



THE STRAVEN ROAD
VETERINARY
CENTRE (LTD)

VETERINARY SURGEONS

Dr. MICHAEL J. AVERILL, B.V.Sc (Dist)
Dr. CATH NEVILLE B.V.Sc
Dr. LINDA SORENSEN DVM
Dr. CHANTAL MORETON B.V.Sc
Dr. FRANCESCA MATTHEWS B.V.Sc

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

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

469 Papanui Road
PH (03) 352 5749, FAX (03) 352 5780

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ARTHRITIS

Common and manageable

As we are now in the grips of another Christchurch winter its timely to discuss arthritis, the very common complaint we see in dogs.

Arthritis is most commonly seen in older animals due to general "wear and tear" on joints over many years although it can also be the result of traumatic injuries to joints (such as ruptured cruciate ligaments) and bones (such as fractures), so may appear in younger pets as well. Younger pets with a condition called osteochondrosis are also prone to arthritis. Arthritis can be exacerbated by obesity too.

The first symptoms of arthritis can be quite subtle. Your pet may just seem a bit slower to get up and down or may seem a bit stiff first thing in the morning but then come right after a few minutes.

These subtle symptoms already indicate your pet has some significant changes occurring within their joints. These changes can be detected on a clinical examination and confirmed with X-rays, if necessary, to enable more accurate assessment of the level of damage.

As the degeneration within the joints continues your pet will become progressively more lame and may slow down on walks.

There are a number of options and products available to aid in your pets mobility and ease their discomfort.

Nutritional supplements: these are over the counter products which provide chondroitins, glucosamines and omega 3 fatty acids found in fish oils. These are important components of

connective tissue and act as natural joint lubricants.

Diet: Hill's and Royal Canin both provide prescription diets which contain essential omega 3 fatty acids which help to protect the cartilage within joints.

Prescription remedies: There are a number of anti-inflammatory drugs available which are well tolerated for long term use. These require a consultation and follow up monitoring which includes a 6 monthly health check and annual blood tests.

Finally don't forget about your cats!. Arthritis is not just the domain of elderly dogs. Cats can also suffer significant discomfort as their joints age. There are also nutritional supplements available tailored specifically for cats. Metacam- an anti-inflammatory commonly prescribed for dogs- now have a specific formulation licensed for cats as well.

If you pet has any problems with mobility or you have any questions about arthritis, contact us now. Remember that arthritis causes pain and your pets don't and shouldn't have to put up with it!

WEBSITE

www.veterinarycentre.co.nz

It's here and it's live!! Check it out and make sure you send us in a photo of your pets (with a little story if you like). We love seeing the pictures as to all our other website visitors.

We will be running promotions on the website regularly so make sure you save the site to your home page tabs so you can check it out regularly.

We will also be building our information bank on the website and featuring interesting cases we

see at the clinic (with the owner's permission of course!!)

This website is obviously for you – our clients! Se we want to hear from you what you want to see on the site. So don't be shy – email us now!!

PROMOTIONAL OFFERS

Frontline

Buy a 6 pack of frontline for cats or a 3 pack for dogs between now and 15th August 2009 and go in the draw to win a free movie pass. There is a 1 in 3 chance to win and you will get a \$5 voucher for entering anyway, so there is nothing to lose!

FEATURED PRODUCT

WeatherBeeta Dog Coats

For winter we are featuring WeatherBeeta Jackets. These are fabulous quality; last for ages and your pet will look very stylish sporting one of these.

Check out our prices too – they offer excellent value for money and will be hard to beat elsewhere.

STAFF PROFILE

Catherine Neville

Cath finished her veterinary degree at Massey at the end of 1996 and three weeks later began her career at Straven Rd.

For the first two years she worked covering the afterhours callouts in the evenings and on the weekends in the days before the current After Hours clinic was built. In this time she was also heavily involved in lecturing the Vet Nursing students at the Christchurch Polytechnic.

In 1999 Cath headed overseas and for the next three years combined locum vet work in the UK with her passion for travel. The final year of this trip was spent in Devon on the southwest coast of the UK working for MAF on the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak.

The highlights of her travel at this time included a 5 week truck trip through Africa and an overland expedition through China, Inner Mongolia and Tibet. This culminated in a two week trek in the Nepalese Himalayan region of

Annapurna.

In 2002 Cath returned to Christchurch and began some fill-in locum work again at Straven Rd and this quickly became full-time again.

Read more about Cath and our other staff on the website.

All staff profiles are now online – visit us at www.veterinarycentre.co.nz and find out more about the friendly staff.

FEATURED SERVICE

Dog Training

Dogs are a popular companion animal in New Zealand and we believe it is vital that our dogs are respected and seen as a contributing member of our community. Dogs can be trained and conditioned to always behave at home, in public places, and in the presence of other dogs in a manner *that will reflect credit to your dog.*

Tina Trent offers puppy play school classes at Animates Pet Store. These classes are essential for all young puppies as these classes provide positive socialisation experiences which will assist your puppy to grow into a confident adult dog. She also offers behavioural and dog training programmes for older dogs using positive motivational methods and there is emphasis on training for “real life” situations, socialisation, recreation and enjoyment of the dog's companionship.

Tina is an Internationally qualified behavioural dog trainer and Veterinary Nurse and is passionate about using humane, positive reinforcement training techniques to produce informed, competent, caring owners with well socialised and well behaved dogs.

If you are interested in contacting Tina, please call on 0211792075 or email tina_clevercanines@yahoo.co.nz

HEALTH NOTICE

Protect our staff

In order for us to be able to continue to offer veterinary services throughout the swine flu pandemic, please make sure that if you are unwell and have symptoms of flu and your pet needs to come to the veterinarian that you either arrange a friend to bring your pet in or that you wear a suitable face mask to prevent spread to our staff.
