



THE STRAVEN ROAD
VETERINARY
CENTRE (LTD)

VETERINARY SURGEONS

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Newsletter – SPRING 2015 Issue 29

CLINIC NEWS

In August, Angela went to the New Zealand Veterinary Nursing Association conference in Auckland. Topics included critical care patients, paediatric, geriatric anaesthetics and the future of veterinary nursing. She has come back with some great information to upskill us all which will benefit your pets..

Our Animates Papanui branch veterinary clinic will be closing on October 17th, but Dr Chantal Moreton, Dr Eve Allely and veterinary nurse Angela will be moving over to The Straven Road Veterinary Centre.

We welcome all our Papanui clients and pets to our Straven Road clinic. We will now be having longer consulting hours from 9am-1pm and 2pm-7pm Monday – Friday and 9am-4pm on Saturday.

SEASONAL UPDATE

Spring

It's lovely to see the warm weather returning and seeing everyone out walking their dogs in the evening in daylight.

At this time of the year make sure you have sorted your pet care for the summer holidays now, to make sure you aren't disappointed.

It's also the time of the year to make sure you are treating your pets for fleas. We have some excellent products. Talk to one of our friendly veterinary nurses to work out the best product for your situation.

Seasonal skin allergies also start to rear their heads at this time of the year, so be sure to consult with us with regards to the best management for your affected pet.

Obesity in pets is as much of a problem as it is in humans. You should be able to feel your cat or dogs

ribs easily and they should have an hourglass when looked at from above over the waist. If you are unsure whether your pets body condition/weight is optimal, then please ask our veterinary nurses to assess them for you. They can help you manage any changes that are required.

Finally, fur-balls in cats become a significant problem at this time of year too, even for cat's that are usually ok, due to them shedding their winter coat. As well as making your pet feel unwell, fur-balls can cause vomiting, but there is also the potential of fur-balls causing problems if they remain inside the gut as well. We have options for managing fur-balls. Please talk to us today.

Remember that it is good practice to give your pets a quick check over each day to ensure early recognition of potential problems. Get into the habit now and if you are unsure what you should be checking, then consult with one of our friendly veterinary nurses.

HYPERTHYROIDISM IN CATS

Hyperthyroidism is relatively common in older cats, with the average age of onset being 13 years old.

The thyroid gland produces thyroid hormones which regulate the body's rate of metabolism. When this production becomes excessive hyperthyroidism occurs. This is often caused by an uncontrolled growth (most of the time it is benign but very occasionally they can be cancerous). This increases their metabolic rate resulting in weight loss, increased appetite and thirst. Sometimes it causes vomiting, restlessness, diarrhoea and an unkempt coat. Many owners mistake these signs for "old age".

Cats with hyperthyroidism commonly develop rapid heart rates, heart murmurs and high blood pressure. Left untreated these can lead to heart, kidney and liver failure or blindness.

Diagnosis of this condition is straight forward. A blood test can be done to confirm their T4 levels (thyroxine hormone). With most cats having benign nodules,



**Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets**

treatment is usually very successful.
There are several treatment options available.

Radioactive iodine

Radioactive iodine therapy is a simple, effective and safe treatment for healthy cats with hyperthyroidism. It is administered as an injection. The radioactive iodine destroys abnormal thyroid tissue but leaves the normal tissue. Cats are in hospital with us for 5-7 days on average. A blood test is taken again 3 months after treatment and generally no further treatment is needed.

Surgery

This involves the removal of the abnormal thyroid gland. It is generally only safe to remove one thyroid gland in affected cats because of the risk of damaging adjacent parathyroid glands during surgery. The risk of anaesthesia for an elderly cat also needs to be considered.

Medical Treatment

There are oral tablets your cat can take daily or a transdermal gel that is applied to the ear. These work by blocking the production of thyroid hormones, so they do not cure the disease. These medications need to be given for the rest of your cat's life and blood tests and check-ups will be needed throughout.

The newest development is a diet by Hills specifically for hyperthyroidism in cats; Hills prescription diet Y/D is available as a biscuit and wet meat form. It has controlled low amounts of iodine (iodine is involved in thyroid hormone production). This diet must be fed exclusively to ensure the low iodine level is maintained (so no treats or other foods). The diet also has ingredients to help support kidney health. Has omega 3 and 6 fatty acid for healthy skin and other ingredients to help promote bladder and heart health. As with oral medications and transdermal gel this only limits production of thyroid hormone it doesn't cure the condition.

So if your senior cat (7 yrs or older) is looking a bit scruffy or losing weight it's worth booking them in for a check-up with one of our veterinarian's.

With appropriate treatment your cat can regain weight and live a longer healthier life.

GROOMING

Shear Pawfections

We are pleased to welcome back Krystal. She has taken the leap of setting up her own dog grooming salon, Shear Pawfections here at The Straven Road Veterinary Centre.

Krystal has been working as a dog groomer for 9

years. Shear Pawfections offer pet grooming from full grooms, a tidy up, shaved short all over or just a nail trim. All the dogs are bathed in warm water and towel dried. Then depending on their breed, they will either be dried in a cage with a gentle stream of warm air on them or dried by a staff member with their larger drier. Shear Pawfections is located inside the vet clinic just across the hall. They are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Phone 021 0324839 to book an appointment.

PROMOTIONS

Buy any cat or dog Frontline Plus flea treatment or two Broadline cat flea treatments and receive a free grooming brush while stock lasts.

Q-Card

12 months interest free finance for unexpected veterinary accounts



We are pleased to be able to offer our clients a convenient way to pay for their pet's healthcare needs.

With **12 months no payments and no interest*** on treatments \$200 and over, your pet can get the treatment it needs, when it's needed.

Talk to us about this payment option and begin your pet's treatment today!

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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