



# VET mates

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT YOUR PETS

MARCH 2018



## Microchip Alert

Christine Moloney

You may have seen on our website and social media that Virbac have announced that there have been more microchip failures in a batch of Bio-Tec microchips. You should have received a letter from us if you are affected, but if you are not sure please visit us to check your pet's microchip. The affected microchip numbers are listed below. Virbac is covering the cost of replacing the failed microchips, so there is no cost to you. Don't forget to update the new number with both the council and the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (if you are enrolled with this program).

900-088-00x-xxx-xxx

900-008-800-xxx-xxx

900-010-000-xxx-xxx

## The Dangers in Your Compost Bin

Most pet owners know that chocolate, grapes, and raisins are toxic to our canine friends. Other potentially toxic foods include avocados, garlic and onions.

What most dog owners don't realize, however, is that compost can be one of the most toxic and deadly substances around.

While composting your old food materials is a great way to decrease waste and turn "garbage" into a new and useful product, it is imperative that you compost your waste products appropriately. Dairy and meat products should never be composted and your compost bin should be fenced and tightly sealed in order to make sure pets and wildlife are unable to gain access to it.

Decomposing organic matter can contain fungi which produce neurotoxins called tremorgenic mycotoxins. It is also important to note that tremorgenic mycotoxins can be present in garbage or other sources of moldy food- not just compost bins. The symptoms of acute compost toxicity usually occur 30 minutes-3 hours after initial ingestion. These symptoms can include agitation, hyperthermia (increased temperature), vomiting, panting, drooling, tremors and seizures. Consuming even a small amount of compost containing tremorgenic



mycotoxins can be deadly, so early diagnosis and treatment are imperative. There is no antidote for this particular poison and the early implementation of supportive care will give your dog the best chance at survival. This treatment can include the induction of vomiting, administration of activated charcoal to bind to whatever toxins are left in the system, IV fluids to flush toxins from the bloodstream, and the administration of IV medications to control spasms or seizures.

**Although most dogs who are diagnosed with compost poisoning will recover within 24-48 hours with prompt treatment, some dogs will not. Tremors and seizures can last for several days and secondary complications such as clotting abnormalities and aspiration pneumonia may develop. These secondary complications are often fatal.**

## PICK OF THE LITTER

# ProGroom Shampoo

Our groomers have been trialling the new ProGroom Everyday Shampoo for dogs and cats.

It is a gentle and effective soap-free pet shampoo formulated for general purpose use by the professional groomer. This is our first choice for an everyday salon shampoo.

### FEATURES:

- Good for all coat types from silky fine, coarse & curly to thick double coats
- Gentle on skin, will not irritate or dry out skin
- Safe for pets that are frequently bathed
- Easy rinsing, soap-free formula leaves no residue
- Long lasting Springtime Fragrance
- pH Balanced for safety and effectiveness

ProGroom 2-in-1 Conditioning shampoo for dogs (also safe for cats) is designed to leave the coat soft and manageable without the addition of a separate conditioning step.

**These shampoos have been used by our grooming team for the last 3 months and they highly recommend them. Also available for purchase in clinic.**



# Cat vaccinations and the flu...

Helen Sheard

**"My cat went into the cattery and came out with the 'flu! He was vaccinated! What went wrong??"**

We hear this comment every so often, and it certainly is frustrating for owners who have done everything they can to ensure their moggies stay healthy.

The main issue is that no vaccine, whether for humans or animals, is 100% protective. Vaccines are designed to reduce the incidence and severity of the disease, and apart from living in a hermetically sealed bunker, they are the best method we have to do this.

The other issue with cat flu particularly, is that many cats are carriers of herpesvirus or calicivirus, the viruses known to cause cat flu. Carrier cats will not show any clinical signs of flu until they become stressed – and going to a cattery is a classic example for those cats who prefer the comforts of home – the cage, the car ride, the room away from home with lots of new cats around.

So if your cat comes back from the cattery with 'flu, it's unlikely that it's due to a vaccine failure: either the vaccine has provided as much protection as possible, or your cat may be a carrier of herpes or calicivirus.

Different vaccinations will have different levels of efficacy. For example vaccinations against panleukopenia (a virus which causes vomiting, diarrhea and immune suppression) can reach 98% efficacy. However vaccinations against herpes and calicivirus may only attain 70% efficacy. This has a lot to do with the nature of the virus in question. Another example is the feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) vaccine that has an 80% efficacy.

**So is it still worth vaccinating? Absolutely! If there is a 7/10 chance that your pet could be protected from a potentially debilitating disease, you would take those odds, right? And pets that are vaccinated are likely to have a milder form of the disease if they do get sick.**



# Puppy Preschool – the best start for your pup

Tash Kirk

**Are you thinking about adding a playful puppy to your family?**

If so, get in early to book a place in our popular puppy preschool at the Feilding clinic. We see first-hand the result of well socialised puppies that are comfortable coming into the clinic. It makes vet appointments less stressful for you and your puppy. We help to develop a strong bond between your family and your pup. We will provide plenty of opportunity to ask us questions which helps in managing and

shaping their behaviour, so they become a well-mannered member of your family. The classes run for four weeks, with the first night being an information night with no puppies. We accept puppies who are 8 – 16 weeks of age at the beginning of classes. We have a focus on socialisation, puppy play, basic training, health care and helping you to understand puppy behaviour.

**If you are interested in enrolling please call 06 323 6161.**

# Ginge and the flower troubles

Debbie Asplin

Ginger Ninja is a gorgeous loveable puss that lives with one of our flower loving nurses, Chrissy. He is a character, does forward rolls, isn't too fazed by much, but he isn't the most intelligent of cats at times.

Chrissy got phoned by one of the kids to say that Ginge had eaten some of the lilies that were on the table.

Question was... how much was too much and whether or not to worry??

There are benign and dangerous lilies and it is important to know the difference! Lilies such as the Peace Peruvian and Calla lilies are benign. They contain insoluble oxalate crystals that cause minor signs, such as an irritated

mouth. Clinical signs that may be seen are drooling, pawing at the mouth, foaming and vomiting.

The more dangerous and potentially fatal lilies – Liliium or Hemerocallis species, include the Tiger, Day, Western, Wood, Red, Stargazer, Rubrum, Japanese show, Easter, and Asiatic hybrid lilies. Even small ingestions, 2 or 3 leaves or even the pollen or water from the vase, can result in severe acute kidney failure. Other types of dangerous lilies, including Lily of the Valley, can cause life threatening heart arrhythmias and death when eaten by cats or dogs.

Common signs to watch for are inappetance, lethargy, hiding, vomiting, diarrhoea, halitosis, dehydration, inappropriate thirst or urination, or seizures.

If your cat is seen consuming any part of a lily, please bring the cat (and a picture of the plant) in as soon as possible. Decontamination is important in the early stage, along with intravenous fluids (ideally started within 18

hours for best results), blood tests to monitor kidney function and supportive care.

Ginge, even with no clinical signs, started his intravenous fluids, without a care in the world. He remained on them for 36-48 hours and after a blood test showing no change to his kidneys, we stopped treatment.

**Ginge went home and lived to do more forward rolls!**



# Case of the month: Molly!

Helen Sheard

Molly was a cute wee 10 week old Labrador pup when she came to the clinic for a red inflamed rash around her eyes and muzzle.

She was given a course of antibiotics for a suspected bacterial pyoderma (skin infection) but there was no improvement and after a few days her owners noticed that the lymph nodes under her jaw had become very swollen.

Mental gears whirred and lightbulbs clicked, and it was decided that Molly most likely had a condition called puppy Strangles (also known as juvenile cellulitis, juvenile pyoderma, and juvenile sterile granulomatous dermatitis and lymphadenitis). This is an uncommon disease which affects young dogs

between 3 weeks and 4 months of age. It results in enlarged lymph nodes of the head, and moist papular dermatitis of the muzzle, around the eyes and inside the ears.

The exact cause of puppy Strangles is unknown. The name is the only thing it has in common with equine Strangles. It may have a genetic component as the disease can run in certain lines of dogs, and some breeds (including Labradors) are more commonly affected than others. It doesn't appear to be contagious between dogs, so a bacterial or viral cause seems less likely. It responds well to immunosuppressive doses of steroids so it is likely that an immune system dysfunction is at the bottom of it. Some researchers have suggested it may be triggered by vaccination. Is that a good reason to avoid vaccinations? Not at all. Of the 3 vets in the clinic that day, we had only seen 2 cases each, in the course of more than 45 years of practicing. Compare this to parvo where we see several cases each year!

**Molly visited again 3 days after starting her prednisone (steroid) course, and is well on the way to recovery.**



# Press release:

In response to the recent ban on selling certain brachycephalic breeds on Trade Me, the New Zealand Veterinary Association has released the following statement:

“The New Zealand Veterinary Association welcomes the decision by Trade Me not to list Pugs, French bulldogs and British bulldogs for sale on its website.

NZVA CEO Mark Ward says the demand for French bulldogs, Pugs and English bulldogs has pushed prices up for puppies and unscrupulous breeders have flourished to supply this demand. By selling online, rather than meeting purchasers face to face, these breeders have not

been subjected to having the parents or their facilities inspected by puppy buyers.”

Note that these comments are not referring to the reputable breeders who provide information and support and welcome questions about the breeding of their puppies.

*Please see below for some guidelines from the NZVA in regards to getting a new puppy or dog.*

## An ethical puppy and dog-buyer's guide from the New Zealand Veterinary Association

### ADOPT DON'T BUY

Large numbers of healthy puppies and dogs need homes. Consider adopting a rescue dog and save a life.

### DON'T SUPPORT PUPPY FARMS

Don't buy from puppy farms - even if you feel sorry for the dog. More puppies will be bred to replace the dog you buy. It's a vicious cycle.

### VISIT THE BREEDER

Visit the breeding facility and see the environment where the puppy is being raised. It should be comfortable and clean. The puppy should also be able to mix with people and other animals.

### MEET THE PARENTS

Request the health history of the puppy's parents and ask to meet them. Be wary if the parents have needed surgery to enable them to breathe comfortably, correct eyelid issues or walk normally. Avoid buying puppies produced from mating closely related dogs. Consider also their temperaments and avoid those that are aggressive or overly nervous.

### SUPPORT BREEDERS WHO SCREEN THE PARENTS FOR INHERITED DISEASES

It is not enough for a breeder to just take part in a health scheme, they must also use the results to assess the suitability of mating the dogs. Discuss the test results with your veterinarian before you buy the puppy.

### CHECK HOW MANY LITTERS THE MOTHER HAS PRODUCED

Three litters from one mother allows breeders to produce a suitable daughter to continue the breed line and reduces the welfare impacts on individual breeding female dogs. Breeders who have bred more than three litters from one female dog should raise concerns.

### CHECK IF A CAESAREAN SECTION WAS REQUIRED

Don't support breeders who subject their bitches to multiple caesarean sections. Up to two are acceptable.

### ENSURE THAT THE PUPPY'S HEALTH HAS BEEN WELL MANAGED

The puppies should be in good body condition, on a regular parasite control programme, have had a vet check and received any vaccinations that are required.

### CHECK THE PUPPY WILL BE OVER EIGHT WEEKS OF AGE WHEN THEY ARE RELEASED TO NEW OWNERS

Puppies must be weaned and fully self-sufficient and at least eight weeks old before they are released to their new owners. Ten weeks is preferred for smaller breed puppies.

### SELECT A BREEDER WHO WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT AND FOLLOW-UP CARE

A responsible breeder will also be knowledgeable about the breed and the care of new puppies. They will be keen to provide follow-up support.

