

VETERINARY SURGEONS

Dr. MICHAEL J. AVERILL, B.V.Sc
(Dist)
Dr. CHANTAL MORETON B.V.Sc
Dr. EVE ALLELY B.V.Sc
Dr. ANNE FINLAY BVSc



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

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

THE STRAVEN ROAD VETERINARY CENTRE (LTD)

Newsletter – WINTER 2016 Issue 32

CLINIC NEWS

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. We hope you enjoy the articles on Lead Poisoning and Nexgard

Also don't forget to check all the other amazing articles on our website.

www.veterianrycentre.co.nz . If there isn't an article on something you want to know more about, please let us know so we can find one for you.

SEASONAL UPDATE

WINTER

Winter can seem like a quiet time with pets. A bit less walking perhaps and more time cuddling by the fire for those lucky enough to be inside and to have a log burner.

Don't forget though that your pets still need to get outside and exercise and if you are finding that they are doing a bit less exercise reduce their calorie intake. If you are unsure how much to reduce this by please talk to one of our friendly staff.

When getting out to exercise, remember if its dusk or dawn or any hours of darkness wear reflective clothing so you can be easily seen on these dark days.

Fleas and worms still rear their heads at this time of year so please keep this up. A product for treating fleas and worms is profiled in this newsletter. Which product is best for your pet may vary, so do talk to our qualified and friendly staff. They will be able to guide you on the best product for your pet.

LEAD POISONING

This can still happen!

By Chantal Moreton, BVSc

With all the renovations and repairs occurring around Christchurch post-earthquakes, it is a timely reminder to be careful with our pets and what they are exposed to.

Causes

Lead poisoning is not as common as it once was in New Zealand as we have come to realise its toxic properties and all modern paints and petrol are no longer lead based. However older houses can be a source of this toxin especially when paint is being stripped. It can cause contamination of soil or you will get the odd pet (usually puppy!) who will chew on a wooden door frame or the like! Other sources of lead are car batteries, lead piping, shotgun pellets (most often a concern for birds), ceramics, solder, asphalt, oil.

Absorption into animals is by ingestion or via the respiratory tract – after which it becomes bound to red blood cells and distributed to the various organ systems, is stored in bones and eventually excreted in the urine. The exact mechanism of toxicity at a molecular level is not known.

Clinical Signs

Signs of lead toxicity occur slowly over time as exposure becomes prolonged especially if there is a lead object in the animal's system. These clinical signs are quite vague and require a good history from the owner of potential exposure.

Dogs

- Gastrointestinal signs - intermittent vomiting, anorexia, diarrhoea/constipation, colic (gut pain). 2)



**Caring Vets,
Healthy Pets**

- Nervous signs – hyper excitability, muscle spasms, loss of coordination, behavioural changes, seizures

Cats

- anorexia, vomiting, depression, lethargy

Birds

- anorexia, lethargy, weight loss
- nervous signs – convulsions, imbalance, head rotation, falling from perches

Diagnosis

This can prove difficult sometimes but is usually based on testing blood lead levels or by x-ray – is there a radiodense object visible in the animal (quite often the only way to diagnose in a bird).

Treatment

The first and most important step is to remove the animal from the source of intoxication – i.e. keep the dog/cat away from soil that may be contaminated and then remove any lead objects they may have swallowed or potentially been shot by (surgery may be required).

A chelating agent, usually Calcium EDTA is then given by injection over a few days which binds to the lead in the blood stream and eventually eliminates it from the body.

Symptomatic treatment to help settle gastrointestinal signs or seizure activity may be required until the lead is eliminated.

Recovery is usually successful if diagnosis is made early and advanced clinical signs of seizure activity have not compromised brain function.

So although not a common problem in our pets, it is still a possibility and one we need to be aware of and can prevent easily.

NEXGARD and NEXGARD SPECTRA

By Ange, VN

NEXGARD

Nexgard is a tasty soft beef flavoured oral chew that protects your dog from fleas and ticks for a whole month.

It is available in single packs or 3 packs in the following sizes:

- Very small dog 2-4kg
- Small Dog 4.1-10kg
- Medium Dog 10.1-25kg
- Large Dog 25.1-50kg.

It makes it so easy to administer to your dog, less stress for you and them, as they feel like you are just giving them a treat.

It is a dog only treatment that can be given with or without food. It is safe to be used on puppies from 8 weeks and 2kg or more. Another great thing about this product is that it won't wash off like topical flea treatments, so you can groom or bath your dog straight away and not have to worry about it coming off, and your dog can be handled anytime without getting any treatment on your hands.

NEXGARD SPECTRA

We also have another product that's come onto the market called Nexgard Spectra which as an added wormer. From the same makers, it again is a tasty chewable beef flavoured treat.

Given monthly, Nexgard Spectra protects your dog from fleas, ticks, roundworms, hookworms and whipworms

They also are available in singles or in 3 packs. Sizes are

- Very Small dog 2-3.5kg
- Small Dog 3.6-7.5kg
- Medium Dog 7.6-15kg
- Large Dog 15.1-30kg
- Extra Large Dog 30.1-60kg.

Nexgard & Nexgard Spectra are vet only products, which are available here at Straven Road Vet Clinic and are over the counter. Give us a call or pop in if you would like to ask any other questions, find out prices or to purchase them.

PROMOTIONS

We have a promo going at the moment where if you buy any 3 pack of Nexgard or Nexgard Spectra, or 2 Broadline singles you can enter to win a Fitbit.

This promo is between May & July.

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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<https://www.facebook.com/veterinarycentre>



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Healthy Pets**