



VETERINARY SURGEONS

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Newsletter – WINTER 2011 Issue 12

CLINIC NEWS

We hope you are all coping with the current life in Christchurch. Remember we are able to help if your pets are continuing to suffer from stress and anxiety with the continued after shocks. Please call us to discuss the situation and your pets symptoms and we can advise on the best options for your pet.

In staff news, we recently welcomed back Anita from maternity leave. Her son Isaac is already 1 year old. You will see Anita at our Papanui Branch on Friday afternoons, and covering other shifts if we have people away.

Gina, who has been the main veterinary nurse at our Papanui Branch for a number of years and her husband Hadley are expecting their first baby in September. Due to this there has been some changing around of shifts and hours and you will now see more of Angela at our Papanui Branch. Angela is a great veterinary nurse and fantastic at our reception counter. You will still see Gina at Papanui and also at our Straven Road branch for a few months yet, before she goes on maternity leave.

HUMOUR

Simon's Cat

In this stressful time as we live with the constant instability of the land around us and the uncertainty that lies with it, it is always important to take some time out to have a good laugh and this is something we really recommend you having a look at if you have any attachment to cats! It will definitely make you laugh out loud

You can watch Simon's cat at on Youtube. Just type "Simon's Cat" into the search field or you can also visit Simon's cat at: www.simonscat.com

FEATURE ARTICLE

Diarrhoea – what could it be and when to worry

by Chantal Moreton

Diarrhoea is defined in the dictionary as "excessive and frequent evacuation of watery faeces" but not all

episodes are the same and there can be a variety of causes.

Sometimes it can be a one-off episode or on-going, happen intermittently, have blood in it, be dark in colour, be more pale in colour, be green, excessively smelly, have interesting objects in it, have worms in it!! Your pet may be off colour, straining and not wanting to eat or acting completely normally otherwise. So what does it all mean and when do you need to worry about it?

Diarrhoea can be caused by many different things but generally falls into 5 categories:

1. bacterial or viral infection – the typical tummy bug – contracted from another animal or from eating something they shouldn't – food poisoning
2. parasites e.g. round worms, giardia, coccidian inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) or colitis – sometimes due to a particular food allergy or can be
3. stress induced
4. systemic disease i.e. disorders of the pancreas/liver/intestines
5. cancer

With any bout of diarrhoea the first thing to remember is personal hygiene – wear gloves when handling any faeces and wash your hands. Bacterial infections or parasite burdens can sometimes pass to humans – don't take any risks. Be aware of other pets in the household as well – try to isolate the affected pet.

Sometimes (as we know with ourselves), a bout of diarrhoea will clear up on its own and no medical consultation/therapy is required. The most important thing is to keep up the pet's fluid intake (preferably water) and you can always feed a bland diet e.g. boiled chicken and rice to a) encourage food intake and b) it is soothing on the gut.

If however, your pet's diarrhoea has been going on for some time or they are not eating, looking generally miserable or have other symptoms e.g. vomiting then they should definitely be seen by your vet. Diarrhoea can lead to dehydration very



Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets

quickly and some conditions can be life threatening if not caught early. The disease most commonly thought of is Parvovirus in dogs – a viral disease that is very contagious and has a high mortality rate especially in young dogs – vaccination from an early age has helped to reduce the frequency of this nasty disease.

The vet will examine your pet's vital signs and ascertain the best course of treatment – sometimes as simple as a course of antibiotics, parasite control and bland food but can involve i/v fluid therapy, blood tests and a prolonged stay in hospital.

Prevention is the key for most cases of diarrhoea – ensure your pets are vaccinated, wormed regularly and fed an appropriate diet – generally if you wouldn't eat it, your pet shouldn't eat it!! Keep them away (as best you can!) from old rubbish bins and rotting things on your walk. Stagnant water can also be a source of infection – e.g. giardia.

Sometimes, your pet's diarrhoea will not resolve after the first trip to the vet. In this case, the vet will often request a sample of the faeces to send away for laboratory testing – this will help rule out bacterial/viral/parasitic conditions. If the faeces are negative for these then further investigation will be needed. This can involve blood tests to check for vital organ health, food trials to check for food allergies/intolerance or sometimes biopsies of the intestines.

Diarrhoea is an unpleasant condition for both our pets and us but is something we can deal with – you don't have to suffer. If you have any doubts or worries, don't hesitate to ring the clinic and discuss your pet's symptoms with us.

VETERINARY CLINIC SERVICES

Consultations

These are by appointment only, but sometimes you just can't get an appointment at a suitable time or you need to send your pet in with a friend or family member who may not have all the answers to our questions. In these cases, or if it works better for you to leave your animal with us for the day to be examined while you are at work for example we are now providing a form for you to complete with a lot of the common questions we would need to ask to help us determine your pet's ailment.

This can be completed when dropping off your pet, but in the interests of saving you time during drop off, or if you are sending someone other than yourself with your pet, we now provide this form on our website. It can be downloaded and printed off, completed at home and brought in with your pet.

This will assist us greatly to get to the bottom of your pets ailment.

If we required any further information, we will give you a quick call.

Please remember to always leave us a number you will be available on ALL the time while your pet is with us.

COMMUNITY

Have you got room for one more?

In Christchurch, the SPCA is currently struggling to find homes for large numbers of adult cats that have ended up in the shelter in recent months. This is likely it is related to the continuing aftershocks and the large numbers of people having to relocate either temporarily or permanently and sadly these cat's have either been forgotten or surrendered.

Visit the SPCA website:

<http://www.spcacanterbury.org.nz/> or call them on 349 7057 or visit them at 14 Wilmers Road, Hornby. They will be very happy to hear from you and to introduce you to the cats needing homes.

PROMOTIONS

It's all about cats at the moment

1. Free wheat bags to keep your cat warm with a bag of Hill's Cat Food from our Straven Road branch
2. Free pet blanket with each 6 pack of cat frontline purchased from our Straven Road branch.

Check out: <http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/pet-product-promotions.php> for full details

WEBSITE

www.veterinarycentre.co.nz

We continue to add information to the website. Make sure you LIKE us on Facebook so you get regular updates of new information being posted.

We would also like to add more content about YOU our clients! Have you got any amazing stories about your pet? We'd like to feature them on our website.

We'd also like to hear what else you'd like to see on our website. The website is designed for our current clients so we'd like to know we are providing what you expect!

Please contact us and let us know.

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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