



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

Newsletter – AUTUMN 2010 Issue 7

Clinic News

In late March, Geri Smith, one of our part time veterinary nurses gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. She and partner Ric are over the moon with their new addition.

In April, Dr. Cath Neville has decided to reduce her hours to part-time. To take up the extra hours, we will welcome Dr. Anne Findlay to our staff. She will be working mainly at the Straven Road branch, although she may occasionally be seen at Papanui too. Anne is a very experienced veterinarian, who has worked for us in the past. We will be working to get her profile up on the website just as soon as we can.

In the meantime, if you do prefer to see a specific veterinarian, please make sure you request this at the time of booking and we will do everything we can to accommodate your request. Please bear in mind that if your visit is due to an emergency situation, it is not always possible to have your preferred veterinarian. All our veterinarians are very experienced and you can read more about them all on our website.

FEATURE ARTICLE

Microchipping by Tiffany Dawson, VN

All dogs registered in NZ for the first time (except farm dogs used for stock control) must be microchipped. Puppies must be registered with the local council by 3 months of age and a microchip must be implanted by 5 months.

Dogs classified as dangerous or menacing, dogs impounded but not registered and dogs registered but impounded twice are also required to be microchipped.

A microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is easily inserted during a consultation while the dog is conscious or alternatively while the dog is being spayed or neutered. Microchipping is a simple lifelong way to identify dogs and link them to their owner and results in a speedy return of lost, stolen or injured animals.

The microchip number for each dog is registered on a database so the microchip number can then be traced back to the owner. There are several options for microchip registration. It is compulsory to register it with your local council. A certificate is given to you at the time of microchipping, which you should give a copy of to the council. However the council database is NOT directly available to the public or veterinary clinics due to privacy laws.

There is another database called the NZ companion animal register and is easily accessible on the internet by veterinary clinics. A form is filled out at the time of microchipping and the veterinary clinic will complete the registration process for the owner.

Prior to this database being established the AAR, which is an Australasian database, was used and it is still available to use. Like the NZ companion animal register it too is accessible to veterinary clinics.

There is no law regarding the microchipping of cats however it is becoming increasingly popular as it is an effective way to trace the owner of a lost cat, particularly if the cat is not wearing a collar with any ID on it.

Read our article on the website regarding microchipping of cats <http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/microchipping-cats.php>

FEATURE ARTICLE

The Coughing Pet by Linda Sorensen DVM

Often we receive phone calls regarding coughing in dogs and cats, and the enquiry is almost always "does my pet need to be seen by the veterinarian?" There are many causes of coughing in pets, and some can be quite serious. Also, the causes of coughing in cats and dogs can be quite different.

Coughing in dogs comes in two forms: loud (or "honking"), and soft.

The most common cause of a loud cough in a dog is infectious tracheobronchitis (aka kennel cough). This is an infectious airborne viral disease which is often accompanied by a secondary bacterial infection. Your pet may require antibiotic therapy in order to clear this infection.

The most common causes of soft coughing in a dog are heart disease and pulmonary infections (such as pneumonia). X-rays may be required to differentiate between these diseases. Medical treatment is always indicated.

When cats cough, it is often mistaken as an attempt to bring up a hairball. In fact, the two issues can appear identical (except for the expelled hairball!).

The most common cause of coughing in cats is feline asthma, a chronic inflammatory condition that can rapidly progress to respiratory distress and, in some cases, be fatal. Medical treatment is always indicated.

Cats may also cough with pulmonary infections (such as pneumonia or lungworms), so an x-ray will be required to confirm a diagnosis of asthma. Interestingly, cats, unlike dogs, rarely cough with heart disease.

The causes of coughing in our pets can be quite varied, and at times require chest x-rays for an accurate diagnosis. Most coughing pets will require medical treatment as well, so it is important to have them evaluated by a veterinarian as soon as possible when coughing is noted.

Of course, any very sudden onset of a cough accompanied by distress could indicate an object lodged in the trachea (windpipe) and should be dealt with immediately. A quick phone call to the clinic as you transport your pet to us will give us time to set up emergency interventions for your pet (oxygen etc) if needed.

PROMOTIONS

Check out the website for details on our current promotions. Current for April 2010:

1. Free frontline stationary with every frontline purchased
2. Win a free packet of advocate (until end of April 2010)

(please note that currently these promotions are only available at our Straven Road branch. But if you are a Papanui client, just pop into Straven Road next time you are in Riccarton to take advantage of these.

PRODUCTS

Winter Coats

Now is a good time to start thinking about whether your dog will need a winter coat. Some breeds will always need winter coats, but even your dog has never needed one before, aging, ill or dogs who are underweight (maybe as they are recovering from illness for example) may all start needing coats.

If you are unsure talk to one of our veterinary nurses about your dogs needs for warmth outside over the winter. At our Straven Road branch we have a selection of high quality WeatherBeata dog coats and very competitive prices. If we don't have exactly what your dog needs in stock, we can order to your requirements, and would usually receive the order within a day or 2.

Check out the pictures of these fab coats on our website (<http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/feature-products.php>)

AS THE WEATHER GETS COLDER

Fleas are still a potential problem

That's right, even though the weather is cooling down, fleas still present a problem to your pet over the winter months. True, nowhere near as bad as in the summer, but especially as our houses get better insulated and warmer, fleas will still continue their life cycle infecting

your pets and ultimately you if treatment is not up to scratch.

So unless you live in a house that is consistently less than 10°C continue your flea treatment during the cooler months too. Remember 1 live flea in your house can result in up to 2000 eggs, which result in 2000 fleas and you can do the maths from there. One cycle takes only about 3 weeks!

Make sure you talk to us about the best option for your pet. Not all flea treatments are created equal.

AFTER DARK

Safety when walking your dog during the shorter days

Extra care needs to be taken when walking your dog before dawn or after dusk during the winter months, which will become the norm for many of you, as their just are not enough daylight hours available.

Make sure that you consider both your own safety and that of your dog when you are out and about.

1. Tell someone where you are going or even better, walk in groups for safety
 2. Carry a whistle or other device to scare away anyone that concerns you
 3. Consider whether your dog is reliable enough to let them off the lead after dark. Their sight is not as good and also it is more difficult for traffic to see them if they wander off the footpath, caught up with a smell!
 4. Ensure both you and your dog wear reflectorised gear to increase your visibility to traffic.
-

COMMON PROBLEMS

Lumps and Bumps

Check out head veterinary nurse, Tania Archbold's article about a lump she found on her own dogs leg on our website (<http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/interesting-cases.php>). It is a timely reminder about the importance of getting lumps checked out by your veterinarian as soon as they are spotted.

Remember that even if your pet's lump has been checked and it was decided it didn't need removing, it should be rechecked whenever it changes or at least once a year, whichever is shorter.

WEBSITE

www.veterinarycentre.co.nz

We want you, our clients to be part of our website. Share your favourite pictures of your pets by emailing them to us.

We'd also love to hear their stories too, especially if your pet has undergone treatment with is and you'd be willing to share. Let us know if you are happy to share your pets story and we can put something together and contact you for your perspective too.

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.