



THE STRAVEN ROAD
VETERINARY
CENTRE (LTD)

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Newsletter – AUTUMN 2015 Issue 27

CLINIC NEWS

We have a new veterinary nurse, Pam Walker. She will be working between both our branches. She has worked previously in a very busy small animal clinic and is very experienced and knowledgeable. Pam is looking forward to meeting you and your pets.

For those of you that have dogs prone to stress we have the new Adaptil Collar for dogs available now. It is available in 2 sizes and lasts a month. The great advantage over the sprays and the plug in is that it is with the dog all the time. It is scientifically proven to help relieve stress and anxiety for your dog. It aids in helping your puppy learn. Call the veterinary clinic and speak to one of our staff if you would like to know more.

We'd also like to advise that Puppy preschool classes are available at our Straven clinic. These are run one evening a week for 4 weeks. Please call to find out more and book your puppy in if interested. These courses help with basic training and socialisation and should be considered a must for all new puppy owners.

SEASONAL UPDATE

Autumn

Fleas: It's still warm enough for those little blood suckers so keep up the flea treatment. We have some good promotions on flea treatments currently so check those out later in the newsletter

Hotspots: Those of you whose dogs have really thick coats are particularly at risk of these and this warm but damper weather can increase the chances of these developing. Keep a close eye on your dog and if they start licking or scratching to get it checked out as soon as possible.

Desexing: If you got a new puppy or kitten over the summer and they haven't yet been desexed now is the time to plan that. Our staff can help advise on the best time to have this done and the advantages of this procedure. You can also read more at:

<http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/desexing-your-pet.php>

PANCREATITIS

Vomiting dog?

By Dr. Anne Finlay

STOP! Do you ever feed your dog the fatty leftovers from dinner? Does your dog scavenge in the park. My dog finds especially good snacks after rugby games and on sunny days when all the picnickers leave. These are the days he stays on the lead!

He will be at increased risk of developing pancreatitis, a sometimes fatal disease, which can have a very quick onset (acute) or can have milder, waxing and waning signs (chronic).

Pancreatitis is the inflammation of the pancreas, an organ close to the stomach and small intestine. The pancreas produces insulin for sugar regulation (endocrine) and pancreatic enzymes (exocrine) for food digestion. It is these pancreatic enzymes that, released prematurely, initially cause inflammation and necrosis to the pancreas and can then set in motion a chain of events resulting in complications in other body organs.

In most cases the cause will not be known but some known predisposing factors include inappropriate human food/scavenging, overweight dogs, trauma (e.g. hit by car), some breed predisposition (min schnauzer), concurrent disease(e.g. diabetes, Cushing's).

Symptoms of pancreatitis can range from mild to severe. Early recognition and treatment can improve chances of recovery.

Symptoms include

- Vomiting
- Anorexia(not eating) or decreased appetite
- Abdominal pain, abnormal or hunched posture
- Lethargy, depression, playing less
- Dehydration
- Weakness
- Diarrhea



**Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets**

Diagnosis

Because these symptoms are not specific to pancreatitis, the vet will need:

- A good history from you. (including diet and possible scavenging)
- To examine your dog
- Blood tests (including canine pancreatic lipase)

They may also require

- urine sample
- X-rays (to rule out ingested foreign body and look for other changes)
- ultrasound

None of these tests are 100% diagnostic for pancreatitis, when considered alone, but when considered together will give a strong indication if pancreatitis is the problem.

Treatment

Treatment is symptomatic and supportive. There is no specific cure for pancreatitis.

- Intravenous fluid therapy
- Antiemetic's(to stop vomiting and nausea)
- antacids (to reduce gastric acidity and decrease the risk of ulceration)
- pain relieving drugs
- low fat food once vomiting has stopped, usually after 48 hours.

Prognosis

Prognosis will vary depending on severity and trigger. A dog that has scavenged is more likely to respond to treatment than one with a more serious trigger e.g. cancer.

Follow up

Some dogs may develop chronic intermittent pancreatitis. Follow up blood tests may help in monitoring these cases.

Cats?

Yes cats also develop pancreatitis. They are not as likely to present with vomiting, but more likely weight loss, decreased appetite and often have concurrent gastrointestinal and hepatic disease.

REGISTERING YOUR DOG

What you need to know

By Ange Dacombe VN

Why do I have to register my dog with the council?

By law, you must register your dog with the council by the time they are 3 months old.

Legally, the council needs to keep track of all dogs in the area, so registering your dog helps with this. By having this done, it also means that you as a dog owner show to the council that you are aware of your legal responsibilities of having a dog.

Registration of your dog also needs to be renewed every year. To do this you can either go in to one of the council service centres, you can download forms off the website and post, or you can phone them and request a form be posted to you. You can also go online and update any of your details if you need to.

It is an owner's responsibility to have their dog registered. To read more about registering your dog, what your responsibilities are of having a dog and about their fees, check out the council website, www.ccc.govt.nz or you can phone them on (03) 941 8999. There is loads of information on the website. You can also find where the closest council service centre is to you.

What does registration provide for me and my dog?

There are many services and these include, a shelter for lost dogs if they go missing, dog parks (of which there are many awesome dog parks around Christchurch!) and an animal control service. Your dog is also identifiable and more likely to be returned to you if it gets lost. Your registration fee also provides education programmes, access to information on website and patrol services. The council also offers reduced cost of registration if animals are desexed, and they offer lots of information and advice if you need it.

It is also very important to have your dog microchipped. By law, since 1st July 2006, if you register your dog for the first time, they also need to be microchipped. This needs to be done within 2 months from the date of registration. If your dog is a livestock working dog, they do not need to be microchipped. However, it is recommended to have all dogs microchipped, so that if they go missing, they can be identified and returned to you. You can be fined for not getting your dog registered or microchipped.

At both our branches, we offer microchipping. If you need this done, please give us a call to find out more and to organise a time.

PROMOTIONS

FRONTLINE: At our Straven Road branch only, buy packs of Frontline Plus for dogs and get 20% off on specially marked packs only. Buy packs of frontline plus for cats and get 1 free pipette. Only while stocks last.

FELINE HILLS SCIENCE DIET AND VET ESSENTIALS: At our Straven Road branch only, buy any Feline Hill's Science Diet or Feline Hills Vet Essentials - Adult or Mature, (any size bag) and get a free Travel Coffee mug.

BROADLINE: Promotion available at both our branches. Buy two Broadline singles for cats and receive a block of chocolate, while stocks last.

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.



For regular updates make sure you like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/veterinarycentre>



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