



THE STRAVEN ROAD
VETERINARY
CENTRE (LTD)

VETERINARY SURGEONS

Dr. MICHAEL J. AVERILL, B.V.Sc (Dist)
Dr. CATH NEVILLE B.V.Sc
Dr. LINDA SORENSEN DVM
Dr. CHANTAL MORETON B.V.Sc
Dr. FRANCESCA MATTHEWS B.V.Sc

STRAVEN RD. VET CENTRE
8 STRAVEN RD, RICCARTON
CHRISTCHURCH .

Postal address
PO Box 8169, RICCARTON
PH. (03) 348 9728 FAX (03) 348 8012

469 Papanui Road
PH (03) 352 5749, FAX (03) 352 5780

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COMMON CONTAGIOUS DISEASE

Kennel Cough

Kennel Cough (Infectious Tracheobronchitis) is a highly contagious upper respiratory tract infection that can affect dogs of all ages. High numbers of cases are being seen at present.

The clinical signs are a characteristic harsh, hacking cough that is often followed by the dog attempting to gag or vomit. A white froth is often brought up which is not actually vomit but expectorant or the fluid which lines the trachea or windpipe. Affected dogs are usually otherwise well and symptoms are more annoying (for both dog and owner!). However in very young or very old dogs and those who are otherwise unwell the effects can be much worse and pneumonia is a possibility.

It is important to bring your canine companion to the veterinarian when they are coughing to assess for these more serious signs, but often they go home with medicine to soothe the throat and an antibiotic to clear the infection. Keeping them warm and adding some honey to their water are ways you can help too, time is also a factor as infection will usually clear by itself within 3 weeks.

Because it is so contagious, it is also important to keep dogs isolated from others.

If this sounds a bit like the human flu to you, then you're right! And the best cure is prevention.

Annual vaccination against kennel cough is important and also compulsory if your dog is going to stay in kennels. For those dogs who are more at risk (for example, by staying frequently in kennels or if they have had kennel cough before), 6 monthly vaccinations are recommended – an intranasal vaccination (no needles involved!) offers more immediate protection. Talk to us about whether your dog should have more frequent kennel cough vaccinations.

Like the human flu shot, the vaccinations do not always stop dogs from contracting kennel cough. But even if your vaccinated dog does contract kennel cough, vaccinations do help in lessening the severity of the symptoms.

Check with us today to make sure your canine companion is protected.

IMPORTANT VACCINATION INFORMATION

FIV

What is Feline AIDS?

Feline AIDS is caused by infection with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). FIV can decrease your cat's ability to fight off even simple infections (both bacterial and viral). The virus lives in the blood of infected cats and is carried for life. Healthy cats are exposed to FIV through bite wounds from infected cats. Casual contact and grooming are not thought to transmit the virus. Even though the feline virus is related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), no human has ever been reported to be infected with FIV.

Cats infected with FIV may remain healthy for up to 10 years. While some infected cats show no sign of disease, others may display some or all of the following symptoms:

- Fever, lethargy, and loss of appetite
- Chronic or frequent infections
- Weight loss
- Sores in and around the mouth
- Eye lesions
- Poor coat

Eventually the immune system becomes too weak to fight off other (secondary) infections or disease. As a result, your cat can die from one of these secondary infections.

How common is FIV in the New Zealand cat population?

The prevalence of the FIV virus in the New Zealand cat population ranges from 7% (in healthy cats) up to 27.3% (in sick older cats). A recent study of 334 feral cats tested, showed 21.5% were FIV positive and hence infected with Feline AIDS. Interestingly Australia and New Zealand have the highest rates of FIV infection in the world.

Is my cat at risk of contracting Feline AIDS?

All cats with outside access ultimately are at risk of contracting FIV through a cat fight wound. Cats that fight regularly are at a particularly high risk. Although rare, it is possible for a mother to pass the

infection onto her kittens. The majority of kittens clear the FIV virus by an unknown mechanism.

Feline AIDS prevention and the FIV Vaccine

There is no treatment for Feline AIDS. We are now able to prevent Feline AIDS with an FIV vaccine. Cats and kittens receive 3 injections (given every 2 weeks over a 6 week period), with annual boosters required thereafter. If your cat is over 6 months of age, we will want to run a quick in-house blood test to be sure your cat isn't already FIV-positive.

Why isn't the FIV vaccine part of the routine annual vaccination my cat already receives?

The FIV vaccine must be given by separate injection. Our staff have been monitoring the ongoing research with the FIV vaccine, in particular those studies looking at effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing New Zealand viral strains as well as studies evaluating negative side effects. Based on recently published information, we feel that the vaccine has been proven safe and effective for our patients, and are fully supporting FIV vaccination for all of our feline patients that venture into the great outdoors.

If you have any questions regarding Feline AIDS or the FIV vaccine, please don't hesitate to contact us at Straven Road Veterinary Centre or at The Veterinary Centre at Papanui Animates .

STAFF PROFILE



Gina Cameron – Veterinary Nurse

Gina completed the Certificate of Veterinary Nursing in 2001 at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT). At the end of this course she worked part time at Straven Road Vet Centre. In early 2002 Animates opened a new store in Papanui and we put in our branch practice, Animates Vet Centre Papanui. Gina became full time working mostly at Papanui. She still works one day a week at Straven Road which she enjoys as it adds a bit of variety to the working week.

Three afternoons a week Gina also runs small group tutorials at Straven Road for students who are completing their Certificate of Veterinary Nursing at CPIT.

Gina regularly attends continuing education courses and last year was lucky enough to go to the Vet

Nurse Plus conference on the Gold Coast which she learnt a lot at and thoroughly enjoyed.

Gina recently got engaged to her fiancé Hadley so they are very busy planning their wedding for January 2010. She also spends a lot of her spare time during the winter months playing both netball and basketball.

Gina has a 5 year old moggie cat named Tiger and a 1 year old Griffon x Maltese dog named Jimmy who loves coming to work with Gina every day.

PROMOTIONAL OFFERS

Royal Canin Vouchers



COMING SOON

Our new website

Give us feedback on what you would like to see on it and start emailing us photos of your pets, with a little story and we'll put them on the website. It would be great to see all our clients' pets up on the site!
