



THE STRAVEN ROAD  
**VETERINARY**  
**CENTRE (LTD)**

**VETERINARY SURGEONS**

Dr. MICHAEL J. AVERILL, B.V.Sc (Dist)  
Dr. CHANTAL MORETON B.V.Sc  
Dr .EVE ALLELY B.V.Sc  
Dr KATE TOLLIDAY BVSc  
Dr. ANNE FINLAY BVSc

**STRAVEN RD. VET CENTRE**

8 STRAVEN RD, RICCARTON  
CHRISTCHURCH .

Postal address  
PO Box 8169, RICCARTON  
PH. (03) 348 9728 or (03) 352 5749  
FAX (03) 348 8012

**Newsletter – SUMMER 2015/2016 Issue 30**

**CLINIC NEWS**

We wish everyone a safe and restful holiday season and look forward to seeing you after the New Year.

From our staff, one of our Veterinary Nurses, Sarah, got engaged to Jeremy in November, which is very exciting news. We wish them all the best for their wedding plans.

---

**SEASONAL UPDATE**

**Summer**

With the hot weather make sure your pets are all up to date with their flea control products. We have a variety of products for cats and dogs, including options for the dog that loves to swim every day and cats that won't eat tablets.

Please remember your pets on these hot days, make sure they have plenty of water available and somewhere cool & shaded to go when the temperatures warm up. Cars on hot days get very hot very quickly so don't leave your pets in the car by themselves.

---

**LUMPS AND BUMPS**

**By Dr. Eve Allely**

All animals are subject to the development of abnormal growths, the most obvious ones to pet owners are of course those on the outside of the body.

These externally visible lumps can be broadly classified as cutaneous (on the skin), subcutaneous (just under the skin) and sometimes can be bulging from within underlying muscle (intramuscular) or even in glands.

Just like in humans, young animals are less commonly affected while those in advancing years are

more prone. Some breeds seem more afflicted than others (the boxer dog springs to mind here).

The vast majority of lumps that we see in practice are benign, ie not harmful, but we do come across exceptions, and sometimes they can take us by surprise.

One particular reasonably common skin cancer is called a Mast Cell Tumour. Now these guys are notorious for being great masqueraders. They can form on the skin or beneath, and sometimes look and feel like a simple lipoma (benign fat tumour). However they can have a much more sinister behaviour and some will quickly spread to other locations. In addition they can secrete a chemical that causes the stomach to ulcerate.

Our typical strategy to deal with Mast Cell tumours is prompt surgical removal with wide margins around and beneath the lump, which is often easier said than done especially in areas like the lower legs. And of course the larger the lump the trickier it is to remove with clear margins and close over, the longer the anaesthesia time with increased stress to your pet and costs to you.

Other bad guys include melanomas, squamous cell cancers (more erosive and most common on white ears and noses in cats), mammary gland cancers...the list goes on. Suffice it to say that danger lurks!

When we examine animals for their annual vaccinations and on other occasions we run our hands over your pet to feel for any surprise lumps, and deal with them accordingly, as well as examining any that you know of already.

In order to actually be able to diagnose what the lump is we often need to take samples with a needle and syringe, a technique known as a fine needle aspirate.

Analysis under the microscope gives us an idea of whether we should consider surgical removal. This is a big reason why we recommend annual checkups and combine these with vaccination boosters. The sooner we identify and remove any malignant lumps the better the outcome. But we also stress that you alert us to any new fast growing lumps in the interim, especially if



**Caring Vets,  
Healthy Pets**

annual check up time is a while away. Run your hands and eyes over your pet regularly, paying special attention to dense fur areas and nooks and crannies where things aren't quite so obvious. We'll do our best at check up time but your pet is going to be more relaxed with you at home and you will have more time to do a complete search. Vigilance is the key!!

If your pet has any lumps or bumps that haven't been checked, contact us to arrange an appointment.

---

## WEIGHT GAIN

### Causes and the reasons to manage it

#### Too Much Food

Over eating is the main reason why our pets become overweight. As owners we need to watch how much we feed our pets. When a pet consumes more calories than it uses, its body stores those excess calories as fat. The more fat that accumulates, the heavier your pet becomes.

#### Too Little Exercise

The amount of exercise or activity your pet gets makes a big difference to how much he or she weighs. Less activity means a greater risk of becoming overweight. Even a short walk a day can help with burning off those extra calories.

A fit pet is healthy - and happy. Being the ideal weight allows your pet to move around more freely, and get much more out of life.

#### Age

Older pets can be less active so they don't need as many calories, which means they may not need as much food per day. Regular weight checks can make sure they aren't putting on weight.

#### Medical Problems

Very rarely weight gain can be associated with a medical condition that may need specific treatment. However usually obesity predisposes animals to weight related illness such as

- pancreatitis
- diabetes
- arthritis and joint problems
- high blood pressure
- skin problems
- heart disease

Whatever the cause of your pet's weight gain, it is always advisable to seek the advice and support of your veterinarian.

**How can I tell if my pet is overweight?**

You can check with your veterinary nurse or veterinarian on what an ideal weight is for your pet. Some of the signs you may see are:

- Loss of obvious waist
- Tight collar
- Shortness of breath
- Sleeping more
- Cannot feel ribs easily when running your hand down your pet's side

It is a good idea to have regular **FREE** weight checks at the clinic to ensure your pet is on track for their goal weight target.

If you have concerns about your pet's weight please call us to arrange to come in for a check.

---

## PROMOTIONS

There are currently no promotions running at this time

---

### 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>



**Caring Vets,  
Healthy Pets**