



VET mates

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT YOUR PETS

MAY 2015



New payment options at Totally Vets

To make taking care of your pets easier and stress-free, we now have more payment options available to you.

In addition to using Visa and Mastercard you are welcome to pay for services or products at any Totally Vets clinic with Q Card, Farmers Card or through VetCare Finance.

Please pop in or contact one of our friendly customer service staff for further information on the different payment options available.



The Massey University Pet Emergency Centre

Christine Moloney

It has been around 18 months since a purpose-built, fully-equipped, 24/7 emergency and critical care centre was built at Massey University to service clients and animals of the Manawatu, and now the whole of New Zealand.

The clinic is staffed full-time with highly trained veterinarians and nurses and is supported by specialists in surgery, internal medicine, emergency and critical care, anaesthesia and diagnostic imaging. The intensive care unit is able to offer a level of care which is similar to human hospitals, including having a critical care ventilator. This is used to assist or control a pet's breathing in conditions which involve lung disease or chest wall injury.

Patients will have continuous care from the dedicated staff present, whether due to an emergency or a medical condition which requires constant monitoring. Pets can also be referred to the clinic for overnight observation, monitoring and care, and then be returned the



following day to their usual vet. Nothing is too big or small for this service and it is offered to anyone who is concerned about their pet and would like continuous overnight monitoring.

The clinic offers an after-hours emergency service for the Manawatu area, when local veterinary practices are closed, and it is now also offering a service for all of New Zealand where specialist intensive care is required.

The clinic is also available for a pet owner to ring and speak to an experienced vet nurse if they are unsure whether their pet needs to be seen urgently, or can wait until normal business hours.

Totally Vets has successfully used this emergency centre for overnight care for several of our clients' pets and on occasion for immediate critical care treatment. We are currently considering utilizing this service more fully for the after-hours emergency care and treatment for our clients and their pets, as this offers an opportunity to provide truly superb treatment and constant monitoring for your pet in an emergency - we'll keep you up-to-date as decisions progress.



PICK OF THE LITTER

Winter woollies



Along with the new Element dog jacket, Totally Vets has a large array of other 'winter woollies' to help keep your pet warm and cosy this coming winter.

Beds, jackets, heat pads... the list goes on. We have a great range of styles, colours and sizes in store - with super special winter prices.

Pop in and see us today to check out these and more great styles.

Socialisation period - what is it?

Rebekah Willink

Between approximately 3 and 14 weeks of age a puppy will go through it's critical socialisation period, and this is the time that puppy will develop up to 90% of its attitudes towards people, other animals and their environment.

During this important time you can help shape your puppy's future temperament, character and behavior habits. In the first half of this period, a puppy will learn vital social skills from its mother and littermates, and socialisation in the second half is up to you - this is why Puppy Preschool classes are held during this time. There is ample scientific evidence proving if a puppy is not socialised in a positive way to certain stimuli, in this time period particularly, it may develop a life-long fear of that stimulus. So let's get socialising - and stop fear before it starts.

PICK OF THE LITTER

Keep your dog warm in the EzyDog Element jacket

Don't let the weather get in the way of you and your dog having a fun outdoor adventure. This brand new fleece jacket is perfect for any condition.

Built with a super soft, non-pilling but super warm fleece, the Element jacket will keep your dog warm during the colder winter months. The

outer shell is made from 600 denier Ripstop, making it completely wind and shower proof. Combine this with the lightweight design and you have a dog jacket that is also perfect during warmer, stormy months. This jacket really has been built with all the elements in mind.

FEATURES:

- Wind and shower proof outer shell
- Lined with a non-pilling fleece for comfort and warmth
- Neo-Xpand neck for easy put on/take off
- Reflective piping for safety on the late night/early morning treks
- Waterproof zipper access to harness or collar attachment

Available at the Feilding clinic this winter.



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.



A pain in the pancreas

Jo Nesdale

As the name suggests, pancreatitis is an inflammation of the pancreas - "itis" meaning inflammation.

The pancreas is an organ nestled just under the stomach and along the start of the small intestine. One of the pancreas' main jobs is the secretion of digestive enzymes through a duct into the intestine, to help digest food.

Pancreatitis is an inflammation of the pancreas and this inflammation allows the digestive enzymes, normally safely stored in granules, to be released prematurely. The enzymes escape and begin actually digesting the pancreas itself! The tissue becomes further inflamed, and this damage quickly spreads

to the neighbouring liver. Toxins are released from this mass of tissue destruction and are released into the circulation - which can then cause a body-wide inflammatory response.

In most cases, an actual cause is not found. Possible risk factors can include:

- The recent ingestion of a high-fat food, which the digestive tract is "not used to"
- Abdominal trauma
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Other infections
- Use of certain drugs
- A tumour in the pancreas
- Miniature Schnauzers are predisposed to pancreatitis

Clinical signs can be varied, and sometimes non-specific. In dogs, the most common signs include vomiting, diarrhoea, a loss of appetite, fever and/or a painful abdomen. In cats, lethargy and appetite loss are most common. Vomiting and abdominal pain may be present

but not as consistently as in the dog, and fever is also a possible sign but cats can also show a low temperature.

Diagnosis heavily relies on blood tests - these will give an indication pancreatitis is present if certain pancreatic enzymes are elevated. Pancreatitis is harder to diagnose in the cat as the elevation of pancreatic enzymes in the basic blood test is not as consistent as in the dog.

Treatment for pancreatitis often involves a stay in hospital. Most animals will be given intravenous fluid therapy to support hydration, and given strong pain relief. Medication to control nausea and antibiotics are often used as bacterial invasion from the diseased intestine is common.

Once the animal is starting to feel like eating again we usually suggest a low-fat diet long-term, to help minimise the risk of reoccurrence of the disease.

The day Patsy was speyed

Debbie Asplin

It had been a long time coming for Patsy and her mumma, but spey day had arrived.

Patsy and Vanessa had only met some months previously, but both already loved each other very much. Vanessa is one of our cheery receptionists and Patsy is her gorgeous red and white 5 year-old bulldog. She'd had many litters of puppies so it was time to give her uterus a rest.

Patsy had no food from 8pm the night before and arrived at the clinic first thing in the morning. The appropriate paper work was completed, Patsy was weighed so we could calculate her anaesthetic drug dose rates, and she was taken to her bedroom. Patsy was very calm; she just sat and watched the goings on of the dog ward until it was her turn.

Vet Kellie and vet nurse Tash then came to have a play, or so Patsy thought at first. She



was given a physical exam, then an injection that included some pain relief and a sedative. Kellie and Tash then went to make sure they were fully prepared; they had about 20-30 minutes while Patsy's sedation took effect. At this time, it also appeared that Vanessa may need some sedative herself!

The bulldog's cute, flat, pushed in faces are part of their appeal, but are more of a concern when we anaesthetise them. Because they are brachycephalic, they are likely to have small pinched nostrils, an elongated soft palate, everted laryngeal sacculles in which tissues within the airway can obstruct air flow, and a

narrow trachea. This breed's anaesthesia must be monitored even more closely than other breeds.

Patsy's surgery went even better than Kellie had anticipated and Tash monitored a perfect anaesthetic. Patsy hung out in the prep room with us after surgery, with oxygen and her electric blanket until Tash was happy for her to be transferred back to the dog ward.

She was quite settled in her cage until her family came to help her waddle home. Vanessa had set her up a special bed and that was where Patsy chose to stay until the morning.



Sudden death in rabbits

Helen Sheard

Rabbit calicivirus has been around for some years now but in the last few months it seems to be on the rise again.

We are getting reports from various areas of the Manawatu about rabbits becoming sick and dying within 24 hours. Post-mortem examination has confirmed that rabbit calicivirus is responsible for at least some of these deaths.

The virus is spread by direct contact with infected rabbits, in particular their saliva, nasal discharge and other bodily excretions. It can also be transferred on contaminated green feed, clothing, bowls and by carrier animals and biting insects. It has even been found to survive in the environment for variable periods of time if the conditions are favourable.

There are very few specific symptoms for this disease - rabbits become quiet, stop eating and drinking and often die within 12-18 hours of the first signs being noticed.

Mortality rates for this disease are high - nearly 100% of affected rabbits die, and there is no known treatment. The only protection available is vaccination.

If your rabbit is 10-12 weeks old then one initial vaccination provides protection, with annual boosters thereafter. We can vaccinate at

a younger age but a booster is recommended at 10-12 weeks of age to ensure protective levels of antibodies have developed.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

While vaccination is by far the most important step you can take to protect your rabbits, there are some other things you can do.

Avoiding contact with other people's rabbits is a good idea until yours are vaccinated, as the virus can be transported on clothes. Housing your rabbits so they have no contact with wild rabbits is a good idea if achievable, as is insect-proofing their hutches. Again, this may not be achievable or practical in most New Zealand homes.

Bottom line - vaccination is the best method for protection against this fatal disease.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information, or if you would to arrange a vaccination appointment for your furry friend - we are here to help.

The Scottish Deerhound

Helen Ryan

Totally Vets production animal vet Barny and his family will soon be welcoming a very special wee - but not for long - pup into the fold, so I thought it was a good time to get everyone acquainted.

Affectionately known as the 'Royal Dog of Scotland', this athletic, well-muscled breed has a romantic past and a loving nature. The Scottish Deerhound is a member of the sighthound group, and resembles a large rough-coated greyhound. They are most commonly seen in a blue/grey colour.

The original purpose of the breed was to hunt and bring down roe deer twice or more their

size. They are extremely prey driven and this is one of the issues facing owners of these dogs - once they start the chase it may be difficult to get them to stop. They are not the easiest of breeds to train so they need owners who have had some experience with dogs, and who have patience and a sense of humour.

The Deerhound is a gentle, extremely friendly breed that is eager to please. Daily exercise is a must and if you don't have a large fenced area for free exercise then you will need time for long leash walks or be able to find a safe park. A gradually introduced exercise regime is a must for this breed and because they are a large breed dog care needs to be taken when they are puppies not to damage their still developing bones and joints.

Exercise is a necessity not only for the Deerhounds physical development but also their mental wellbeing as like all young dogs that don't get enough exercise, they can become destructive. By the time they are 3-5 years old however they can morph into



couch potatoes but still require long walks to maintain their tall, gangly body.

Unfortunately like all giant dogs, they do not have a long lifespan - averaging from 8 to 11 years. They can also be prone to health conditions associated with their size, including heart problems and bone tumours, so because of this any potential puppy should be well researched for hereditary conditions.