



# VET mates

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT YOUR PETS

NOVEMBER 09



## Congratulations Dane!

Dane is the lucky winner of our caption competition from the last issue of Vetmates - congratulations!

The question we asked about the picture was "What are these two little cuties chatting about?" and Dane's winning answer is...

**Boy says: "I heard that Totally Vets is a pretty good place to take your pet..."**

**Cat says: "Yeah... I just don't like where they put the thermometer!"**

Thank you to all who entered the competition - there were some excellent entries and, as always, we were faced with a very tough decision to choose a winner!

## The hidden dangers of onion and garlic toxicity

Did you know that onions and garlic in any form (raw, cooked, dehydrated or powdered in a seasoning) can create a life-threatening form of anaemia in both dogs and cats!

### WHAT HAPPENS IN ONION AND GARLIC TOXICITY?

Onions and garlic contain a substance called thiosulphate which dogs and cats cannot properly digest. A build-up of thiosulphate causes a protein called haemoglobin, which is carried by red blood cells, to form clumps which in turn cause the red blood cells to rupture. When enough red blood cells are destroyed, anaemia occurs and the body is starved of oxygen. The degree of anaemia usually depends on the amount of onion/garlic eaten and some dogs and cats can develop severe reactions even after eating very little. Small amounts of onion/garlic fed over a longer period of time can create illness just as a one-time dose can. Symptoms of toxicity sometimes take several days to become apparent and can include weakness/lethargy, vomiting, diarrhoea, difficulty breathing, collapse, pale or bluish gums and/or an increased heart rate.

### HOW MUCH ONION OR GARLIC IS TOXIC?

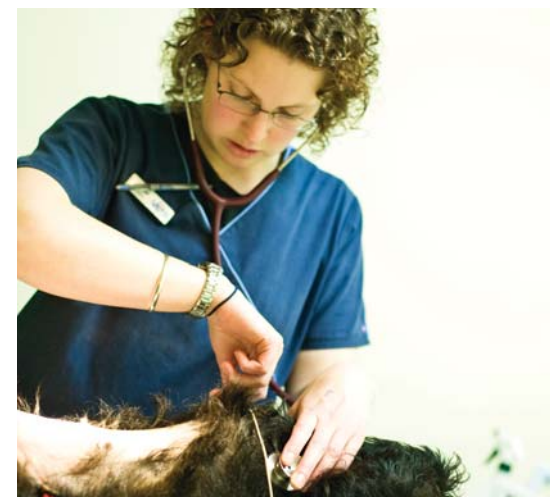
The amount of onion/garlic (in grams) that can cause toxicity is equal to 0.5% of the animal's body weight. For example, a 10kg fox terrier needs to ingest 50 grams and symptoms may become apparent. This works out to be only a quarter of an average-sized onion.

### TREATMENT OF ONION AND GARLIC TOXICITY

If ingestion was recent, making the animal vomit and giving intravenous fluids is the traditional treatment. If anaemia is severe, a lengthy hospital stay and a blood transfusion may be necessary.

### PREVENTING ONION TOXICITY

Onions and garlic are common in many human foods, including some baby foods, sandwich meats, canned spaghetti, burger patties, gravies and fast foods. Carefully check the ingredients of any table food before treating your dog or cat to a snack. Avoid adding onions in any form to homemade pet food recipes and always make sure rubbish is kept covered and away from your pets.





## PICK OF THE LITTER The Aqua Bone - a refreshing treat for a thirsty dog

Simply fill with water, freeze and then watch your dog chew for hours as ice cold water trickles out the micro-holes - a unique chewing

experience! The Aqua Bone is made from natural durable rubber, hardy enough to withstand even the toughest chewer! The textured surface also helps to keep teeth sparkling clean and massage the gums. Great for teething puppies or hot dogs on those warm summer days.

For an exciting twist, try adding chicken or beef stock to the water - yum!

The Aqua Bone is also available as a ball and is priced from \$13.10. Available in small, medium and large sizes.

## A friendly holiday vaccination reminder

If your pets are going to the boarding kennels or cattery over the holiday period, ensure you find out from your particular 'pet hotel' exactly which vaccinations they require.

If your pet hasn't been previously vaccinated and depending on his or her age, they may require an initial course of two to three vaccinations, three to four weeks apart to ensure full protection.

Most boarding kennels require dogs to be up-to-date with their routine vaccinations but some require an additional vaccination to help protect against kennel cough which is a very contagious disease that we certainly recommend vaccinating against.

The kennel cough intranasal vaccine works very quickly but should be given at least three days before boarding. Routine vaccinations in dogs and cats should be given at least two weeks before boarding.

Most catteries also require your cat to be up-to-date with vaccinations. However, it is important to check directly with your particular cattery or boarding kennels to ensure you and your pet enjoy the holiday season.

## Terrific Terriers

Terriers originated from Great Britain and were developed to hunt and kill vermin. The desired traits in these breeds were the ability to dig up the underground dens and burrows and 'go to ground' whilst barking noisily to frighten out any inhabitants. The name terrier means earth or 'terra'.

As a group, terriers are scrappy, independent, and fearless and are blessed with the joy of life. The common members of the group are the Jack Russell Terrier, the Smooth-Coated Fox Terrier and the Wire-Coated Fox Terrier.

Jack Russell Terriers are feisty, exuberant, crowd-pleasing and hyperactive bundles of muscle. They tend to be extremely intelligent, athletic and vocal dogs. It is not uncommon for the JR to become moody or destructive if not properly stimulated and exercised, as they have a tendency to bore easily and will often create their own fun when left alone - they love to entertain themselves!

The Jack Russell is truly a big dog in a small dog package. They can be stubborn at times, and may become aggressive towards other dogs and people if not adequately socialised. Obedience classes are recommended for these dogs and owners should be made aware of these tendencies and advised to keep an eye

out for trouble in many situations. The JR is predominantly white in colour with black and/or tan markings. They have dense double coats which are either smooth or rough.

Fox Terriers, or 'Foxy's' as they are affectionately known, were independently bred in England in the mid-19th century. There are two main breeds which are distinguishable by their hair coats. The smooth-coat is flat but hard and dense whereas the wire-coat has a broken wiry texture. Fox Terriers can be obstinate and strong-willed but, with persistence, can be obedience trained. Add a sense of humour, a talent for mischief and an insatiable curiosity and the character of a Fox Terrier is complete.

**All three of these little rat-bags are a common addition to the working dog team on many farms and are equally popular as town-dwelling pet dogs.**



Totally Vets prints **Vet Mates** on paper using FSC certified mixed pulp from Well Managed forests and other controlled sources. The paper is produced under an environmental management system ISO 14001.





## Who's been a good boy then...

Treat your cats and dogs this Christmas to their very own present, ready and waiting for them underneath the tree on Christmas morning.

Each gift is beautifully wrapped and contains a selection of toys and treats specially chosen for your four-legged friend... **All for only \$7.00 each!**

Presents are available for purchase from 1 December 2009, from the Feilding branch only.



## Moggy matings and maulings

As the temperatures start to rise (at last!), we are fast approaching the mating period of our feline friends. Cats are sexually active over the long days of summer, and competition for access to any queens in heat will see toms on the prowl.

Over the past few months we have seen an increase in the number of cats presented with injuries related to fighting. While entire toms are usually the most aggressive at this time of year, they are not the only animals to suffer the effects of this season. Many entire females are wounded during the mating process, and desexed animals may also come off second best when trying to protect their territory from a randy intruder.

The usual outcome from a cat scratch or bite wound is a fever, pain, loss of appetite and lethargy, often followed by the development of an abscess. Antibiotics are able to prevent the formation of pus, but cannot remove pus that has already accumulated. Once an abscess has formed, it will require lancing and draining in order to allow the wound to heal properly. This is usually done under heavy sedation or a general anaesthetic.

The fewer entire animals in a neighbourhood, the lower the risk of fighting. Treating abscesses can be expensive and animals will require ongoing treatment with antibiotics until the wound resolves, so desexing your cat carries many benefits over and above preventing unwanted litters.

**Cat bite wounds are very painful and cats are often presented with suspicion of having been hit by a car, as they may be non-weight bearing on a limb. If you know or suspect that your cat has been in a fight, please phone the Feilding branch of Totally Vets for an appointment as soon as possible, as early treatment with pain relief and antibiotics may alleviate this discomfort for them.**



# Put a face to the name

Have you ever spoken to a member of our small animal team over the phone and wondered who they were? Vet or vet nurse? Well now is the time to put a face to the name...



**Chrissy Brown**  
Vet Nurse



**Christine Moloney**  
Veterinarian



**Debbie Asplin**  
Vet Nurse



**Diane Hooton**  
Vet Nurse



**Diane White**  
Groomer



**Helen Ryan**  
Vet Nurse



**Jeanette Parsons**  
Veterinarian



**Jo Nesdale**  
Veterinarian



**Kristen Nesbit**  
Vet Nurse



**Paula O'Reilly**  
Veterinarian



**Rebekah Willink**  
Vet Nurse



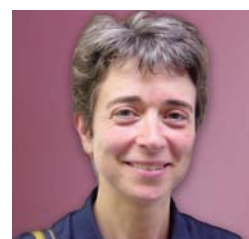
**Sally Browning**  
Veterinarian



**Susan Ransom**  
Veterinarian



**Suzanne Lane**  
Veterinarian



**Wendy Kay**  
Veterinarian

## Remember, remember the 5th of November!

Fireworks and furry friends can be a disaster waiting to happen and every year, many animals are reported missing after the big night of bangs.

Prevention is better than cure in this case so if your pet does get upset by the tiniest of pops, here are some helpful tips:

- Take your dog out for a long walk and feed all pets mid to late afternoon. Tired pets with full tummies are more likely to be sleepier
- If you are leaving your dog at home while you watch the display, make sure your pet is safely tucked away in a kennel or in a safe and secure room in the house
- Keep your cat inside during this time. Lock the cat flap and make sure there is a litter tray inside
- Draw the curtains to help keep the noise down and the lights out. Provide a cosy bed with the distraction of new toy or treat

- If your cat gets very anxious, put him/her in a cat cage with a blanket or towel over the top. Do the same with any caged animals like rabbits or guinea pigs
- Put the TV or some music on. This will help detract from the noise outside
- If your vet has prescribed any sedative drugs for the evening, ensure they are given at the time advised, for maximum effectiveness
- Ensure your pet is either wearing a collar with identification or is microchipped, just in case they escape
- Don't punish your pet if he or she is scared. Punishment will make him/her more anxious and confirms that there is something to be frightened of
- Don't reassure your pet either (this is the hardest one!). By reassuring, you are actually rewarding the fear behaviour and increasing the chance of it becoming far worse next time. Wait for your dog or cat to recover from the fear and THEN give all the attention and praise you want.

**Remember ... the danger doesn't stop with the noise! Before taking your dog outside or letting your cat out after a nearby fireworks' display, check the area for hot embers or fireworks that may have been lit but did not ignite. Firework components, whether exploded or unexploded, are toxic.**