



THE STRAVEN ROAD
VETERINARY
CENTRE (LTD)

VETERINARY SURGEONS

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Newsletter – SPRING 2011 Issue 13

CLINIC NEWS

Welcome to Spring! Despite the continuing aftershocks, the sight of daffodils and blossom does much to lift the spirits of the city and help us all look forward to everything that spring and summer offer. It's great to hear too that the beaches are now safe again right along the Christchurch coastline, so walking dogs along the beach and letting them swim is much safer now that it was.

Last month we farewelled Gina as she went on maternity leave. She is due any day so keep an eye on our Facebook page to hear her happy news.

To replace Gina while she is on maternity leave we welcomed Jess, who we will profile in this newsletter.

Now that Spring has arrived and we are on to daylight saving, we also turn our attention to remembering to wear sun hats, sun glasses and sun screen. Don't forget that a number of your pets also need sun protection too. If your pet has white fur or there are areas where the skin can be seen through the fur, your pet may need sun protection. Read the article about sun danger for your pets on our website: <http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/sun-danger.php> and if you have any questions, please contact us.

All through the winter we have seen flea infestations on animals and now that the warmer weather is arriving this lower winter population is set to explode, so remember to keep your pets up to date with flea treatments. Read more at: <http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/flea-treatment.php>

It is about that time you start looking forward to summer holidays too! Don't forget that if you need to place your pets in boarding facilities that this needs to be done as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. The popular boarding facilities fill up fast. For those of you that would like to take your pet with you on holiday try visiting this link for pet friendly accommodation: <http://www.tourism.net.nz/accommodation/pet-friendly-accommodation/>

WEBSITE ARTICLES

New Puppy and Kitten Information pages

Whenever we see a new puppy or kitten for the first time with their new owners we always have lots to tell them about diet, vaccination, worming, flea treatment and much more.

Because we know it is a lot to take in, we have refreshed our kitten and puppy information sheets and put them on our website. These pages provide good summaries of what your veterinarian tells you in that visit, and they link to more detailed articles for those who want to know more.

Even if you don't have a new cat or dog, some of this information can still provide a useful reminder and links to lots of relevant information for any cat or dog owner. Also, if you have any friends that have a new kitten or puppy, don't forget to send them the links, because even if they aren't our clients, these articles will still be very useful to them.

These information articles can be found at:

<http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/new-puppy-info.php>
<http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/new-kitten-info.php>

FEATURE ARTICLE

How to tablet a cat successfully

by Tiffany Dawson, VN

Giving tablets to cats, whether it be a simple worm tablet or ongoing medication can be a real struggle for cat owners.

Even for veterinarians and veterinary nurses experienced at giving cats tablets at the veterinary clinic, doing so at home can be troublesome. This is usually because at home the cat feels more secure and confident so is more likely to be resistant and feisty.

The first thing to try is to offer your cat the tablet straight from your hand. Some medication is quite palatable, particularly the pink antibiotics called Clavulox and surprisingly some cats will eat them. I had a cat that actually stole a packet of them off the bench and ate them all so it is definitely worth trying before you get into battle with trying to force the tablet down their throat.

The next thing to try is crushing* the tablet and putting it either in their normal food (if canned) or in something



**Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets**

particularly palatable eg. Sardines, vegemite, butter. This can work well if the tablet is not too bitter and the food can mask most of the taste or if your cat is greedy or not a fussy eater.

However cats are very clever at eating all the food except the bit that has the tablet in it, in which case you may need to resort to physically putting it down their throat.

For really difficult cats there is bit of an art to doing this and getting a veterinarian or veterinary nurse to show you can be a good idea.

To start with you want to tilt the cats head back. This causes the bottom jaw to drop a little if the head is tilted back sufficiently. To tilt the head back you can either scruff the back of the neck or place your thumb and middle finger on either side of their head and tilt. Then holding the pill with your thumb and index finger of your strongest hand use your middle finger to pull the bottom jaw at the front down lower and push the tablet over the back of the tongue and down the throat as far as possible before the cat bites your hand. If the tablet appears to have gone down the throat keep the head tilted and stroke the throat to encourage the cat to swallow.

An alternative to this is using a pill popper to push the tablet down the throat instead of your finger. Pill poppers are available from the vet clinic.

If all of these methods fail you could ask your veterinarian if there is an alternative medication available.

***Remember to check with your veterinarian first before crushing tablets. Some are bitter if crushed, others should not be crushed as they are designed to go down whole, and be broken down and absorbed further down the gastrointestinal tract.*

STAFF PROFILE

New Veterinary Nurse – Jess

I graduated with a Diploma of Veterinary Nursing from Massey University in 2009. From there I was very fortunate to get my first job at Vetspecs working for the surgical team, where I gained valuable nursing skills and encouraged my passion for nursing. Everyday held something new with exciting surgeries and interesting people.

I am really looking forward to getting to know the team at Straven Road and Animates Papanui Vet Centre. I've only been working here a couple of weeks and I already love it and I feel like I've fitted right in. I'm also looking forward to extending my nursing knowledge with their varied cases.

I spend my spare time riding my horse Taylor and walking my 7 month old Golden Retriever puppy, Cedar and my 9 year old Huntaway cross, Ollie. I also have a cat called Trip who is enjoying his new city life and a retired mare called Holly.

BEHAVIOUR

Cat Scratching and Urination Problems

Did you know that most of the behaviours that cause problems with cats in domestic environments are totally normal behaviour for a feline. This includes furniture

scratching and inappropriate urination.

We have two fresh new articles on the website that address these two issues and make some suggestions for solving the problem so you and your cat can live in harmony again.

Furniture Scratching:

<http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/behaviour-furniturescratching.php>

Inappropriate Urination:

<http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/urination-problems.php>

Remember if you are having behavioural problems with your cat or any other pet, make sure you seek that advice of one of our qualified staff before making any changes.

COMMUNITY

Have you got room for one more?

I know we ran this segment on the SPCA needing forever homes for cats in our last newsletter, but I have just checked their website today and they are still desperately in need of owners for cats so I thought it was worth keeping this in your mind. If you have room for 1 more cat or know someone who does, please make contact with the Canterbury SPCA.

Visit the SPCA website:

<http://www.spcacanterbury.org.nz/> or call them on 349 7057 or visit them at 14 Wilmers Road, Hornby. They will be very happy to hear from you and to introduce you to the cats needing homes.

PROMOTIONS

1. Hills Science Diet Promotion

Come into our Straven Road Vet Centre and get 2 bags of the Hills Feline Adult 1.5kg bags for only \$42. These are usually \$27 each. Total saving \$12. Only while stocks last.

Check out: <http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/pet-product-promotions.php> for full details

WEBSITE and FACEBOOK

www.veterinarycentre.co.nz

We continue to add information to the website. Make sure you LIKE us on Facebook so you get regular updates of new information being posted.

Our Facebook page is called: The Veterinary Centre at Straven Road & Animates Papanui.

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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