

VETERINARY SURGEONS

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THE STRAVEN ROAD VETERINARY CENTRE (LTD)

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CLINIC NEWS

Happy New Year everyone. We hope you are managing to take a well deserved break and enjoying extra time with family, friends and of course your pets!

Recently we welcomed Hannah to our veterinary nursing team. Hannah has been employed following Barbs departure. We know you will join us in warmly welcoming Hannah to the team.

SEASONAL UPDATE – Summer

Summer is here and with it, long walks with our canine friends, and hopefully some time out for the human companions lazing around with their pets.

With the advent of the hot weather, we all know the importance of not leaving animals in cars on one hand, but on the other, that little voice says “I’ll only be a few minutes” or “it’s not that hot”. Think again before you listen to that little voice, and avoid leaving your pets in the car during the warmer months at any time. This video that has been doing the rounds on social media is worth a watch as a reminder:
<https://www.facebook.com/DodolImpact/videos/1785771238106628/>

Every year pets die in hot cars even in places like Christchurch (and further south). It is an awful way to die and it doesn’t take long for a pet to critically over heat. Don’t take the risk.

As usual remember fleas are rampant – make sure you keep on top of them. See our Promotions section to see what we have on offer in conjunction with these.

HARMFUL CONSUMABLES

By Eve Allely, BVSc

Most people know about human foods that are poisonous to pets (especially dogs) but there are a whole host of other common potential hazardous items that pets may consume.

Poisonous garden and household plants are reasonably abundant and vary in their toxic effects. Just a handful of examples are daffodils, daphne, foxglove, oleander, cyclamens, and lilies (especially in cats who like to investigate cut floral arrangements). Compost contains toxins too. Dogs in particular frequently present to us with neurological and gastrointestinal symptoms after foraging around in it, with bacterial and fungal toxins as the cause. Whilst still on the subject of gardens, slugs/snail baits are definitely a hazard (even those marketed as being ‘safer’ for pets) as are of course rodenticides (the effects being seen a few days after ingestion). Ant bait is yet another commonly used household bait that can be harmful to pets. Also please be aware that antifreeze spillage on driveways is tasty to animals and a potent cause of renal failure.

It is worth mentioning some other less well known items within our houses that cause problems when consumed. We are frequently presented with animals (usually dogs) that have eaten medications. Typically these will have been prescribed for humans e.g. heart, epilepsy, blood pressure meds, but sometimes they are animal remedies, e.g. anti-inflammatories. Often they are consumed in dose rates much greater than are tolerable by our furry friends. Dogs especially don’t usually mind that they are largely not particularly palatable and seem to be simply fulfilling an innate desire to chew, often the packaging and the medication! Some of our animal remedies are flavoured for ease of administration



Caring Vets, Healthy Pets

and so even more attractive to roving noses. Please don't be tempted to treat your pet's ailment with human medications without prior veterinary consultation. Results can be disastrous (e.g. paracetamol in cats, ibuprofen in dogs). We also need to consider illicit drugs as toxins eg marijuana.

There are many other items around the house that are problematic when consumed. Dishwasher detergent is one of them, especially the individually wrapped blocks that can be chewed by dogs. Other items can potentially act as gut obstructing 'foreign bodies' eg underwear, socks (especially yummy when pre-worn!), golf balls, corn cobs, stone fruit pips (nectarines, peaches etc), pebbles, bones, toys, female sanitary products.

Cats less frequently present to us with obstructions. Thankfully they are a little more discerning but unfortunately are attracted to the very dangerous 'linear foreign bodies' eg Xmas tinsel, needle and thread, pieces of wool which can have devastating effects in the intestines.

Birds can also swallow foreign bodies, particularly the ever-inquisitive parrot species. Toys for them must be parrot-suitable and beware of other items they can chew on (zinc-plated cages, lead paint in older houses).

When out on dog-walking adventures there are numerous possible sources of harmful substances just begging for ingestion. Stagnant water can harbour highly toxic blue-green algae (aka cyanobacteria). Parks and other public areas are a hotspot for hidden treasures e.g. cooked chicken bones, mouldy food etc. And of course there is always the possibility again of exposure to poisonous plants and flowers.

Prevention is always the best strategy when it comes to dealing with harmful substance consumption in our pets. Hopefully you are now aware of a few more hazards around the house and garden and can either remove them altogether or restrict access as much as possible.

Dogs in particular have a habit of finding items 'hidden' away so use high locked cupboards and while out walking it's a responsible and much safer bet to place your dog on a lead.

Accidents do happen of course, and if you know or suspect your pet has eaten something harmful then please seek veterinary attention. We are well practiced in the art of inducing vomiting! If other symptoms have already developed we will advise and act accordingly.

PROMOTIONS

INDOREX HOUSE PACK: We have a one off only \$10 voucher, off any flea treatment purchased when you buy an Indorex house pack. This voucher must be redeemed by 30th March 2018.

ADVOCATE, ADVANTAGE, SERESTO: Buy any. Advocate, Advantage or Seresto packs, and get a free Pop Grip phone stand & grip with bonus hands free clip. In addition, be in for a chance to win an I-phone 8. This promotion goes until 31st January 2018.

DID YOU KNOW?

The hearing range of most animals is far greater than our own. Sound is measured in Hertz (Hz) and according to Wikipedia, humans have an average range of 20Hz – 20kHz, Dogs have a range of 64Hz – 44kHz and Cats a range of 55Hz – 77kHz.

You can read more and look at hearing range for a number of different animals here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hearing_range

To allow you to understand more about what this means for your pets, have a look at the lovely graphic on this website here: <https://www.myihp.co.uk/animal-hearing-ranges/>

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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**Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets**