

VETERINARY SURGEONS

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THE STRAVEN ROAD VETERINARY CENTRE (LTD)

Newsletter – AUTUMN 2019 Issue 42

CLINIC UPDATE

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter. We had a very busy summer so we do sincerely apologise for missing the summer edition of our newsletter.

Since our last newsletter, our part time nurse Sarah has had a beautiful baby girl.

Anal Glands

By Liz P, VN

“Hi my dog is dragging his bottom across the floor and he smells weird”. This is a complaint that we hear at the clinic on a daily basis and it can mean that your dog’s anal glands are causing problems and they need to see a vet.

What are anal glands?

Anal glands are two small sacs located on either side of the anus. They secrete an oily, brownish, fishy smelling fluid through narrow short ducts. This is thought to be used to mark territory, identify other dogs and assist with lubrication when defecating. Usually the glands empty regularly due to pressure placed on them when your dog does normal firm faeces and no intervention is required. They can also spontaneously empty in stressful situations. If the glands do not empty properly the fluid can thicken and they can become blocked or impacted. If this persists an infection can develop and an abscess can form. Failure to empty can occur for a number of reasons such as narrow ducts/deformity, damage from trauma or inflammation, overproduction of fluid and obesity. Some dog breeds (particularly small ones) are more prone to anal gland issues but any dog can have them at any age or sex. Cats can also have problems however this is less common.

Signs that there is a problem

As referred to above a common sign is your dog scooting along the floor on their bottom. Also licking, chewing or scratching their bottom. You may smell a bad fishy odour that no amount of washing can eliminate. They may show discomfort /pain when sitting or standing or when passing faeces. If there is an infection or abscess there may be blood or pus in the faeces and you even may see a small wound in the anal area if an abscess has ruptured. If there is an infection your dog may also have a fever and high temperature and be off food and just not themselves.

How can we help?

The first thing the vet will do is a digital rectal examination with a gloved lubricated finger. This can be uncomfortable for your dog particularly if there is infection and the area is painful. A nurse may be asked to gently but firmly hold your dog to assist the vet as it is important that your dog is still due to the delicate nature of the tissue in this area. If the gland is mildly impacted the vet will express it using gentle pressure to expel any accumulated material. The vet will then assess the material and how easily it passes out. The vet may discuss adding more fibre to your dog’s diet to make their faeces larger and more solid to assist gland emptying. There are also probiotics and other supplements which can help support healthy gland function such as Glandex available if it is becoming a recurrent issue. If an infection has developed in the gland the vet may prescribe antibiotics and/or pain relief. If the infection is very bad or has progressed to an abscess surgery may be necessary to remove any infected tissue and flush the glands. In extreme cases of recurrent infection or tumour the glands may need to be surgically removed.



Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets

Adopting Older of Special Needs Pets

By Ange D, VN

Have you ever thought about adopting a pet that may be older or have some special needs? These sorts of pets tend to get left behind, and are more likely to be euthanised, whereas the cuter puppies and kittens get adopted straight away.

The shy ones, ones with missing tails, a missing eye, or leg, blind, deaf, the abused and neglected deserve a loving home too. They may be more work in the end, but can also be very rewarding as well. There is something really special about these sorts of pets, they just really seem to appreciate having a good home and people that will love and take care of them, giving them a forever home. An added bonus with an older pet is that they are already toilet trained, are less active, and have developed a personality already so you know what you're going to get. Giving them a loving happy retirement in their golden years can mean everything to that pet.

Adopting a pet like this is not a decision to make lightly though. You'll need to be responsible and do your homework first. Can you accommodate their needs? They may have medical issues and need on going medications, vet appointments, special diets which can be quite costly. Do they need regular dental treatments? Some may have mobility issues, they may need to stay inside permanently. Are your living arrangements going to be suitable? Other pets or people/small children, a noisy house can all affect the way the pet adapts in your home. Some may have behaviour issues. It is a big commitment and you need to have the time, love and patience for these types of pets. Talking to people who have had experience with these sorts of pets is a good idea too.

Once you've done your homework and you are ready to go and find your special pet, check out your local rescue groups and see if there is that someone special waiting for you. Most rescue groups are very strict on making sure their animals are going to be the right fit for you and your home and in the instance that it just isn't working out no matter what you do, they will usually take them back.

So think outside the box, your new pet may not be perfect looking, but you may just find the love of your life

PROMOTIONS

There are no current promotions, but we will update our promotions page on the website when new promotions are available.

Check out our promotions page here:

<http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/pet-product-promotions.php>

DID YOU KNOW?

For dog lovers.....

Dogs can see more than black and white, however they don't see colour as vividly as we do. It is believed they primarily see in blue, greenish-yellow, yellow and various shades of grey.

Dogs can hear a much higher sound frequency than humans. Dogs hear best at 8,000 Hz, while humans hear best at around 2,000 Hz.

Dogs have a sense of smell that is 10,000 – 100,000 times more acute as that of humans.

For cat lovers.....

It is believed cats are the only mammals that don't taste sweetness

A cats DNA is 95.6% the same as a tiger.

Cats claws curve downwards which means they can't climb down trees forwards, they have to back down trees.

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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