



VET mates

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT YOUR PETS

FEBRUARY 10



Alive AND well - the new decades resolution

Here at Totally Vets, we think most people would agree that being and staying well is an important part of enjoying life.

Our decisions on diet, exercise and seeking medical opinions from health professionals are often aimed at maintaining optimum health and preventing illness and disease. We must now ask ourselves if we are making the same decisions for our pets so that they can also enjoy optimum health for as long as possible.

Veterinary medicine has come a long way in preventing disease and optimising wellbeing in animals and the 'ambulance approach' is no longer sufficient to satisfy our pets' needs. Vaccination visits are the most familiar form of wellness medicine to most clients, but a 'parvo shot and worm pill' are just the

beginning of the opportunities available to maintain health in your pet.

Our companion animal team has made the decision that our mission is educate our clients sufficiently about the health of their pets, so that they can make informed and timely decisions to delay the onset of disease for as long as possible. When every visit to our clinic is looked at as an opportunity to exchange information on your pet's wellbeing, then we have moved a huge distance towards the quest for that pet to be 'well' at all life stages.

A good physical examination and thorough history are the cornerstones of medical practice, however to optimise the chances of providing good advice and education to our clients, we need to know as much as possible about the health status of the particular pet we are dealing with. Many additional tools are at our disposal - laboratory testing can be used as a screening tool to pick up the early stages of many diseases, timely dental treatment prevents many health problems and dietary management can improve the quality of your pet's life.

So that being said, let the team at Totally Vets help you plan a wellness program for your pet so that they can enjoy good health and, in return, enrich your life.

Stop press!

One of the most common accidental poisonings in pets is the ingestion of rat bait, which causes pets to lose the ability to clot their own blood. Without urgent treatment this can be fatal. There is an antidote available (a course of tablets containing a specific form of Vitamin K) HOWEVER the cost of this has recently DOUBLED as the tablets are no longer readily available - they have to be specially compounded for the particular patient.

The cost for treatment is priced according to the weight of the animal and is expensive! For example, **the approximate cost of a course of tablets alone (not including other treatment/s required) for a 20kg dog is \$250!**

Please be extra cautious if you have rat poison on your property - store it carefully and reduce the risk of your pet getting into it!



Christmas puppies

A reminder for everyone who received a cute little bundle of fur (in the form of a puppy!) for Christmas, Totally Vets runs a very popular and successful Puppy Preschool program.

Beks, Sandy and Kayla take great pleasure in teaching puppy owners how to care for their new canine companions as well as

teaching some basic training, giving a small insight into dog psychology and teaching owners the long-term benefits of early socialisation and training for puppies.

The Totally Vets Puppy Preschool is hugely popular and there are limited spaces which fill up VERY FAST, so get in quick... places are allocated on a first in, first served basis.

In 2010 the classes will be held on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, depending on numbers and spaces available.

There are lots of freebies to be given out and a great time is guaranteed!

For more information, give us a call at the Feilding branch or visit our website.



Virbac Dental

VeggieDent™

Better teeth, better breath

dental chews

Cleaner teeth
VeggieDent™ chews' unique vegetable matrix helps to 'brush' teeth while chewing.

Clinically proven
Regular VeggieDent™ use reduced plaque in dogs by 37% and reduced calculus accumulation by 70% in clinical trials¹.

Unique Z shape
VeggieDent's shape makes them easier for mouths to pick up, improves contact with teeth and provides enhanced chewing action.

Gentle on teeth
VeggieDent™ chews are flexible to chew making them tough on plaque & calculus, but gentle on teeth and gums.

Highly palatable
Great tasting and made from natural ingredients. Dogs really want to get their teeth into them.

Don't wait for dental disease to show. Bad breath and tooth decay can be avoided. Get your dog chewing on VeggieDent™ today.

1. Virbac trial data on file

passionate about animal health

Virbac ANIMAL HEALTH

The best start in life

If you are the proud new parent of a Christmas puppy or kitten, congratulations! Here are some basic tips to help you on your rewarding life journey with your pet.

Nutrition

Proper feeding of a growing puppy or kitten is essential for optimum development. Consistently feeding the wrong food can cause nutritional imbalances which can lead to disease. A young animal's nutritional needs are different from an adult's and must be met by the small amount of food that a small stomach can hold. The ideal puppy or kitten food should be complete and balanced, which means it should contain all essential nutrients in the correct ratio. Always use a kitten or puppy-specific food, and for puppies, food should also match breed size. Because young puppies and kittens have sensitive tummies and a sudden change of diet can cause diarrhoea, you should start by feeding the same food that the breeder was feeding. If you want to change the diet, do so gradually over seven to ten days.

Vaccinations

There are many diseases that can be fatal to puppies and kittens. Fortunately, we have

the ability to prevent many of these by the use of vaccines. In order to be effective, these vaccines must initially be given as a series of at least two injections, three to four weeks apart, depending on your pet's age.

Worms and fleas

Most puppies and kittens become infected with worms before they are born or later through their mother's milk. Puppies and kittens should be wormed from two weeks of age, every two weeks until twelve weeks old, every month until six months old and three-monthly thereafter. In animals under twelve weeks old, always ensure worming tablets kill hookworm and roundworm and additionally whipworm in puppies. After twelve weeks of age, tablets should also kill tapeworm in both puppies and kittens.

Fleas can lay up to fifty eggs a day, which fall off your pet into the environment and can cause infestations. The best way to prevent fleas until puppies/kittens are weaned is to deflea their mother at regular intervals; however, in the case of infestations in very young animals, contact us ASAP as these can be fatal. The key to eradicating fleas after weaning is to apply products regularly as indicated, and year-round. By ensuring your pet is treated regularly, your home and pet will be flea-free.

Contact us at the Feilding branch and speak to one of our helpful receptionists or a member of our small animal team if you have any questions about your new little friend - we are here to help!

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





Torus - the ultimate water bowl!

The hollow outer ring creates a chilled reservoir with 2 litres capacity, the central dish provides a drinking well and the valve mechanism inside the reservoir controls the release of water for drinking. Clever huh! Here are some of the features of the amazing Torus bowl:

Stays cooler. Thick walls and rubber feet keep water cooler for longer

Travel friendly. Fully portable! Simply fill it up, lock the water in and your Torus bowl can travel anywhere your dog does

Stays fresher. Water stays clean and replaceable filters keep water fresh (filters should be replaced on a monthly basis)

Stores more. The Torus bowl stores a whopping 2 litres of water providing more than a day's supply for most dogs

Less mess. Water in the reservoir cannot spill and the low profile of the Torus bowl increases stability.

The Torus bowl is available in a range of colours and is priced at \$39.90

An insulating cover /carry bag is also available for \$25.00

Filters are sold in packs of five for \$9.70 (Prices are GST inclusive).



The dog of the cat world

The Burmese cat (in Thai meaning fortunate, beautiful and splendid) is a breed of domesticated cat with two subsets: American and British.

Most modern Burmese are descendants of one female cat called Wong Mau who was brought from Burma to America in 1930. The British build tends to be more oriental with a triangular face while the American is stockier and rounder in body, head, eyes and feet. The Burmese ranges

from four to six kilograms in weight even though the breed is a lot heavier than they first appear.

The most recognised colours are the six full colours: The original brown/sable (a rich brown mahogany colour), chocolate/champagne (a light cream chocolate colour), blue (steel/grey), lilac/platinum (light dove grey), red (mandarin coloured) and cream (very light warm red).

They have yellow or gold eyes but the most characteristic feature of the Burmese is their amazing coat. They are short, fine, sleek and glossy, lying close to the body and satin-like in feel and texture. The coat is easy to care for, a simple pat is often enough to groom it.

A Burmese cat is a wonderful companion and makes an excellent pet. They adapt well in

large noisy households, quickly becoming part of a family. They are an intelligent breed with a boisterous, lively and alert nature. Burmese cats are also individual, playful, fun loving and mostly even tempered and they thrive on company, both adult and children, and other pets alike.

Often dubbed the "dog of the cat world" the Burmese is extremely people orientated. Their personalities are almost dog like as they have a tendency to shadow their owners and a desire to give and receive attention. They are known to retrieve items during games and are comfortable travelling in cars. They do however have an inclination to climb curtains to reach high places and like sitting on the tops of doors.



Meet the reception and administration crew!

This is your chance to put a face to the name of the lovely ladies you may speak with on the phone, at both the Feilding and Palmerston North branches.



Aimee Perrett
HR Manager, Feilding



Anna Huston
Client Services, Feilding



Catherine Toyne
Operations Manager,
Feilding



Charmaine Roberston
Client Services, Feilding



Corrina Pugh
Inventory Manager,
Feilding



Eliza Trembath
Client Services, Feilding



Gaye Stein
Client Services,
Palmerston North



Glenda McNeill
Accounts Payable,
Feilding



Hayley Smith
Large Animal Operations
Manager, Feilding



Jackie Cunliffe
Client Services, Feilding



Jade Pringle
Client Services, Feilding
& Palmerston North



Julie Christensen
Client Services & Accounts
Payable, Palmerston North



Julie Slattery
Client Services, Feilding



Kayla Houghton
Client Services, Feilding



Pauline McClutchie
Accounts Receivable,
Feilding



Rachel Jackson
Financial Manager,
Palmerston North



Sandy Fitzgerald
Client Services, Feilding



Selena Skilton
Client Services,
Palmerston North



Tara Baker
Accounts Receivable,
Palmerston North