

VETERINARY SURGEONS

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



THE STRAVEN ROAD VETERINARY CENTRE (LTD)

STRAVEN RD. VET CENTRE
8 STRAVEN RD, RICCARTON
CHRISTCHURCH .

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

Newsletter – SPRING 2018 Issue 41

CLINIC UPDATE

Isn't it lovely to have the return of longer evenings and more warmth and sunshine!

In this newsletter we talk about two things that we are seeing a lot of at the moment. Canine Kennel Cough and Fleas. Both are avoidable with the right prevention plan in place.

We also have a new face around the place. Sarah Wilson, is our new part time vet, who will be filling in most Mondays. Sarah is looking forward to meeting all of our clients.

Canine Kennel Cough – outbreak and vaccination protocol

By Chantel Moreton, BVSc

Over the past couple of months, we have seen an increased number of dogs coughing due to infectious tracheobronchitis, more commonly known as "Kennel Cough" or "Canine Cough"

It is a highly contagious disease, caused by Canine parainfluenza virus and the bacteria Bordetella bronchiseptica. It can be picked up anywhere where dogs congregate.

The typical symptoms are a dry, hacking cough or sometimes white phlegm is brought up. This can often be mistaken by owners for vomiting or something stuck in their dog's throat. Some dogs become lethargic and go off their food but more commonly, the dogs appear healthy otherwise.

It is usually a self-limiting disease i.e. no medication is needed but dogs need to be kept isolated from other dogs (no walking in dog parks, no day care etc) and keep them warm and hydrated. If symptoms are on-going or the dog is showing signs of being unwell then a course of

antibiotics is required and is usually curative.

As usual, the best cure is prevention and this is in the form of vaccination.

Kennels have become strict (and quite rightly so) about dogs being up to date with this vaccination before being admitted into their premises.

It is up to you to check with us to ensure your dogs are protected and this needs to be several weeks before the intended kennel stay.

An intranasal vaccination Nobivac KC should ideally be given 2 weeks before kennel stay and then needs to be repeated annually or if dogs are going to be going into kennels regularly then a booster every 6 months can be considered.

An injectable vaccination Canigen KC needs to be given twice 3-4 weeks apart and again, the final injection needs to be given 2 weeks before kennel stay. Annual vaccination will then keep immunity up to date.

Please feel free to talk to one of us at the clinic to ensure your canine companion is covered for this disease and you can go away on holiday safe in the knowledge that your pet is protected.

Fleas! Fleas! Fleas!

By Hannah. H (VN)

One of the most common health issues pet owner's deal with is fleas. Fleas are an external parasite that live off your pets, and are an all year round issue. Fleas love the warmer seasons so spring and summer are their favorite time of year! Not many pet owners realize the risk that fleas have to your pet's health and wellbeing. This includes intense itching and associated skin damage and potentially anaemia. Some pets can have flea allergies like Flea Allergy Dermatitis (FAD), which is caused by



Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets

an allergic reaction to the chemicals in flea saliva. A sign of this may be excessive scratching, or skin biting, inflammation and fur loss.

To avoid having fleas on your pets, it helps to know where to look for them. Fleas may be small but they are still able to be seen to the human eye. They are often in your pet's favorite sleeping spot, rugs, beds or furniture, and are often brought in from the outside, either from passing in the grass, or your pet coming in contact with another animal that has fleas. Although they can bite humans, they prefer to be on an animal host as their dense fur makes it easier to hide from the light and cling onto hair. These parasites can be found anywhere on your pets body but are mostly seen under the armpits, groin, belly, and at the tail base.

Flea dirt is often the first thing you see. It can be seen close to the skin, and looks like cracked pepper (flea dirt is actually flea faeces that consists of digested blood! Gross!). If you are unsure of what it is, you can pick some off and wet it on a paper towel, and if it runs a reddish brown colour, then its flea dirt and your pet has fleas!

To treat fleas, it is important to understand their life cycle. An adult flea can produce up to 20 eggs a day! The eggs then fall off the pet and onto the back yard, bed, carpet, and wherever else your pet spends time. From there, the eggs hatch into larvae, which then form a cocoon. That cocoon is very resilient. The fleas emerge from their cocoon when the environment and host availability are just right, and can jump onto your pet and start feeding immediately.

To ensure that fleas don't take over your home it is important to treat all household pets, clean all of your pets bedding as well as your own, and vacuum carpets and furniture. Treating your pets regularly will help eliminate the risk of fleas reoccurring.

If you have any questions or are having a difficult time with fleas in your home, the team at Straven Road Vets are more than happy to help match the right treatment for your own and your pet's lifestyle and needs. There are many different multi-purpose external and internal parasite treatments that come both orally or topically, as well as flea bombs and foggers that are used within the home to help kill fleas, eggs and larvae. All treatments are now situated on display behind the reception counter!

PROMOTIONS

- Buy 3 x Broadline singles or 3 x Nexgard/Nexgard Spectra singles or a

3pk of Nexgard/Nexgard Spectra and go into the draw to win a year's supply of flea treatment – this is going for the month of October and November ☺

- All Hill's T/d bags of food have 2 x \$10 off vouchers attached to bags – limited vouchers, so get in quick!
- It's Dermatology month (Oct/Nov) with Royal Canin. Buy any skin range of their foods and get a scratchy which could give you a percent off your bag of food – until scratchies run out. There will also be 20% off stickers on Royal Canin skin range of foods only, and selected bags only, until stock lasts.

Check out our promotions page here:

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Roundworms and hookworms, that dogs and cats commonly get can cause diseases in humans if the eggs are ingested. Dog and Cat roundworms can cause a condition called "Visceral Larva Migrans" and dog hookworms can cause cutaneous larva migrans. Luckily these conditions aren't too common these days because the majority of pet owners keep their animals worming up to date and people practice good hygiene. However this relies on us keeping this up, so if you haven't wormed your pet recently, have a chat to our friendly team about the importance of this and the best options.

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**