



VET mates

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT YOUR PETS

SEPTEMBER 2017



"Fuzzie" from Feilding
Source: Retired Working Dog Adoption NZ Facebook

HELP NEEDED!

Retired Working Dog Adoption NZ is a charity that works to rehome farm working dogs if they become injured or need to retire.

Often farmers are unable to keep these dogs on the farm as they are so motivated that they will still try to work and get themselves into strife. Younger dogs that have no interest in stock can make great pets for active homes.

Currently the charity is in need of more foster homes to look after dogs short term until they can find their new owners.

If you are interested, please contact Helen S or Kayla at the Feilding clinic. Your help would be much appreciated!

Robert the Rooster

Helen Ryan

The sound of furious clucking and flapping of wings alerted me to the arrival of a Suffolk white chicken in my backyard.

After enquiries I was advised by a neighbouring chicken owner that this was a rogue roaming rooster. He was the second to arrive in our area – the first one already impounded by the MDC. After more discussion with the powers that be, the plan was to capture and liberate him back to an appropriate home (not in town). I named him Robert and when he evaded capture initially I decided to let him settle into my backyard so I could feed him up and gain his trust.

By day 5 I realized I needed to expedite matters when he crowed loudly at 5 am that morning. So in spite of the ravenous appetite and chook poo everywhere, it was with a sad heart that I caught him and brought him into work so he could continue his rehoming journey.

On arrival at his new home it became apparent that in comparison to the already incumbent rooster, Robert was not what he appeared to be. Robert was in fact a Roberta and she now had a very majestic boyfriend. Truly love birds.

So then followed a lot of banter as to why she was mistaken as a rooster. In an attempt to vindicate my position I did some research and came up with these interesting facts from the website 'My Pet Chicken'.

1. Some hens will crow... who knew!
2. In some breeds the roosters do not have wattles.
3. The comb size and redness is not a good indicator of sex as this can vary with breed and individual.
4. The most fail – safe method is to look at the saddle feathers in front of the tail when the bird is about 3 months old. The cockerels will have long and pointy saddle feathers, while a hen's will be rounded.

So what did I learn from this? Well two things: Don't count your chickens till they're hatched and don't put all your eggs in one basket. LOL.





NZVA Press release

The New Zealand Veterinarian Association (NZVA) has welcomed the news that Minister for Primary Industries Nathan Guy, in consideration of international practice, the scientific evidence, and New Zealand's strong reputation for high animal welfare standards, supports the view that it is time to prohibit non-therapeutic docking of dog tails.

This new regulation will put an end to the practice of allowing accredited people to dock puppy's tails without pain management through the accredited tail bander's scheme.

Tall docking is a significant surgical procedure, regardless of the age at which it is carried out. The NZVA looks forward to a future where tail removal will only ever be performed as a surgical procedure by a veterinarian to benefit the dogs' welfare.

[Note that banning the removal of articulated dew claws (unless due to injury or disease) is also being discussed as part of this legislation].

Desexing Age

Helen Sheard

When is best to de-sex your pet?

EARLY AGE DE-SEXING

This is usually done from 8-12 weeks of age (we prefer at least 1kg bodyweight) in both cats and dogs. Shelters such as the SPCA will often do this as it allows animals to be rehomed early with a guarantee that they won't be making more puppies or kittens. Breeders will often do this as well to make sure no one else is going to be using their bloodlines when they sell puppies or kittens as pets. Animals this young are at risk of

hypothermia and low blood glucose when under anaesthetic, but we adjust our protocols accordingly.

'TRADITIONAL' AGE DE-SEXING

Historically most animals have been de-sexed around 6 months of age regardless of breed. Over the last several years there has been more research regarding ideal age, especially for large breed dogs.

DELAYED DE-SEXING

Large and giant breed dogs may be at more risk of certain orthopaedic conditions, such as hip dysplasia and cruciate (knee) disease if they are de-sexed before skeletal maturity i.e. before puberty. There may also be an increased risk of urinary incontinence in females. In

breeds whose mature weight is over 20-25kg, puberty doesn't occur until 12-18 months of age. Smaller breeds will mature earlier.

So in summary, for cats and small breeds of dogs, early age or traditional age de-sexing is just fine. Note that toy breeds of dogs can get retained baby teeth – these often need to be removed but we can't tell if they are going to be retained until 6 months of age. For large and giant breeds of dogs, if at all possible delay de-sexing until 12-18 months of age for the boys, or a month after the first heat for the girls. However if you are unable to prevent your bitch getting pregnant, or your boy is starting to develop unwanted behavioural issues (e.g. aggression, humping) then do get them de-sexed earlier before the hormone driven behaviour becomes a habit.

PICK OF THE LITTER

MALACETIC WIPES

Malacetic wipes are good for spot cleansing/deodorising any pet. Feet, face, under tails and skin folds come to mind; muddy feet on a cold day, dogs that like to roll in whatever, long haired dogs whose faeces stick to their coats, eye stains or just to clean up and smell good.

They can also be used for superficial infections like hotspots and yeast infections of the feet, and help with cleaning anal glands. For dogs with allergies that are prone to secondary infections, these wipes can help reduce the amount of bacteria on the skin.

Ear Cleansing - these Wet Wipes can make cleaning the external ear canal easier.

Cats – Most people find it hard to bathe a cat. Now you can clean them with a wipe. Chin acne, urine and faecal mishaps can all be easily cleaned.

Every pet owner should have a container on hand!



The case of Rust and the GDV

Sarah Hart

Gastric dilation volvulus (GDV) is a condition we see relatively frequently up in the King Country. This is the tale of Rust, a 4 year old Huntaway who made an incredible recovery from a twisted stomach!

Rust presented to the veterinary clinic on Saturday morning with a very large, distended abdomen. He was very uncomfortable, had

difficulty breathing and was in shock with a purple tinge to his gums and heart rate over 180 beats per minute (normal is 80-120).

He was immediately placed on two IV drips to rapidly increase his blood pressure and assist the body in providing oxygen and blood supply to his vital organs. A tube was passed into his stomach and some gastric contents were removed to reduce the pressure on his diaphragm, allowing him to breathe more easily.

Rust had GDV, which is a condition that occurs when the stomach becomes distended either with food or gas and then rotates on its axis, meaning that gas and fluid cannot escape. When the stomach is twisted, the blood supply to the stomach is significantly impeded, and if decompression is not initiated rapidly the stomach wall can begin to die. The blood flow returning to the heart is reduced when the

enlarged stomach presses on nearby vessels. Toxins from oxygen deprived tissues are also released into the blood stream.

Surgery is indicated for these cases, to de-rotate the twisted stomach and attach it to the wall of the abdomen to prevent the twist from occurring again.

The exact cause is unknown, however risk factors include:

- Large deep chested breeds
- Dogs fed one large meal once daily
- Rapid eating or drinking
- Exercise after eating
- Stress or nervous temperament

Death is the outcome in approximately one third of dogs, even with veterinary treatment; but luckily for Rust he was brought into the clinic and treated quickly before too much damage was done.

NEW TO NZ!

Black Hawk pet food

BlackHawk
Every ingredient matters

Responding to a growing trend for real ingredients and eating food that improves health, happiness and longevity, Black Hawk pet food has now arrived in NZ, bringing the 'real food movement to pet lovers'.

The quality of the food you choose is a major factor in the commitment to care for pets. People feel much better about their efforts as pet parents, when they feed great food. Which is why Black Hawk, a premium, natural food for dogs and cats is here for NZ pet owners.

Black Hawk was founded on the passionate belief of one dedicated breeder. A breeder who believed that every ingredient that goes into a pet's diet should matter and our mission is to continue to provide food for pets that is 100% real, ensuring they get everything they need and nothing they don't.

Black Hawk formulates recipes that naturally nourish your pets from the inside out, using REAL meat, fresh fruit and vegetables and NO nasties or fillers – nothing but the best for your besties.

There are two ranges available to cat and dog lovers:

ORIGINAL

Black Hawk Original tastes great and provides complete nutrition for superior health and vitality. You will never find wheat, corn, artificial preservatives, colours or flavours in Black Hawk original formulas.

GRAIN FREE

Grain free is ideal for dogs who may have dietary sensitivities, or for those who choose to exclude grains from their pet's diet, using alternative sources of carbohydrates such as tapioca, sweet potato and potato.

If you also believe that 'every ingredient matters™' and want to 'join the real food movement for pets™', you can find out more at blackhawkpetcare.co.nz or look for Black Hawk in-store now.

PICK OF THE LITTER

ALLERMYL SHAMPOO

Allermyl shampoo is a unique foaming micro-emulsion that contains a soothing combination of natural anti-inflammatory ingredients, mild cleansing agents, and essential fatty acids. It is used for the topical management of allergic skin conditions.

It relieves itching and irritation and is also dye and fragrance free.

The foaming micro-emulsion formulation helps the ingredients penetrate the skin for deep, soothing relief. Allermyl Shampoo includes anti-adhesive glycotecnology with monosaccharides and an alkylpolyglucoside which reduces bacterial and yeast adhesion to the outer most layer of the skin. This helps to reduce the incidence of secondary infections that can worsen the itch in an allergic pet.

Allermyl Shampoo is used for the topical management of allergic skin conditions. It relieves irritation and itching, has beneficial effect on damaged skin, and cleanses the epidermis. It is formulated for use on cats and dogs.



Article provided by Masterpet, stockists of Black Hawk pet food. www.masterpet.com

Raw Feeding - The Great B.A.R.F. Debate

Helen Sheard

This is one of the more polarising nutrition topics, but one that is very much in the media at the moment. Hopefully this article will explain a bit more about it without any bias sneaking in!

Bones and Raw Feeding (aka Biologically Appropriate Raw Feeding) is based on the philosophy that the ideal diet for an animal is one which their species has evolved over millennia to eat. For example, a domestic dog's diet should be based on that of the wild wolf. The theory is that this is the diet their digestive tracts are best adapted to utilising, and the best diet for the animal to thrive.

Is this necessarily the case? Though dogs and wolves are closely related, domestication has changed the dog, and breeds differ as to how well they can digest certain nutrients (for example, German Shepherds and pancreatic enzyme insufficiency). To quote Nick Cave, a veterinary nutritionist, there are no packs of Yorkshire Terriers skipping over the grasslands of sub-Saharan Africa. Domestic cats on the other hand are much closer genetically to their wild ancestors.

Is it safe to feed bones and raw meat diet? Perhaps the biggest challenge is to ensure that it is complete and balanced for long-term feeding. There is also a risk of salmonella and E.coli, both for the pet and the owner handling the meat. Feeding bones comes with the attendant risks of fractured teeth, obstructed or perforated gut, and constipation.

Having said all that, are all processed diets safe? They do need to meet stringent checks and controls, however there have been incidences of contamination and over/under supplementing of various nutrients.



The veterinary profession is strongly encouraged to work under the precept of 'evidence-based medicine' – meaning that we are not meant to recommend anything unless it has been proven to be 1. Safe and 2. Beneficial, by scientific trials and research. This is not to say that raw food diets are not safe or beneficial, just that they have not yet been properly proven as such. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, so they say. This is why you won't hear many vets recommending raw food diets. If you choose to feed them though, we can support you with any questions you may have.

Some advice I would put forward now is:

When researching these diets, don't be drawn in by highly emotionally charged diatribes for raw food which 'quote' sources condemning commercial pet food companies. Make sure any claims they make are backed by reasonable consideration.

Do not feel obliged to keep feeding a raw food diet if the previous owner has and you are uncomfortable doing so.

Raw feeding is not suitable for every animal: this would be especially true for large breed puppies and those individuals on therapeutic diets, e.g. for bladder stones.

Note that under the Biosecurity Act it is illegal to feed offal (e.g. tripe, kidney, liver, lung) to dogs without either cooking it or freezing it for at least 10 days. Check that any you source is produced by an MPI approved facility.

Many food companies now make a range of biologically appropriate biscuits – so if you are sitting on the fence about raw food diets, these can be a good way to go.

In the end, make sure the diet is either 'complete and balanced' according to AAFCO (American Association of Feed Control Officials), or you are feeding a wide variety to cover any deficiencies in one diet. And in the end, don't stick with it if your pet is not doing well – nutritional deficiencies can be insidious.