



THE STRAVEN ROAD
VETERINARY
CENTRE (LTD)

VETERINARY SURGEONS

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Newsletter – WINTER 2015 Issue 28

CLINIC NEWS

In clinic news this Winter, we are pleased to announce that our veterinary nurse, Sarah recently got engaged.

We are also pleased to be able to send one of our veterinary nurses, Ang to the annual NZVNA conference in Auckland in August. We look forward to her sharing all her new knowledge with us when she returns to continually improve the experience we are able to offer you and your pets.

SEASONAL UPDATE

Winter

Is your pet having difficulty moving?

Winter is a time when your pets that have already been diagnosed with arthritis may show more marked signs. It may also be a time when pets who are normally able to move freely start to show signs of being a little stiff. If your pet is showing increased signs of difficulty moving, this indicates the presence of pain. It is essential to seek some veterinary attention to relieve the symptoms. Continued pain is detrimental to your pet

Dental care

July is dental month at Straven Road. It's a great time to get your pets teeth checked and attended to if necessary. Check out promotions for a special offer. Did you know that you can keep your pets teeth healthier for longer by looking after them as you look after your own. Please talk to our friendly staff about the most appropriate regular dental care for your pet. You could also review this article on the website: <http://www.veterinarycentre.co.nz/dental-care.php>

ANTI FREEZE

Poisoning

By Dr. Kate Tolliday

Most antifreeze solutions are based on ethylene glycol, a compound which is particularly toxic to cats, even ingesting a small amount can have serious consequences. Now we are into winter they are more likely to come into contact with it, either by direct ingestion (it seems to be attractive to cats) or from contamination of their fur which they then lick off. So, it is important to be vigilant and keep it in sealed containers, and clear up any spillage or leakage in the garage /around vehicles.

Ethylene glycol is metabolised into toxic compounds in the body, which cause damage to the kidneys resulting in acute renal failure within 12-24hrs. It also causes more global effects on metabolism which cause signs ranging from vomiting to tremors, ataxia (wobbly movements, drunken appearance), depressed responses and coma. Signs start to show from 30 minutes to 12 hours after ingestion. It is important to seek veterinary attention immediately if your animal starts to show any of these signs particularly if you suspect they might have been exposed to antifreeze.

Treatment involves gastric decontamination if caught early enough, intravenous fluid therapy to flush through the kidneys, and treatment to correct any electrolyte or pH imbalances that often occur in the blood. Intravenous medical ethanol can stop ethylene glycol being metabolised into the harmful compounds in earlier stages. The prognosis for cats which ingest enough to develop acute renal failure is poor, but with aggressive early therapy the odds can be improved.

Prevention is much better than cure!

If you have any concerns about your pet and this compound or any other potential poison, please contact us immediately.



**Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets**

CREATURE COMFORTS

Keeping your pets warm this winter

By Dr. Kate Tolliday

Your dog or cat may be used to running around outside, but exposure to persistently cold temperatures in winter can be detrimental to their health and welfare. Their fur coat can only do so much to keep them warm, and they should be protected from extremes of temperature.

Keeping them comfortable at night is particularly important for older animals that are likely to suffer with some degree of arthritis which can feel worse for them when they are cold. Animals should have access to a dry draft free shelter, ideally indoors or in a garage or shed for those who are hardy and used to the outdoors.

Beds can be slightly raised to keep them off the cold floor, and some older animals will benefit from having a heated pad underneath also. Just be wary of using any electrical devices for individuals who are prone to chew!

Puppies, kittens or older animals should be kept inside overnight as they just don't have the metabolism or often fat reserves to cope well with extreme temperatures especially when they are on their own.

Coats are another option for animals spending prolonged time outside, and can be very functional, not just a fashion item! We can order in a wide range of coats as well as provide advice on caring for your pet so don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

PROMOTIONS

Royal Canin dental – Straven Road only

20% off all Royal Canin cat and dog dental diet for the month of July 2015

Free dental checks at Straven Road

We are offering free dental checks, if they need dental surgery then they can receive 10% off the surgery cost when booked in the month of July 2015 and receive a Free bag of Royal Canin cat or dog 1.5kg to take home afterwards. Call Straven Road to organise an appointment

Hills T/D

Purchase Hills Science diet T/D and receive a free Kong dental cat or dog toy while stock lasts. (this is available from both Papanui and Straven Road branches)

Q-Card

12 months interest free finance for unexpected veterinary accounts



We are pleased to be able to offer our patients a convenient way to pay for their Pets healthcare needs.

With **12 months no payments and no interest*** on treatments \$200 and over, you can get the treatment you want, when you want it.

Talk to us about this payment option and begin your Pets treatment today!

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>



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Healthy Pets**