



THE STRAVEN ROAD
VETERINARY
CENTRE (LTD)

VETERINARY SURGEONS

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Newsletter – WINTER 2014 Issue 24

CLINIC NEWS

Last month we said goodbye to one of our nurses Tiffany. We wish her all the best in her next job venture. We welcomed our new veterinary nurse, Katrina. She is our part time nurse, and you will see her mostly at our Straven Rd branch but every now and then at our Papanui branch also.

SEASONAL UPDATE

Winter

Fleas

These little critters don't go away because it is winter, they just move happily into your warm home! Talk to one of our veterinary nurses about the best options for your situation. They can advise on what worm treatments should be given at the same time too.

Exercise

If you find the winter months a little harder to get out and exercise your dog, remember to reduce their calorie intake accordingly. Remember that both our branches have a set of scales and you can use these at any time to weigh your dog. Ask the veterinary nurse at reception to record the weight and advise you on suitability of current weight and if changes are needed. You are also welcome to bring your cats in to be weighed too. Please remember to bring them in a cage.

Desexing

Don't forget that last years kittens will now be happily coming into season, so if you still have a kitten or young cat who is not yet desexed, now is the time to urgently book an appointment to get this done. Every year there are thousands of unwanted kittens born. Make sure you are doing your bit to keep the numbers as low as possible.

Signs of Stiffness

This is more likely to be seen in the cooler months, so

read our article in this newsletter for more details on what to look for as this is quite possibly an early sign of arthritis.

ARTICLE
Arthritis

By Eve Allely, Veterinarian

Now that we are well into winter it is a good time to discuss degenerative joint disease (old age arthritis) in cats and dogs. Just like humans our pets can suffer from this debilitating condition and the pain is often amplified during cooler weather. The only difference is that our pets can't tell us when and where they are sore. So it is up to us to recognise the changes (which are often subtle to start with) that indicate arthritis may be occurring. The following is a list of possible symptoms:

Dogs

- *Increased general stiffness or limping– especially upon rising, often seems to improve as dog moves around or may persist all the time if advanced
- *Licking at affected joints
- *Reluctance to be taken outside or for walks, reluctance to jump up and down e.g. into/out of vehicle
- *Uncharacteristic aggression when handled or playing with other dogs
- *Changes in toileting posture e.g. male dog having trouble 'cocking leg'

Cats

- *Hesitance/avoidance of jumping up and down off furniture, trees etc.
- *Reluctance to play
- *Difficulty climbing stairs.
- *'Accidents' outside litter tray if difficult to get into/out of
- Uncharacteristic aggression or crying when picked up

The following website has good feline arthritis animations
www.catswitharthritis.com

Luckily we have many options for relieving arthritis in



Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets

our pets. We now have complete diets with beneficial ingredients for arthritis added in, or separate dietary supplements. There are oral anti-inflammatories available, which often make a dramatic difference and can be used long term if tolerated.

There is also a course of subcutaneous (under skin) injections that help improve joint function with minimal side effects.

At home we recommend a common sense approach to animals with arthritis:

- *Keep them warm especially through winter (inside if possible, near heat source if practical)
- *Provide cushioned easily-accessible bedding (for cats this may need to be on ground level if they have reduced ability to climb).
- *Pet bed-heating devices are available – mini electric blankets or microwaveable discs. Eliminate drafts around sleeping areas.
- *Coats for dogs when out walking.
- *Avoid walking/swimming through cold water.
- *Avoid over-exercising arthritic dogs – they may seem to cope at the time but often suffer afterwards.
- *Warn people not to play rough with arthritic dogs and reduce contact with young, boisterous dogs.
- *Reduce the number of stairs/climbs and jumps to negotiate – consider ramps, lifting dogs into and out of vehicles.
- *Lift cats onto furniture if they are struggling to jump themselves, provide low sided and good sized litter trays to step into and out of.

If you suspect your pet may have arthritis, please see us for further advice as to the best options for your pet!

PROMOTION

Frontline Plus and Broadline (Straven Road only)

Purchase any pack of Frontline Plus for cats or 2 packs of Broadline for cats and receive a free flea treatment application timer.

Purchase any Frontline plus for dogs and receive a free protective car seat cover. These are while stocks last.

Broadline (At Papanui)

A free timer for 2 x Broadline purchased

Bayer Watch out for Worms (Straven only)

Purchase any products from Bayer over \$45 (Drontal/Advocate/Profender) to receive The Ezebag Poo Bags. These are while stocks last

Watch out for WORMS

Be a responsible pet owner and protect your family from worms

Treat your pet against worms and parasites. Talk to your vet about a Bayer® parasite solution.

Drontal®
The trusted allwormer for cats & dogs

advocate
The most complete all-in-one parasite protection for cats & dogs

profender
ALLWORMER
Stress-free treatment, worm free cats

FREE Poo Bag, Dispenser and bags with a qualifying purchase of Bayer® parasite products, only from your vet!

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Any truth in this at your house?

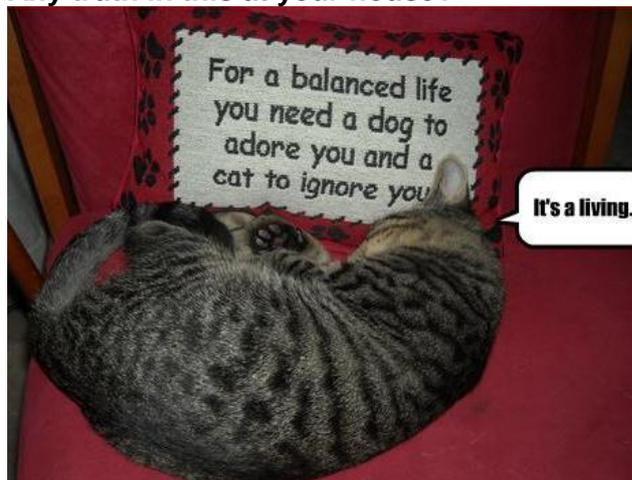


Image source: http://unjoe.yuku.com/topic/4525/Which-LOLCat-Are-You?page=26#.U7E98PmSx_I

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