealth of knowledge to training veterinary nurses, for the benefits of the profession. She will still be in at Straven Road weekly doing surgery sessions with the training veterinary students.

It wasn't only a farewell though. Around the same time we welcomed several new staff. You can read about them here in this newsletter. They will all add to the wealth of knowledge and expertise available at our branches.

SEASONAL UPDATE

Autumn

Now that it's autumn, don't forget about visibility when out walking your dogs at night. Visibility of both yourself and your pet is essential. Be safe be seen!

If your pets tend to become more inactive at this time of the year make sure that you adjust the calories you are feeding your pet to compensate, so there is no need to fight the bulge for your pet come spring. Better still, get out there and get your pet exercising through Autumn and Winter. Even though it is not usual to walk your cat, you can get your cat playing to burn energy using innovative homemade toys.

Autumn is also a time with warm and humid weather that we see larger numbers of hot spots on the skin. These are particularly common on dense coated dogs such as Labradors and retrievers, but no dog is immune. If you notice your dog bothering an area of skin, get it seen early. Skin conditions are much more easily treated or controlled when early veterinary intervention is sort. Ear problems are also seen in higher frequency in autumn for the same reasons. Check your pet's ears daily. A slight change in colour

or smell should immediately signify the need for a visit to your veterinarian. Remember early treatment is far more successful.

Fleas are still very prevalent through the autumn months, so keep up the flea treatment.

PET FIRST AID KITS

Product review

Have you ever been out and about with your pet or even at home and wish you had a first aid kit just for them?

First aid emergencies are just as common for your pet as they are for humans. It may be your pet or someone else's who you come across who has injured themselves. Glass cuts, lacerations, burns, torn nails, bite wounds are all examples of animal injuries you might see that require first aid, before the animal can be attended to at a veterinary clinic. The first aid kits that we now stock are designed for common pet injuries and allow you to keep your human first aid kit separate from your pet's kit.

They come in a Plastic Container.

Inside is: 1x Cohesive bandage, 1x Adhesive bandage, 1x Dressing Fixative, 1x scissors, 1x tweezers, 1x Antibacterial gel 60ml, 2x Pair of gloves, 2x Saline sterile wound wash 30ml, 1x burn gel sachet, 2x Steripad, 1x Absorbant underpad, 1x Emu Oil skin repair cream 30g, 6x alcohol swabs!

We are selling them at Straven Road for \$43.00 each

WEBSTE RELAUNCH

Information galore

For the past 6 or so months we have been busy transferring information from our old website to our new one and repackaging it and updating it ready to launch our new updated and modernised website. This will be launched this Autumn so don't forget to go and check it out and give us feedback.



**Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets**

It has a new and much clearer menu, coloured yellow on the left hand side. We have sorted all the articles into sections so it should make it easier to find what you want (or just use the search function).

All your favourite articles will still be there, albeit some are still being updated and will appear on the new site shortly.

Don't forget to like us on Facebook while you are there too. Then you will be kept updated with all the latest happenings at our branches.

NEW STAFF

Since our last newsletter we have had 3 new staff start whom we would like to introduce

Kate Tolliday joined the team at Straven Road in February 2013, keen to concentrate on small animal work after a career mainly in mixed practice. She is adjusting to life as a "city" vet but won't miss the midnight calvings in spring! She can also be found on some shifts at the Christchurch After Hours Vet Centre, where she enjoys keeping up and developing her skills in acute and emergency medicine.

Kate originally qualified from the Royal Veterinary College, London, in mid 2005. She completed a wildlife externship at UC Davis, California before travelling through South America then entering gainful employment at her old student foster practice in Cornwall in the UK.

The travel bug bit again, taking her to work for a rabies control programme in northern India, trekking in the Himalayas, and on to New Zealand in 2008. What was meant to be an 8 month working holiday has turned into a more permanent move, arriving with a backpack and now settled with a husband, cat and house!

Outside of work, Kate likes to get into the outdoors with her husband Mark on various running, tramping and biking missions in the mountains, and loves having Sumner beach and the Port Hills to explore on her doorstep.

Katrina is one of our new veterinary nurses. She started at the Straven Road Veterinary Centre early 2013. She works as a casual nurse between Straven and Papanui Animates Vets to help cover when staff

are away on holiday or sick.

Katrina gained her National Certificate in Veterinary Nursing from CPIT in 2012 and a certificate in Canine Behaviour. She is looking forward to using her knowledge to help with any behavioural questions.

At home the "family" includes her husband, 3 children, 2 Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers Elvis and Stella, and a Burmese cat Daisy .

Tahlia is another new veterinary nurse. Tahlia is a new graduate from the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology's Graduate Pathway in Veterinary Nursing course. She completed her certificate in September of 2012 and joined us in January of 2013. She is looking forward to learning from the experienced staff at The Straven Road Veterinary Centre and is excited to be starting a new stage of her career and to be putting her skills into practice.

She has a 7yr old black and white cat who now lives with her mum after being lost for 2 weeks after the February earthquake, so she is very aware of the impact that the earthquakes have had on pets.

Tahlia is working between both our Straven Road and Papanui Animates clinics. Tahlia is looking forward to meeting you all, so please come in and say hello.

PROMOTIONS

Visit our promotions page on our website for current promotions: <http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/pet-product-promotions.php>

We would love to hear your feedback on our newsletter. We thank you for your custom and we look forward to seeing you again soon.



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