



VET mates

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT YOUR PETS

NOVEMBER 2011



Totally Vets Client Christmas BBQ

Join us on:

Friday 9th December

At:

Feilding Clinic
Manchester Street, Feilding

For our annual Christmas BBQ.

As a thank you for your support and custom over the last year, the food and drinks are on us.

Pop in any time between noon and late!

See you there.

Acupuncture - a new service at Totally Vets

Kellie Doyle

In recent years, people have become more and more interested in natural and holistic therapies for themselves and their pets to both help treat illness and to maintain homeostatic balance and optimal health. Totally Vets would like to offer you the opportunity to explore these options for your four-legged friends in the form of acupuncture.

Acupuncture is an ancient, tried and tested technique that uses small solid needles to access the flow of energy (Qi) in the body and alter it to restore the body's natural balance. The flow of Qi can be disturbed by many factors including but not limited to anxiety, fear, poor nutrition, infections, poisons and trauma. Acupuncture points are

located along energy pathways or meridians and are generally found close to the skin in areas of low electrical resistance. Stimulation of these points has the ability to modulate pain, boost the immune system, speed healing and stimulate nerve function.

Often we use acupuncture as an aid in the treatment of musculoskeletal problems such as arthritis and muscle spasms; however there may be instances where acupuncture can help in the treatment of skin, urinary, respiratory and gastrointestinal problems as well as boosting energy and wellbeing in geriatric animals.

Consultations will involve a discussion with you to obtain a detailed history of your pet's problem, a general physical and clinical exam followed by recommendation involving the conventional options available and the role of acupuncture if applicable. These consults will take about 20-30 minutes and then we may ask you to either revisit for an acupuncture session or leave your pet with us for a session later in the day.

Often 3-4 weekly treatments will be required to assess therapeutic outcomes and expectations and then in some cases a longer-term treatment regime may be recommended.

The initial consultation is \$46 and acupuncture sessions, if needed, are \$61.50 per session. Please contact our reception team in Feilding if you would like to make an appointment.





PICK OF THE LITTER

Animal Planet's Jungle Range

This month's pick of the litter has to go to the new range of toys put out by Petware.

Animal Planet's Jungle range includes animals made using eco-friendly products.

Some contain replaceable plastic bottles inserted into the toy for a great crunch effect, others have a soft tube rather than stuffing for durability. All of these toys contain squeakers for non-stop squeeking fun!

Every purchase of these toys benefits R.O.A.R (reach out, act, respond), which is Animal Planet's project to make the world a better place for animals.

Come in and pick one up today - prices start from \$12.40.

CASE OF THE MONTH

Bailey the wonder-dog!

Debbie Asplin

It was a Thursday afternoon when a surprisingly calm little Bailey arrived at the Feilding clinic.

He had been out on his usual walk with his grandma when he decided to take on the train that was about to zoom past them!

Word quickly travelled around the clinic that a dog with a missing leg had just arrived - I didn't believe it until I saw it for myself!

Bailey was given pain relief and antibiotics while his vet assessed him, was then started on intravenous fluids and oxygen therapy and had chest and abdominal xrays taken. His other injury, a large flap of skin pulled from his left shoulder and chest, was tacked down with staples and bandaged. Once Bailey was stabilised, the whole team crossed their fingers and toes everything was prepared for surgery the next day.

Bailey was taken to surgery on Friday morning to have the remainder of his right hind leg amputated and the skin flap over his shoulder and chest repaired. Bailey was in surgery for several hours but by mid-afternoon he was sitting up and even stood to pee!

He stayed with us for the rest of the weekend and went home on the Monday, labelled one of the luckiest little dogs alive!



Breed profile

- The British Blue

Helen Ryan

The British Blue is a member of the cat breed British Shorthair.

The breed evolved by interbreeding cats brought to Britain by the Romans with the wild native cats. More crossbreeding with Persian cats was done to improve the thickness of their coat.

While the blue colour has been the most popular, British Shorthairs now come in large variety of colours including fawn, white, black, chocolate and silver and patterns such as tabby, tortoiseshell or bi-colour.

For lovers of big cats this may be the one for you. They are often referred to as the 'bulldog of the cat world' as their bodies are large, sturdy and muscular. They have a 'cobby' build with a broad chest, shoulders and hips. The males are larger, weighing from 5-10kg with the females ranging from 5-7kg. They have round heads with large copper or gold eyes set widely apart and the ever-endearing chubby cheeks.



These cats have a wonderful temperament and are an easy-going breed. They are the ideal cat for people who are at work all day as they have no problem being 'house' cats and are quite happy to laze around for as long as is required.

When they want attention they will let their owners know and have a tendency to hang out where their people are, as opposed to being all over them. Most prefer to keep four paws on the ground and be patted rather than being picked up.

The breed has become a favourite of animal trainers because of its nature and intelligence, and many have appeared in films and television commercials. Some more well-known famous British Shorthair cats include 'Henry' from the Whiskas adverts on television and also the 'Cheshire Cat' from the Alice in Wonderland stories.

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.



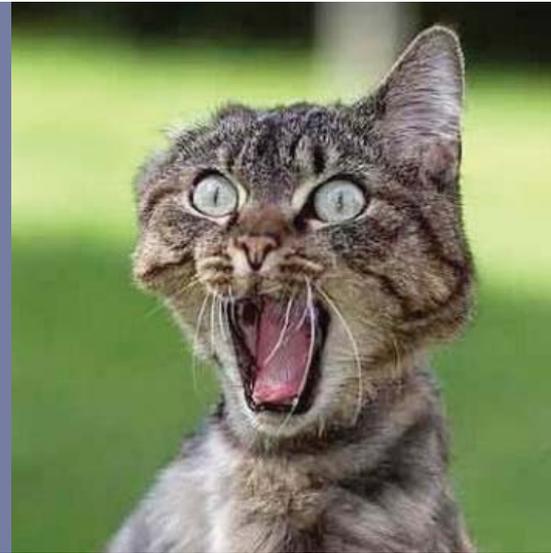


COMPETITION What the ...

Get your thinking caps on and come up with a caption for this picture!

For the winning entry, we have a cat bed and Iams cat food up for grabs, kindly sponsored by Masterpet. Entries must reach Totally Vets Feilding by 30th November.

Name _____
Phone _____
Caption _____



Teeth, tums and feet

Christine Moloney

You have wormed, vaccinated and are now going to de-sex your new puppy. You have been wondering about the little swelling near her tummy button, the extra claws on her feet and the extra teeth in her mouth. Are they important and what should you do?

The little swelling on the tummy button is likely to be an umbilical hernia - some puppies are born with these. The umbilicus (belly button) marks the opening through which the pre-natal blood vessels passed before birth. After the umbilical cord is cut at birth, the opening closes rapidly. Occasionally however, it does not close completely, and an opening in the abdominal wall remains and a

hernia can develop. Usually only abdominal fat makes its way through this hole, but if the hole is large enough intestines can sometimes fall through, which have the potential to twist. It is always best to repair this hernia, especially if it is large, either as a special surgery or when other abdominal surgery is being performed. Doing this surgery at the same time as de-sexing (neutering or spaying) is therefore ideal so that your puppy only has one anaesthetic instead of two.

Your puppy's deciduous (baby) teeth are all replaced by permanent teeth between four and six months of age. The erupting permanent teeth usually push the deciduous teeth out of their sockets. Occasionally the deciduous teeth remain in place, causing the permanent teeth to grow in the wrong place, in the wrong direction and out of alignment with the other teeth. This can cause problems with eating and damage to teeth later in life, so it is always best to remove the remaining deciduous teeth as soon as possible. These can be easily removed the same time as your puppy is de-sexed at six months of age, again avoiding the need for two anaesthetic's.



You may also have noticed that your puppy may have dew claws ("thumbs"). The front ones are usually close to the foot but the back ones can be large and dangly. In our experience, there are no more dew claw toe injuries than other toe injuries, even when the dew claws are large so there is no need to routinely remove these claws unless an injury actually happens later in life. However, if you would like them to be removed this can also be done at the same time as your puppy is de-sexed - your vet will be able to advise you if it is recommended or not.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Feilding clinic on (06) 323 6161 if you have any questions or would like any further advice on any of the above - we are here to help.



Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD)

Sally Browning

One of the more common reasons for cat's visiting our clinic is for Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD), with issues including spraying, urinating inside, the presence of blood in the urine, pain and discomfort during urination, or being unable to pass urine at all.

We often see 'runs' of these patients, usually due to sudden changes in weather. Especially

with cold weather, cats may decrease their water intake and they may not want to go outside in the cold to pee - and who can blame them!

Cats with FLUTD may appear constipated, lick under the tail and may cry loudly when urinating or if touched on the belly. Sometimes they may hide away, appear agitated or even vomit. Male cats have a very small urethral opening in their penis and are very prone to developing a complete blockage - THIS IS LIFE-THREATENING. If suspected, we treat it as an emergency 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A female cat is unlikely to have a complete blockage and while they do need to be seen promptly, this is not such an urgent case.

The FLUTD symptoms can have several causes including struvite crystals forming in the urine, stress cystitis (also seen in humans), a poor quality diet and bacterial infection. To help us diagnose what is causing the problem we examine a fresh sample of urine under the microscope.

Treatment varies according to the cause. A blocked male cat needs IV fluids, then an anesthetic to pass a catheter into the urethra to flush the blockage out. We then hospitalise him for at least 48 hours until we are certain that he can urinate freely. A diet change to a prescription diet, which stops the formation of struvite crystals, is usually needed for the rest of his life.

Other treatments can include anti-anxiety medications, glucosamine to improve the health of the bladder wall, pain relief, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics and diet changes.

At home you can encourage water intake by changing water every day, keeping the water dish away from the food dish or using a water fountain. Very low-quality dry cat food should also be avoided.

Please contact us at the Feilding clinic on (06) 323 6161 if you are at all concerned about your cat's urinary behaviour.



Kitten Kindy

Sandy Fitzgerald

The newest addition to the Totally Vets range of wellness programmes, our Kitten Kindy, has gotten off to a great start and is proving to be very popular!

This exciting new class has been designed to give owners information and tools relating to all things feline, as well as the opportunity to trouble-shoot any problems you may encounter - the 'Big One' is toilet training.

If you are thinking of, or have just become the proud new parent of a four-legged feline friend, or even think you would benefit from a refresher course, then this one-off information evening with Helen Sheard, one of our small animal vets, is the class for you.

The class costs just \$40; this is great value, especially considering the goodies you get to take home with you are worth over \$50! The class is generously sponsored by Masterpet, Merial Ancare and Bayer and a free new food bowl, litter tray and kitty litter and flea and worm treatments are just the beginning of the freebies...

If you already have a new kitten, they need to be six months of age or younger for you to

be eligible to attend, although to get the full benefit of the goodies provided the class is best attended before you purchase your new addition to the family.

The class is run on Tuesday nights from 6pm to 7-7.30 pm. Please leave your bundle of fluff snuggled up at home - this class is for mums and dads only!

For more information or to book a place, just ask one of the friendly staff members at the front counter. You can also sign up by filling in the enrolment form at the Feilding reception desk.

We look forward to seeing you there and to answering all the burning questions you may have.