



VET mates

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT YOUR PETS

AUGUST 2012



10 to 25% off pet grooms!

If you have not experienced our grooming service, you are definitely missing out!

Raewyn and Di are highly experienced groomers - not only will your cat or dog smell wonderful, he or she will be transformed into a perfectly coiffed creation.

If you get your pet groomed for the first time with Totally Vets, you will automatically get a 10% discount off the price of the groom.

If you are already a Totally Vets grooming client, we will give you a voucher next time you get your pet groomed. If you want to refer a friend to our grooming service, give them the voucher. When they get their pet groomed and present the voucher, they will get the 10% discount for the day's groom and you will get 25% discount* off your next groom as a thank you from us for your referral!

For more information and bookings, please ring our Feilding branch on 06 323 6161.

*Discount only applies if the friend you have referred presents the voucher at their grooming appointment.

Do you think your dog is "dominant"?

Kayla Houghton

If I asked "do you have a dominant dog?", I am sure someone reading this article would say yes. Let me attempt to explain why the behaviour people are seeing usually isn't dominance.

Dominance is defined as a relationship between individual animals that is established by force/aggression and submission, to determine who has priority access to multiple resources such as food, preferred resting spots, and mates (Bernstein 1981).

There is a dominance hierarchy theory that was developed by a man watching wolf behaviour in the 1940s in which he talks about the "alpha wolf" concept. The man who originally came up with this information has admitted his research is flawed and he is the first to admit it has no place in dog training - however this concept has been taken by some dog handlers and applied to dog training.

The first reason the dominance theory has no place in dog training is that the research was taken from captive wolves who were not a family group but instead a bunch of wolves who didn't know each other - the behaviours they demonstrated weren't typical of wild wolf packs. Secondly, dogs are not wolves and looking to wolf behaviour for ideas to how we should train our dogs is similar to a human



looking at a female chimpanzee for examples of how to raise a child.

We have much more recent research available that we can turn to in an attempt to better understand our dogs. An example of a situation that can be misinterpreted as dominance is a dog pushing through the doorway first. People may say this is dominance as the dog is "showing they are the boss and trying to lead the pack", when generally the dog is simply just excited to see what is on the other side! When they push past and find something fun on the other side they are more likely to push past us again next time. As owners, instead of labelling our dog dominant and trying to be their "alpha" (by using aggressive techniques such as 'alpha rolls' - forcibly restraining your dog on its back until he or she "submits" to you) we need to teach them what behaviour we want, for example waiting at doorways. We can't expect our dogs to know what is required of them if we haven't taught them.

Totally Vets advocates positive/reward-based training techniques because dogs learn by thinking "what's in it for me?", so if there is a reward associated with a particular behaviour, then the likelihood of that behaviour reoccurring is huge. By building a positive reinforcement history with your dog and using proper management skills and techniques (if your dog gets into the rubbish bin, get one with a locking lid - they are dogs after all!), you will get the kinds of behaviours you want without resorting to anger, frustration and punishment.



New toys!

We now have the famous 'Tug-a-Jug' dog toy available for purchase. The 'Tug-a-Jug' is the ultimate interactive dog toy - it provides a multi-sensory appeal to keep your dog interested and motivated to play. It will stimulate your dog's sense of sight, smell, touch, hearing and taste. See the treats, smell the treats, hear the treats rattling around and then enjoy the sweet taste of victory!

We also have a great new selection of interactive cat toys in store that your cat will love you for.

Don't delay, come in and see us at the Feilding clinic today.

The Bichon Fri se

Helen Ryan

Did you know... its French name actually means exactly what it is - a curly white lab dog!

The Bichon is an appealing breed to many who love the small compact bodies, baby-doll faces and fluffy white coat. They are happy and playful dogs.

The Bichon Fri se is a double-coated breed and its white hair consists of a curly and coarse outer-coat and a silky and dense under-coat. This substantial coat gives it its "powder-puff" look when professionally groomed. Bichons have a reputation for not shedding which is, in fact, misleading. The shed hair is actually caught up in the undercoat instead of falling to the floor and if this dead hair isn't removed by regular grooming and bathing it can form

mats and tangles, which can then lead to skin problems. Most owners take their dogs to a professional groomer every 4-6 weeks for a bath, brush, haircut, nail trim and ear clean.

This breed loves to be loved, enjoys being the centre of attention and does not like being left alone. They can often suffer from separation anxiety and may exhibit destructive behaviours like chewing and tearing up anything in sight. However, they are good family dogs and wonderful companions for children. They will get along with other animals in the house as long as they get enough attention from their owner. They are intelligent and highly trainable as long as you are firm but gentle.

Like all breeds, Bichons are also prone to certain health conditions. The most common are allergies (which can be due to several different causes including contact allergies, food and flea bites), bladder problems, patella luxation (dislocating knee joints) and hip dysplasia. It is wise to do your research on the breeder and the parents of the pup you want to buy.

Pet Dental Month Promotion

Rebekah Willink

It can be very difficult to keep your pet's mouth clean, so dental problems are the most common disease process in cats and dogs.

Problems normally begin with the build-up of plaque, which hardens to form tartar. This tartar, if not removed, can lead to gingivitis (inflammation of the gums). This can then progress to rotten teeth and infections in the mouth which can lead to damage/disease of other organs in the body.

Common signs of dental problems can include bad breath, bleeding gums, pawing or rubbing at the mouth, dribbling and/or difficulty eating.

SPECIAL OFFER August is National Pet Dental Month. So...

Totally Vets is offering a
20% discount*
off all dental procedures performed during the month of August!

To take advantage of this great offer, simply give us a call on (06) 323 6161 and one of our friendly reception staff will help you make an appointment.

***This flyer must be cut out and presented to Totally Vets on the day of the dental procedure to be eligible for the discount.**



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.





Microchipping and registration for dogs

Rebekah Willink

Did you know that, by law, all dogs must be registered with the local council?

Puppies should first be registered by the time they are three months old. Newly acquired and unregistered dogs over three months of age need to be registered as soon as possible. Every animal must be re-registered annually, and late registration will incur penalty fees. De-sexed and working dogs are generally less expensive to register than entire dogs.

A microchip is a small transponder that, when scanned, emits a unique identification code. They are a method of identifying lost, stolen or injured animals or those that are not wearing their registration tag. They also allow the

council to identify the owners of dogs that have attacked people, animals or other dogs. Working dogs are exempt from mandatory microchipping.

Microchips are legally required for all dogs that are:

- Born after 1 July 2006
- Dogs classified as dangerous or menacing i.e. 'pose a threat to any person, stock, poultry, domestic animal, or protected wildlife' or dogs with aggressive behaviour
- Unregistered dogs that are impounded
- Registered dogs that are impounded twice

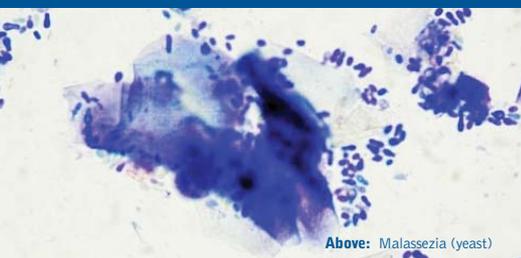
Once your dog is microchipped, you have a legal responsibility, as the dog owner, to ensure that the microchip details have been provided to your local council. The information will then be logged on the National Dog Database (NDD). This database can be accessed at any time by the Manawatu District Council, and any NZ regional council office, to identify dogs from anywhere in the country. Totally Vets also hold the details on our internal computer system.

For an extra fee, there is also the option of adding your dog's microchip details to the New Zealand Companion Animal Register. This is a company that is independent of the regional councils, and holds microchip information for companion animals nationwide. It is ideal as an "extra back-up" for the storage of microchip details.

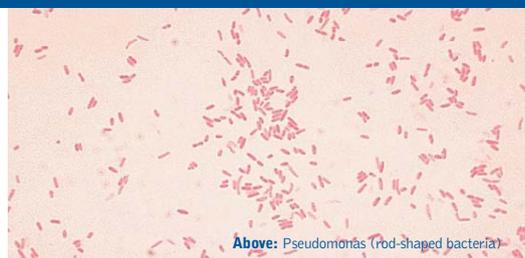
For all New Zealand regional councils, microchipping must be done within two months of registration (i.e. by 5 months of age). If there is a medical or veterinary reason to delay it longer than this then you will need to ask your vet for a certificate stating the reason, which the council will accept.

If you do not microchip or register your dog, the council will send you a letter requesting you to comply with this law. If you still do not comply, you may receive an infringement notice.

For further information regarding microchipping and registration of dogs, or to download a registration form, visit the Manawatu District Council website - www.mdc.govt.nz - and select 'Animal Control' in the Services menu.



Above: Malassezia (yeast)



Above: Pseudomonas (rod-shaped bacteria)



Above: Struvite crystals

To swab or not to swab?

Helen Sheard

With many of the patients we see in our consults, we might recommend that a "swab" is taken for cytology.

We take a sample of superficial cells - often using something as innocuous as a cotton bud or piece of sellotape! - and examine the cells under the microscope to refine the diagnosis. A good example of this is ear infections.

Many of the ear infections we see present as raw, red painful ears, filled with varying

amounts of discharge. They can be caused by yeast organisms called *Malassezia*, small cocci (round, ball-like) bacteria such as *Staphylococcus*, or rod-shaped bacteria called *Pseudomonas* - but the symptoms can all look the same. *Pseudomonas* can be particularly nasty and hard to resolve, so if we can identify it and tailor the treatment accordingly, the chances of resolution first time round are increased.

Lumps and bumps are another good reason for carrying out cytology. Some masses have a characteristic appearance that we can recognise as benign (non-cancerous) but others can be masters of disguise, having a repertoire of appearances, and can be malignant (cancerous). We can use a fine needle to aspirate cells from the centre of the mass, and examine them under the microscope in an attempt to identify the line

of cells the lump has sprung from, and whether it is showing any signs of malignancy. (By the way, we now have a Lump Mapping programme that monitors the size and position of any lumps your pet might have - much like a Mole Map!)

Urine is another tell-tale body fluid. We can test the pH, glucose and protein levels, look for the presence of blood, and measure the urine concentration. Amongst other things, we can examine the urine under the microscope to look for inflammatory cells, bacteria and crystals. Crystals can be a common cause of bladder irritation in cats, and have been likened to having a layer of sand scratching away at the lining of the bladder.

Pictured above are some of the things we can see from a swab or urine sample...

Meet the Feilding receptionists' pets

VAN - owned by Charmaine

"Hi! My name is Van, I am a 2 year-old pure-bred black Labrador and I was named from the TV programme Outrageous Fortune. I love going running with my mum, fetching and swimming. I get to experience "farm life" at my grandparents' place where I get real dirty and get to scavenge and hunt. I am very lucky to have a really cool aunty/second mum called Jackie and sometimes if I'm really cute she lets me sleep inside on the couch!"

BELLA & DOBBY - owned by Jade

Bella, a 6 year-old Cocker Spaniel, was brought up as a solo dog but has learnt to love Dobby, a 2 year-old German Shorthaired Pointer. Bella loves four things in life - quad-bikes, hunting, her bed, and Dobby (although she would never admit to it). Dobby's favourite things are cuddles, pinecones, hunting, running and the river/water. Dobby loves picking play fights with Bella, looking at things upside down and is always intrigued by life.

WINNIE - owned by Eliza

Winnie is a nearly 3 year-old wire-haired Jack Russell Terrier. Originally from Northland, Winnie left home and moved down to the outskirts of Feilding when she was only 10 weeks-old and by the time she was 18 months-old she had shackled up with a handsome young fella and had five rug-rats at foot. After 8 weeks of caring for her kids 24/7, she decided that motherhood was not for her and adopted them all out to loving homes. She has now matured and settled down, and spends her days with Harvey the German Shorthaired Pointer.

SLASH - owned by Lucy

Lucy is "foster-mum" for the smiley Staffy-dog Slash while his Dad is in Australia. Slash loves to play with all the dogs at the farm, take rides in the car and play fetch. He's been known to burrow his way under the duvet on cold nights and refuse to wander onto the frosty lawn when it's toilet time!

CHICKTORIA - owned by Sandy

"My name is Chicktoria and I am a 'Chicka-wow-wow' lady... as you can see from my picture. I put the hen in hen-pecked and I'm the reigning champion of my household. Feed me or I WILL come into the house and find you, and dogs - pfft - they may both be over 50kg but they don't intimidate me, someone has to keep them in line. I not only survived a Malamute attack, broken wing and all, but continued to lay eggs every day while I was recovering."

ZULU & POSSUM - owned by Aimee

Zulu is a big 6 year-old brindle Boxer and Possum is his 3 year-old fawn Pug sidekick. Zulu loves to chase Pesky, the friendly wild rabbit, and any cat that comes anywhere near the house. Possum is innately lazy and does the bare minimum. They love each other to death and Possum will often sleep on top of Zulu for warmth. Their favourite game together is tug of war - Zulu flings Possum around like a ragdoll and she can't get enough of it.

OLLEY - owned by Carley

"Hi I'm Olley. I am 1½ years-old and was lucky enough to be rescued from the SPCA as a baby after I was injured and had to have a big operation on my leg. These days I spend most of my waking hours torturing my grumpy older sister Pebbles who is forever hissing at me and all I want to do is play with her. I also love scratching the new wallpaper and running around outside in the mud then coming inside and putting my footprints all over the house, including mum and dad's bed."

SHERMAN - owned by Catherine

Sherman arrived at our clinic as a little ball of black and tan fluff with a head injury and no owner, and has since grown into a big fluffy "cross-bred" dog of unknown parentage! He lives in a world of his own - singing along with the fire siren, chasing butterflies and "fairies" (the white seed head ones), and any unsuspecting bird that might think it can land on our property! He runs like a show pony with very high-knee action and has a long tongue that doesn't like to be confined to his mouth.

SAM & MAX - owned by Glenda

Sam is a Cairn Terrier cross and is a brown-eyed cutie who worms his way into everybody's affections. He is a notorious chewer and jandals left lying around are his favourite - of course he only destroys one, leaving the other one as an ornament on the deck! Max is a very laid back fox terrier and tolerates anything that Sam throws at him and will share his bean bag in front of the fire for the sake of a bit of peace.

REILY - owned by Julie C

"Hi I'm Reily, a bitza-special from the SPCA. I'm 3 years-old and I'm still as crazy as I was when I was a puppy. My best friend is Rastus Cat - I really like to wrestle with him. My two favourite things to do are hide all the toys from my brother Tuscan so he can't find them, and running up and down the stock bank in the long grass. When I get bored I like to steal pillows off the bed for me to play in them - Mum gets a bit mad with me when I do this though."

SAM - owned by Hayley

Sam is black Labrador crossed with a Huntaway, who often gets called 'Samoolian' by his mum and dad. He is a 10 year-old gentleman who never misses an opportunity to inform the whole of Rongotea that someone is on his property, although the minute you are inside the gate he wouldn't do anything other than lick you to death. Loyal to anyone with a ute, he would happily let you take him home if it meant he was allowed to ride on the back.



VAN



BELLA & DOBBY



WINNIE



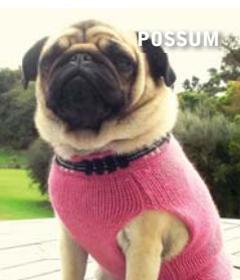
SLASH



CHICKTORIA



ZULU



POSSUM



OLLEY



SHERMAN



SAM & MAX



REILY



SAM