

VETERINARY SURGEONS

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Newsletter – SPRING 2016 Issue 33

CLINIC NEWS

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. We hope you enjoy the articles in this newsletter.

Don't forget to check all the other amazing articles on our website.

www.veterianrycentre.co.nz .

If there isn't an article on something you want to know more about, please let us know so we can find one for you.

SEASONAL UPDATE

Spring

October is skin month. This is the time of the year that we start to see seasonal skin allergies rearing their heads. If you notice your dog is itching more than just the odd scratch, then this is an early sign of a problem, even if you can't see anything wrong. Best to get this seen too early. Once there are skin lesions from scratching then it becomes more difficult to treat. And remember being itchy is not very pleasant!

Also don't forget, if you let your flea treatments lapse over the winter, get them started again now before you get infested with fleas. One flea on your pet can lay 400 eggs and within a very short time those 400 fleas can lay 160,000 eggs.

November is Guy Fawkes and of course with that fireworks that can cause considerable distress to many pets. Read more here: <http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/fireworks.php>

If your pet is one that gets distressed by fireworks talk to us early about options for reducing this distress. One helpful product is Adaptil, which you can read about in an article later in this newsletter.

SHORTY AND THE BIG DOGS

A Tale of Behavioural Management in Dogs

Dogs are animals with strong instinctive behaviours which include digging, chasing and barking. While we can use training to deal with these behaviours, we also need to manage those that can cause a nuisance or even be a danger to others.

Recently, Shorty the Papillion was out for his daily walk with his owner and the other two dogs of the household when suddenly two big dogs rushed out of a property they were passing. One of these dogs grabbed Shorty by his back end and would not let go. It took the efforts of the owners of both dogs to free Shorty, at which point he was brought straight into our clinic on Straven Road.

Shorty presented with a lot of blood around his back end, and further examination found a few puncture holes along his back and a large tear at the top of one of his hind legs revealing damaged and torn muscle underneath. After providing Shorty with some pain relief, he went straight into surgery for his leg to be repaired and stitched. X-rays were also taken to check for any further damage. Thankfully nothing life-threatening was found, although Shorty's tail has some bone and nerve damage that may or may not come right with time.

Shorty spent a number of days at the Straven Road Vet Centre and the Christchurch After Hours Vet Clinic, where the biggest hurdle was getting his pain under control. He was on a drip providing pain relief as well as injectable and oral pain medications to keep him comfortable so that his.



**Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets**

Overall, Shorty is a lucky boy to have been grabbed where he was, avoiding any major organs. Unfortunately the dog that caught him was able to get to him due to the property gate being open, so this was an avoidable incident.

Dogs, both large and small, are designed to hunt for their food, and even as pets many still have the instinct to chase and catch smaller animals. This can be an issue when larger dogs view smaller dogs, cats, rabbits etc as prey. It is therefore important to know your dog and what drives it, and to manage those behaviours that may be risky. If your dog likes to chase and catch smaller animals, they are best kept on lead on walks and, as much as they may like dog parks, they are best kept away from smaller dogs that may also be present. Owners of small dogs are prudent to keep this in mind as well, as not all owners take these precautions. Good fencing and solid gates are important for any dog to stay on its property and these should be checked regularly, especially after strong winds and storms. Staying on a lead in unfenced areas can also prevent a dog from chasing, and avoid the chasing dogs from being hit by a car on the road.

Keep in mind that dogs are not so different to two year old children. As well-trained as they might be, they may not listen 100% of the time and there may be times when their natural-born instincts take over. As responsible owners, let's get to know our dogs and work with their natural behaviours to keep both them and others safe.

USEFUL PRODUCTS

Nexgard Chewables

Nexgard Chewable is a soft beef-flavoured chew that kills fleas and ticks. It can be given with or without food. Ideal for dogs that like swimming or need regular baths it doesn't wash off like topical treatments and is a convenient monthly dose.

Nexgard Spectra

Nexgard Spectra is a soft beef-flavoured chewable treatment for fleas, ticks, roundworms, hookworms and whipworms. Highly palatable this is a great option for dogs that can be tricky to pill. Most dogs will eat it as a treat. Can be given with or without food. Convenient monthly dose.

Both Nexgard and Nexgard Spectra are safe to use in puppies over 8 weeks old and weighing 2kg or more. They are available as single or 3pack boxes.

Adaptil and Feliway

With Fireworks coming up it is important to think about our pets and the stress that fireworks can cause. Pets show many different signs of stress including excessive panting, drooling, shaking, acting withdrawn, hiding away, barking excessively, over or under eating and excessive grooming/licking and toileting inside inappropriately.

Adaptil and Feliway are synthetic pheromones that help relax and calm your cat or dog making them feel safe. There have been studies to prove that these are very effective and safe for your pet.

Adaptil is available as a spray, diffuser and collar. The Adaptil collar is great as you don't have to reapply spray to it and it goes wherever your dog is. The diffuser is helpful for inside the house. The spray can be used on bedding, toys, and blankets. It is great for intermittent use as needed.

Feliway is available as a diffuser and spray. The diffuser is ideal to put in the room where your cat spends most of its time. The spray is great to apply to areas that the cat scratches or sprays on. You can also spray it on new furniture in your house to make them more cat friendly.

Adaptil and Feliway can be used for many other issues like settling a new cat or dog in, puppy training, building confidence when on walks, separation related problems, new people and pets in house, travelling, recovery after hospitalisation, visits to vets, kennel and cattery boarding, urine spraying inside. Come talk to one of our staff to see which product would be best for your cat or dog.

PROMOTIONS

Just in time for the flea season - purchase any 3 or 6 pack of Frontline Plus, 3 pack Nexgard chewables, 3 pack Nexgard Spectra or 2 Broadline singles and go in the draw to win one of two Ford Fiesta Sports Cars,

Plus there are 20 Ford Fiesta remote control cars up for grabs too.

This promotion is from 5/9/16 to 5/12/16.

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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<https://www.facebook.com/veterinarycentre>



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Healthy Pets**