



VET mates

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT YOUR PETS

JUNE 2017



Photo op with Mobilize!

Christine Moloney

Win one of three professional photo shoots for your dog and the chance to become the next Bomazeal dog!

From May to June register your dog for the 4 week Bomazeal challenge. Most dogs with mild to moderate arthritis will respond well to Mobilize after 4 weeks.

Answer a simply survey on the results you saw with your dog using Mobilize, and be in to win. Pre-trial photos and videos can be included.

At the same time get a winter boost for yourself with a free tube of Berocca Performance with every bottle of Mobilize bought. More details and entry forms in clinic.

Hand rearing orphaned puppies

Susan Graham

If your puppies are no longer able to feed from their mother (for whatever reason), then intervention will be required until they can eat solids. Be prepared as this role can be very demanding!

FEEDING

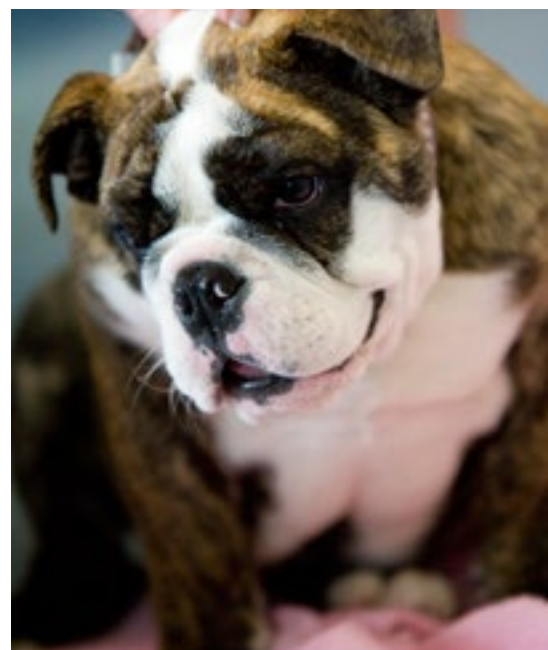
A commercial puppy formula is the easiest way to ensure nutritional requirements are met until 3-4 weeks old. **DO NOT USE COWS MILK!** It will cause diarrhoea, leading to dehydration. A bottle and teat is also needed which should be sterilised between feeds by boiling in water for 5 minutes. Warmed formula should be used (same temperature as your wrist); if fed cold it will slow down digestion. Calculate daily requirements by weighing the puppies and using the formula guide. Reweighing often is important to ensure adequate feeding is met.

For the first week feeding every 2-3 hours is recommended. If it is going well you can reduce feeds to every 4 hours for the 2nd week, and then 6 hourly for the 3rd. This schedule will vary between animals depending on how much they take at each feed and their overall health.

From 3 weeks old start weaning by putting milk into a flat dish and dipping their nose in it or rubbing milk around their mouth, to teach them to lap. Also introduce a little moistened solid food with the formula, gradually reducing the proportion of milk until the pups are only eating solids. Puppies can be weaned entirely off bottled milk as early as 4 weeks if they are eating sufficient solids to sustain growth. Most puppies are weaned off milk by weeks 5-7.

TOILETING

If their mother is no longer around, then you'll also need to help with toileting. The mother would normally lick the area under the tail to stimulate urination and defaecation. You will need to clean this area with damp cotton wool or tissues to encourage regular toileting. Toileting should be performed after every feed. Voluntary toileting should begin within 1-2 weeks.



PICK OF THE LITTER

BOMAZEAL MOBILIZE

Does your dog have sore and aching joints? Are you having to lift him in and out of the car? MOBILIZE is a tried and tested joint supplement that can put new life back into your dog!

Used correctly, this supplement can really help dogs suffering mild to moderate arthritis. This

is still a great treatment for dogs with severe arthritis, but it should be used alongside pain relief or anti-inflammatory drugs. Ask your vet for guidance.

In normal, healthy animals the body is able to synthesize enough glucosamine to keep existing cartilage healthy, but as your animal grows older, or the cartilage becomes damaged by accident or illness then he cannot produce enough to keep up with demand.

MOBILIZE can help all forms of joint stiffness by rebuilding cartilage and improving joint flexibility. It is a safe and natural product



for the management of symptoms of mild to moderate osteoarthritis in dogs.

MOBILIZE contains Green lip mussel, Shark cartilage, Deer velvet and Enzogenol which all provide numerous health benefits.

Chewing the fat: what is obesity?

Helen Sheard

Obesity is predominantly related to an imbalance of energy – too many calories consumed and not enough calories burned through exercise.

As with people, obesity can have serious impact on general health. Obese pets are more at risk of heart disease, breathing difficulty, diabetes and joint pain. Joint pain is not only limited to the weight bearing joints either. Fat produces a compound called leptin that causes inflammation in any joint of the body. If the joint pain is left untreated your pet will lie around more and unless food intake is addressed, they will continue to pile on more weight. Truly a vicious cycle. In extreme cases your pet may not even be able to get up to go to the toilet in time, leading to apparent incontinence.

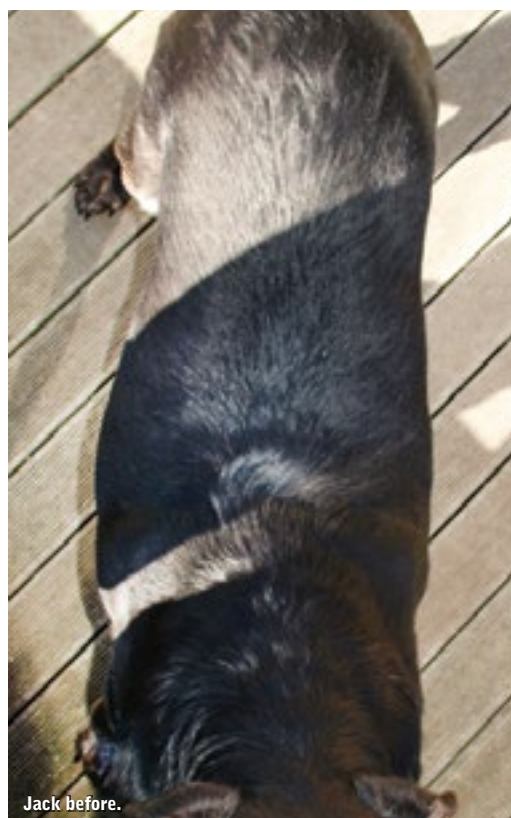
Unfortunately many owners have a mindset of 'he loves to eat, it makes him happy!' or 'it doesn't matter that he's overweight, all he does is lie around anyway.' Because becoming overweight is a gradual process, we often confuse it with 'getting older' and forget

what they used to be like. I am guilty of this myself!! My huntaway Jack started to slow down. He had some hock arthritis and was getting close to 10 years old. We had a new baby in the house, he was getting walked less and a lot of baby food was 'falling' into his mouth. I was horrified when I weighed him at work to find instead of 28kg he was 37kg. This was a 32% increase in his bodyweight!

Because Jack had arthritis as well, I provided him with pain relief and started him on Hill's Metabolic + Mobility diet. This is a new prescription diet that has been formulated to help the body better adapt to the nutrients

that are supplied and utilise the functional food more appropriately. This not only aids in weight loss but also provides resistance to regaining weight. They have combined it with their joint support diet to cater to the large group of overweight dogs that also suffer from arthritis.

Over 3 months Jack lost 7kg, and is playing with our other dog and has all his old energy back. I felt so guilty that I had let him get to that state where he was obviously in pain and unhappy, but it was a real eye-opener as to how easy it can be to assume old age is catching up with them.



Jack before.



Jack after.

Breed Profile: The Savannah

Helen Ryan

The Savannah resulted from the crossbreeding of a domestic female cat to a male Serval, which is a wild cat found in Africa. The kitten, born April 1986, was named Savannah from which the breed takes its name. This first – generation hybrid cross had traits of both domestic cats and the African Serval.

It has striking dark spots, bold markings, hooded eyes and a short thick tail. The Savannah has an adventurous personality and loves to play in water. It can be trained to walk on a leash and enjoys playing fetch. This affectionate cat forms strong bonds with her family and does best with daily interaction. They are commonly compared to dogs in their loyalty and will happily follow their owners around the house.

Their weight range in one litter can be varied from 3.5 – 11.5 kg due to the genetic codes in play. They have short coarse hair which they shed and are not hypoallergenic.

The bodies are long and leggy as the Serval has the longest legs of any cat relative to its size. Consequently an often – noted trait is its jumping ability.

They are known to be chatty cats and they may also hiss or chirp as part of their normal communication. Many Savannah cats do not fear water and will happily play and immerse themselves. Another quirk Savannahs have is to fluff out the base of their tails in a greeting gesture, and will also often wag their tails in excitement or pleasure – just like a dog.

In New Zealand and Australia there is an import ban on the Savannah. The perceived risk to our native birds, lizards and weta from this large breed hunting machine is too great in lieu of the damage caused by the domesticated breeds we already have.



The importance of handling your dog

Tash Kirk

As a puppy preschool trainer, teaching owners the right way to handle their puppies is very important. Starting from a young age, getting them used to being handled can be a real life saver in emergencies.

Getting a dog that is used to having their feet touched is a dream come true for the vet nurses that have to clip your dog's nails.

It also makes the whole experience a lot less stressful for not only you and the nurse, but also for your pooch! Even spending just 5-10 minutes while your dog is relaxing every day to pat them can be very beneficial.

These are the things you will need:

1. A dog (that is relaxed – not in their crazy half hour)
2. Yourself
3. Music optional

While your pup is relaxed, run your hand over their back, massage their ears, look in their mouths, lift their tail (the only time their tail is lifted is for the dreaded thermometer!) touch their paws, between their toes, pick up their feet. Feed them some treats to help make the whole experience a positive one.

PICK OF THE LITTER DOG COVERS

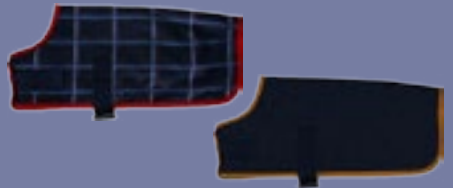
Winter is coming! So now is the time to consider a dog cover to keep your dog warm through winter. It is especially good for small or toy dogs, breeds without a thick hair-coat, and old or thin dogs.

Dog covers come in many styles, from fleece to knitwear and high tech fabrics that have a warm layer and a waterproof layer. It is important that the fabric is breathable, and it's a good idea to have a spare in case of accidents!

Where possible, remove the cover when your dog is inside, unless the temperature in your house is very low. If a dog wears clothing all the time he won't feel the benefit when he goes outside.

If you are putting on an extra layer when going outside, you probably need to consider your four legged friend and keeping them warm as well!

AVAILABLE IN STORE



If at any point, you notice your dog is getting stressed (signs include lip licking, panting, vocalising, yawning), then stop. We don't want to push them. If you find that there is a particular area where they don't like being handled, now you know and can start desensitizing them! For example if they don't like being patted on the head – start with your hand just passing above them and rewarding them for not moving away. Over time allow your hand to become closer, till eventually you do one pat and then reward them.

Practicing handling your dog will help set them up for a positive future and help them integrate well into family life.

A POEM by A CAT

Charles Bukowski (or maybe his cat)

Could Pee on This

Her new sweater doesn't smell of me
I could pee on that
She's gone out for the day and
left her laptop on the counter
I could pee on that
Her new boyfriend just pushed
my head away
I could pee on him
She's ignoring me ignoring her
I could pee everywhere
She's making up for it
by putting me on her lap
I could pee on this
I could pee on this



A POEM by A DOG

Author unknown

Love
True, unbridled love
Is looking at what
I just did on
the sidewalk
And then picking it
up in a bag
I can only imagine
as a treasured keepsake
Wow, the collection
You must have by now

The Incredible Journey

This is the tale of an epic adventure, comparable to Phillipides running from Marathon to Athens; the journey of a small grass seed, who having being inhaled by a large dog, began a trek that would take more than a year and culminate in the glaring light of a surgery room.

It all began with Hoon, a large and accident prone huntaway. At the age of 18 months he had three episodes of suspected back pain and high fever that responded to antibiotics and pain relief; however no cause was found on blood work, urine testing or x-rays.

At three years old Hoon developed first one then another large seroma (fluid swelling) on his left flank. When the first seroma was surgically explored there was a tract of scar tissue heading from his flank towards his chest. After talking to the surgeons at Massey, the most likely diagnosis was considered to be a migrating foreign body.

And so we return to our tale – the grass seed was inhaled. He travelled through the tortuous byways of the nasal passages and was caught in a strong wind pulling him down into the lungs. After wandering aimlessly in the spongy tissue of the lungs he found the smooth slope of the diaphragm and followed it upwards, until he pushed through and found himself outside the lumbar muscles.

Weary after his long journey, he suddenly saw a bright light.... And ended up in a specimen jar for all to marvel at thereafter.

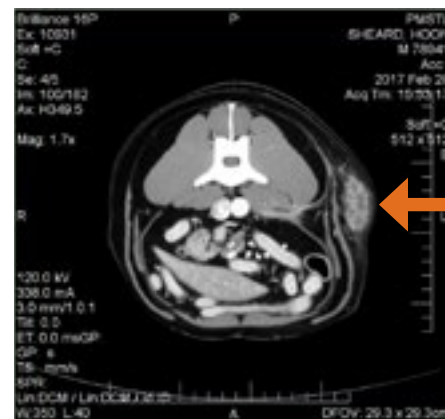


Fig 1: CT scan used to image the swelling on Hoon's side (arrow).



Fig 2: the offending grass seed, still recognisable after a year travelling through Hoon.