



# VET mates

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT YOUR PETS

DECEMBER 2018



## CHRISTINE MOLONEY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We would like to thank you all for allowing us to care for your pets over this year, and we wish you all the very best for the year to come.

May all your dreams grow successfully into fruition. Remember to look out for your pets over the holiday period with all vaccinations current, and avoiding heat stroke, small toys, chocolate, grapes, and onions from the BBQ. Above all enjoy your time with friends and family and take care of yourselves out there.

We look forward to catching up with you all again in 2019.

## Our Case of the Month: Meet Sam!

This is the story of Sam, a young heading dog who was hit by a car, while wandering lost in downtown Levin.

It was late in the evening so the people who found him drove him all the way to the Massey University Pet Emergency Centre (MUPEC), where he was diagnosed with two broken legs and a partially collapsed lung.

MUPEC stabilised Sam by splinting his fractured legs and using a needle and syringe to remove the air from around his collapsed lung, in order to re-inflate it. The word was spread that he was in hospital at Massey, but after seven days, still no owner had come forward. Thanks to Vicki, a 5th year vet student with ties to Retired Working Dog Adoption NZ, Sam was signed over and he was booked in for surgery at Totally Vets Feilding.

The fracture in his tibia was nicely reduced and healing well in the splint, so a cast was applied, without the need for surgery. The fracture of his foreleg however was unstable



and the muscles of the forelimb had contracted causing a large overlap of the bone fragments: he needed surgery to realign the fragments and secure them with a plate and screws.

Despite having two broken legs on the same side, Sam was the smiliest, happiest boy imaginable: after his surgery, his foster mum Vicki had a fight on her hands to persuade him to rest!

Sam has now gone to a caring home where his new mum is training to be a vet herself. Many thanks to MUPEC for their amazing efforts in their care of Sam.

**Totally Vets is a proud supporter of Retired Working Dogs Adoption NZ, which helps to rehome working dogs that can no longer work due to age or injury. If you would like to donate to help support the cause, please visit the website [www.retiredworkingdogs.org.nz](http://www.retiredworkingdogs.org.nz), or the donation box in the Feilding clinic.**

# The Night before Christmas.

Helen Ryan

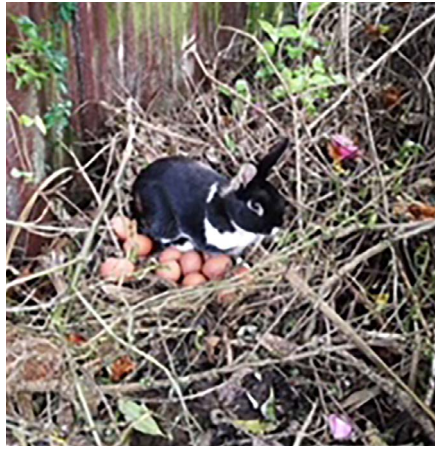
'Twas the night before Christmas,  
when all through the land  
Snoopy's Christmas was playing  
on every radio band.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care and the Labrador wondered what chocolate was in there. The children were all snug in their beds while the Burmese was checking out granny's heart meds.

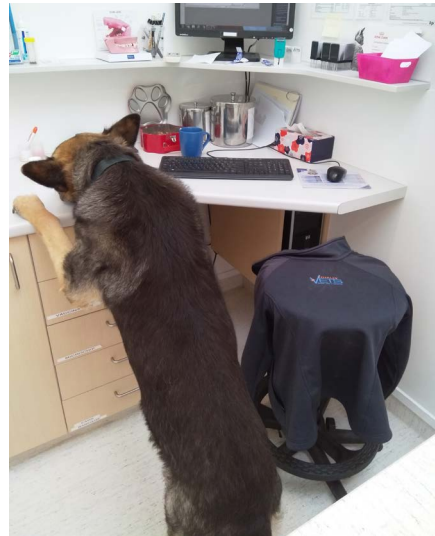
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, it was Rudolph falling off the roof with a splatter away to the vet I flew with a flash. With my Labrador, Burmese, Rudolph and some cash. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear an empathetic face for this time of the year I knew in a moment it must be Dr. Nick, quick as a flash he made my Labrador sick.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, he relocated Rudolph's leg with a jerk and laying his finger aside of his nose he got the Burmese back onto his toes.

**I heard him exclaim as we drove out of sight, thank goodness for pet insurance, have a good night.**



**Pukana spending some time babysitting**



**One of our regulars Floss - some patients can write their own notes! And sniff out the treat jar...**



**The lads spending some quality time after both being neutered**



**Carin's cows getting an ear exam**



**Taumarunui piglets make for a bit of variety in the day**

## Animal Welfare obligations are changing – make sure you stay up to date!

The Animal Welfare Act has recently been updated to include regulations on shelter, muzzles, collars, tail docking, removal of dew claws, dogs in cars, and dogs travelling on the back of vehicles.

Make sure you stay up to date, as infringements can result in fines, and in the case of tail docking and dew claw removal, criminal convictions may result.

Full details are available on the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) website, and most of it is common sense. In brief:

- Clean, dry draught free shelter must be provided
- Muzzles (if used) should fit well without rubbing, and should allow panting, drinking and vomiting.
- Collars shouldn't be too tight, or too large/heavy, nor so loose that they can catch legs or feet
- Cosmetic tail docking is now banned
- No articulated (bony) dew claw is to be removed, unless by a vet, and then only of a dewclaw that is diseased or damaged – i.e. no prophylactic removal of articulated digits.
- Dogs should not be left in vehicles on warm days. Leaving the windows open does not reduce the inside temperature enough to be safe. Care needs to be taken when travelling with dogs on warm days, to provide enough rest and water.
- Dogs on the backs of vehicles must be appropriately restrained so they can move freely but cannot fall off the side or be dragged. Working dogs can be loose on the back of a vehicle if they are actively working.



# So, you would like to breed your dog?



Becky Murphy

You might see my face in Totally Vets building from time to time where I run my canine reproduction (breeding) business called TCI Vets.

I practiced as a companion animal veterinarian for 5 years at a local mixed animal clinic but after having a few additions to the family I decided to change track and focus solely on helping responsible breeders create healthy, happy puppies. I also work as the Dogs NZ (formally New Zealand Kennel Club) Canine Health & Welfare Veterinarian so I get to see dog breeding from many angles!

I get a lot of enquiries from people wanting to breed their dog, most of these from Dogs NZ registered breeders because of the services I provide. No matter who contacts me, there are a few topics that must come up in conversation. There is a dog overpopulation

problem in NZ where thousands of unwanted dogs are euthanased each year, so it is irresponsible to breed a dog unless it is done with consideration and for a purpose. I don't go ahead with an artificial insemination unless I am satisfied it is for a good reason with healthy dogs.

No matter if your dog is purebred or crossbred, relevant health tests should be done before breeding. This is not just a check over by a vet but should include any appropriate x-ray screening (hips, elbows, spine etc), DNA testing and/or anything else that is a breed specific condition with a test available. All of this can be found on the Dogs NZ website ([www.dogsnz.org.nz](http://www.dogsnz.org.nz)).

Many people don't realise, but a puppy is a 'good' under the Consumer Guarantees Act. This means that if you produce a puppy which is not fit for purpose, for example has an inherited disease so can not live a normal healthy life, then you are liable to repair or replace the puppy. There are also the potential costs to consider which includes the costs of breeding (blood tests, stud fee, artificial insemination) and then an ultrasound and/or x-ray to confirm pregnancy. Caesarean sections are required from time to time and can often be predicted depending on the risk factors of the bitch. These can cost upwards of \$1500. Puppies then need to be fed, vaccinated and microchipped before going into their new homes.

Just one success story is where we imported frozen semen from Denmark, endoscopic insemination of the thawed semen into a bitch here in Feilding, and then her successfully whelping 9 puppies with some now in active police work.

If you are interested in dog breeding I strongly encourage you to become a Dogs NZ registered breeder where we have rules, regulations, and codes of ethics to provide breeder education, breeder and pedigree dog advocacy, and to protect the welfare of the dogs and their puppies.



**TCI Vets offers a diverse range of services alongside the Totally Vets team to include all genetic screening, breeding planning, artificial insemination using advanced trans-cervical endoscopic insemination, semen freezing, import and export from all over the world.**

## PICK OF THE LITTER

# Back on Track New Zealand - Dog Knee brace

This knee brace helps dogs with limping and joint pain for an improved quality of life.

The knee brace reduces pain and swelling by improving balance among the muscle groups involved. **Improved flexibility** in tight muscles enables the dog to quickly regain a normal walking gait in the affected limb. The slight pressure that this surface brace exerts alleviates the burden on the joints, **increasing their stability** and preventing the injury from turning into a more serious condition.

The brace has both an elastic and stabilising effect. In the event of **damaged cruciate ligaments**, the dog may use the knee brace before the surgical procedure (along with the prescribed treatment) to prevent loss of muscle mass. Five days after surgery, the dog can use the brace again once the swelling has gone down.



*Please check with your vet to make sure this brace is appropriate for your dog's condition.*

# Summer Pet Safety Tips

## SUN PROTECTION

Dogs that are white, light colour coated, pink skinned or hairless are susceptible to sunburn, so don't forget the sunscreen.

## PROVIDE SHADE

Prevent overheating by never leaving your dog in a car, and by seeking out shade whenever you can, or retreating to shady areas every 30 minutes or so.

## PROVIDE RELIEF

With the use of purpose made transportable gel Cooling Mats

## PAW PROTECTION

Avoid hot surfaces such as the backs of ute's, pavements, concrete, stone, metal and sand as these can cause burns and blisters. Dog boots are available to help with prevention.



## STAY HYDRATED

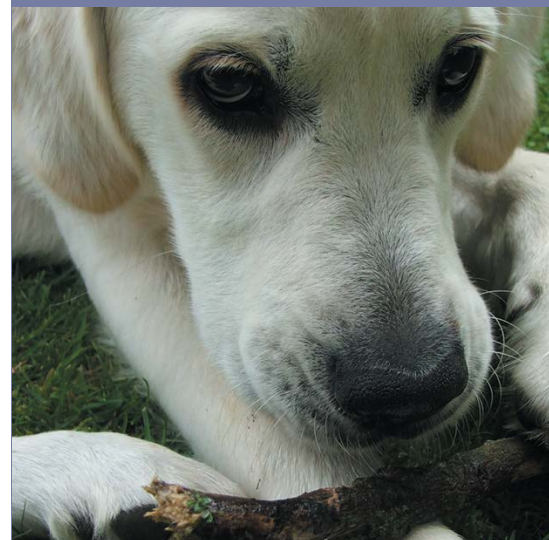
Refill your dog's water bowl more often than usual on hot days. You can also add ice cubes to the water.

## COOLER HOURS

Exercise your dog in the early morning or late evening, as the intense midday heat and cause heatstroke.

## WATCH FOR SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE

Keep a watchful eye out for these tell-tale signs: excessive panting, weakness, drooling, lethargy, incoordination, vomiting, dark red gums, rapid heart rate and seizures.



## FREE ADOLESCENT DOG CHECK UP AT FEILDING

Consult with our Nurse Practitioner Chrissy

- Weight check
- Age related advice
- Behaviour consult with Sandy

Get your dog on the right track to adulthood



## Help your dog ditch the itch!

With warmer weather approaching, dogs and cats that suffer from flea allergies and seasonal allergies are likely to start flaring up again.

In many areas of NZ where the climate is fairly temperate, fleas can be a problem all year round. Remember that for every flea you see on your pet, there are another 9 in the environment – i.e. your carpet, sofa and garden. Because cats are efficient groomers, you may not even see fleas on your pet, but it only takes a few bites to trigger flea allergy dermatitis. Pets that have flea allergy dermatitis should be treated for fleas ALL year round, as should all other pets in the household, to reduce the number of fleas being brought into the house.

Environmental allergies can be seasonal initially but may develop into year round itch as the affected pet becomes allergic to more substances. Pollens are a common trigger, but mould spores and dust mites can also be big offenders. Itch often occurs on the feet, face, armpits and groin, but other signs include recurrent skin and ear infections. Some dogs will also experience 'hayfever'-type signs of watery eyes and sneezing.

With allergic skin diseases, a vicious cycle of itching and scratching can occur. It is very important to take the scratching seriously and stop your dog's itch sensation rapidly, because:

1. Itching is very irritating for your dog (and you!).
2. The longer they itch, the worse the skin condition becomes and the harder it is to control.
3. It may result in infections which will require treatment with either shampoos, antibiotics or both.

In the past steroids have been the mainstay of itch reduction, and they do work well. However they can have side effects.

Newer, safer options include Apoquel (a daily tablet), Cytopoint (a monthly injection) and desensitisation injections.