



# VET mates

YOUR TOTALLY VETS NEWSLETTER ALL ABOUT YOUR PETS

AUGUST 09



Above Darlene and Caleb Seamer, with George the Jack Russell, Nera the Cocker Spaniel, with Leisa Norris-Spring.

## Prescription fee for small animal Prescription Animal Remedies (PARs)

From 1st August this year, there will be a fee of \$10 for all small animal PAR repeat prescriptions. The fee has been established in response to growing administration costs associated with the dispensing of PARs. The good news is, if your repeat prescription has been authorised by one of our small animal vets AND you order it at least 24 hours in advance of collection, this fee will be discounted to \$5. A reminder that if your pet's repeat prescription has run out, please ring Totally Vets Feilding branch to book a consultation with your vet to review it.

## Lite Paws Slimmers Club - Class of 2009

Totally Vets would like to congratulate all the mums, dads and their pets who have graduated from our Lite Paws Slimmers Club this year. You are all awesome and have put in such a fantastic effort!

We also want to praise those who are still working hard at shedding the kilos - keep at it, the results will be so worthwhile!

Lite Paws is coordinated by Sandy, at the Feilding branch, with the help of two great prescription-only weight loss diets. The Hills diet is formulated with high fibre and low calories and is ideal for those that LOVE their food while the Eukanuba diet is a high protein and low-calorie diet which is ideal for those "finicky" eaters.

...and now for this year's winners! We have selected a winner and a runner-up for each of the diets. The winners are those who have lost the highest percentage of body weight overall.

### THE HILLS WINNERS:

First prize goes to George Seamer, the Jack Russell, and his family.

**Before Weight** 11.8kg **After Weight** 8.7kg  
This is a **3.1kg** or **26.3%** body weight loss.

The runner-up prize goes to Nera Norris-Spring, the Cocker Spaniel, and her family.

**Before Weight** 16.7kg **After Weight** 12.5kg  
This is a **4.2kg** or **25.1%** body weight loss.

### THE EUKANUBA WINNERS:

First prize goes to Toby Beatson, the Corgi, and his family.

**Before Weight** 23kg **After Weight** 17.4kg  
This is a **5.6kg** or **24.3%** body weight loss.

The runner-up prize goes to Niki Chesnutt, the Rottweiler, and her family.

**Before Weight** 52.8kg **After Weight** 40kg  
This is a **12.9kg** or **24.2%** body weight loss.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

**We get a real buzz from working with families to help pets reach their ideal weight and live their life to the fullest. Give us a call today if you think your pet could benefit from the help of our weight loss guru!**

Below Toby the Corgi, with Biss and Michael Beatson.



Above Cynthia and Creighton Chesnutt, with Niki the Rottweiler. (inset)



## PICK OF THE LITTER The world's best dog toy... KONG

If your dog is a chewer then this is the toy for you! The hole in the middle allows for food leftovers such as gravy, veggies and even treats

to be stuffed inside and dogs then spend hours trying to get the filling out! Puppy Kongs and Extreme Kongs (for hard-core chewers) are also available, and are priced from \$15.30.

It is important for dogs to succeed at their "work" so make it easy for them to remove the filling at first. As your pooch becomes more experienced, you can make their job more challenging by packing the filling tighter, using larger pieces of food or even freezing it.



## Picking the perfect puppy

PICKING OUT THE PERFECT PUPPY CAN BE A DAUNTING TASK SO HERE ARE A FEW SIMPLE TIPS TO HELP MAKE THE JOB A BREEZE...

- **Evaluate personalities.** The boldest, most outgoing puppy may have a dominant nature which requires very firm leadership. Puppies that are clingy or shy usually have a difficult time adjusting to life in a busy household and may develop into a fearful adult. Look for a friendly and outgoing puppy that happily approaches, wants to be with you and calmly accepts patting.
- **Clean environment.** Puppies raised in dirty areas are often difficult to housetrain and have a hard time getting used to life in a home environment.
- **View the parents.** Young puppies learn social skills early in life from their mother and take on many of their parents' personality traits.
- **Health.** Clean and clear eyes, a wet nose and a glossy coat are all things to look out for.

## Labrador Retrievers - the good, the bad and the hungry

The Labrador Retriever is a very popular breed of choice throughout the world as they have the reputation of being very mellow, an excellent family dog and have a good reputation with other animals and children of all ages.

The Labrador has an enthusiastic attitude towards life and for the most part are a dependable companion - eager to please and responsive to training.

Some lines which are bred specifically for their skills working in the field are particularly fast and athletic. Their fun-loving boisterousness and lack of fear may require training and firm handling at times to ensure things do not get out of hand!

Unfortunately, the Labrador has a well-known reputation for appetite and some individuals may be highly indiscriminate, eating digestible and non-digestible objects alike! They are persuasive and persistent in requesting

food which means they can easily become overweight and lack of activity can also be a contributing factor. For this reason, the Labrador owner must carefully control his or her dog's food intake and exercise them daily, to avoid obesity and its associated problems.

A healthy Labrador should keep a very slight hour-glass waist and be fit and light, rather than fat or heavily set. Excessive weight is strongly implicated as a risk factor in the later development of hip dysplasia or other joint problems, as well as diabetes, and can also contribute to generally reduced health when older. Osteoarthritis is also extremely common in older, overweight Labradors.

A 14 year study involving 48 dogs by the dog food manufacturer Purina, showed that Labradors fed to maintain a lean body shape outlived those fed freely, by around 2 years, emphasizing the importance of not overfeeding.

**Give our reception staff a call if you have any questions at all regarding your dog, whether they are a Labrador or a Chihuahua - we love them all!**

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.





# Get creative...

What are these two little cuties chatting about?

Drop or post your entry into the Feilding branch before the end of August 2009 and go in the draw to win a hamper of exciting goodies for you and your pet.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ My pet is a: cat / dog / other \_\_\_\_\_

My caption is: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Feline dental disease - more common than you might think

If you were asked to name the most common and painful disease that affects adult cats, what would you say? If your answer was dental disease then you are correct!

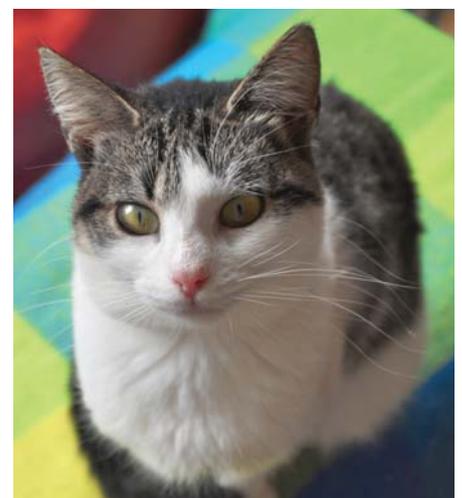
Did you know that periodontal disease can also be associated with diseases involving other organs in the body and studies indicate that 85% of adult pets suffer from periodontal disease to some degree? Feline dental care is thought to be the most overlooked and under-treated area in animal health.

It is often difficult to examine your cat's mouth and by the time they start showing symptoms such as halitosis (bad breath), mouth pain and difficulty or a reluctance to eat, dental disease is often advanced. Severe dental disease may require major treatment to restore a pain-free mouth and the constant shower of bacteria into the body's bloodstream from severe dental disease is known to contribute to kidney and heart disease in cats, which can be fatal.

To help keep feline dental disease at bay, an annual health check, or every six months for

geriatric cats (greater than seven to eight years of age), is ideal. At Totally Vets, a physical examination includes a thorough check of the oral cavity and if we notice any early signs of dental disease, such as a build-up of tartar or gingivitis (inflammation or reddening of the gums) we may recommend your feline friend has some dental treatment under a general anaesthetic. The emphasis in veterinary dental care is rapidly shifting from the treatment of problems to preventing the issue from developing. We have a modern ultrasonic scaler and high speed dental drills which enable us to carry out quick and effective treatment.

**Even elderly animals and those with chronic illness or health problems can benefit from a healthy and pain-free mouth, so consider making a regular dental health check and treatment an investment in a healthier and more comfortable future for your cat.**





## 'Toa' tries Hills b/d®

In the February issue we offered our readers the chance to trial their pet on Hills b/d®, a special prescription-only diet which is used as an aid in the treatment of canine brain ageing ("Dog Alzheimer's").

We now would like to introduce our new friend Toa, a 13 year-old British Bulldog crossed with a Mastiff. Here is a snippet from the letter Toa wrote to us asking to join our trial.

"...As I have grown older I seem to be lost in the surroundings which used to be familiar to me, and I quite often don't recognise my family and friends. I am no longer as alert as I used to be either. I no longer greet my owners and don't come looking for pats or cuddles anymore. All I feel like doing is sleeping and I am unable to go for long walks like I used to, as I get tired and my dad ends up having to carry me home".



Sadly, since this article was written, Toa has passed away. Toa's mum and dad gave him a great life and his last few months were happy ones. Toa's mum still wanted you all to read his story...

A couple of months after trying Hills b/d®, Toa's owners reported that the change in him was remarkable. He has been more energetic and 'puppy-like', following his owners around the house and looking for attention all the time...

"I have been feeling great and giving my younger playmate a run for his money. My memory has improved, I run to greet my owners when they get home and follow them around when they are outside".

The most common signs of canine brain ageing can include disorientation, interacting less with the family, a change in sleep patterns and/or toileting inside.

**If you have an elderly pooch that you think could benefit from the help of Hills b/d® then give us a call at the Feilding branch and we can arrange a consultation for you and your canine companion with one of our friendly veterinarians.**

## Worm treatment for your feathered friend

As spring approaches, bird owners should be made aware of the need to de-worm their birds. All birds require worm treatment and different types of birds require different strategies to help keep worms under control.

Birds in suspended cages, such as budgies, should be de-wormed once or twice a year as the chances of re-infestation are low, because

they spend little or no time on the ground and their cages are regularly cleaned.

Ground-dwelling birds, such as chickens and quails, should be de-wormed three to four times a year especially if on dirt or sand floors. Dirt/sand floors will gradually accumulate worm eggs and the only way to stop this is to change the top few inches every year. The level of worm eggs on concrete floors can be kept low by cleaning them regularly with soapy water.

Free-range birds are more at risk of becoming infected with worms because of their increased exposure to the outdoors, more contact with wild birds and the opportunities they have to ingest insects such as snails and earthworms that can harbour infectious stages of the worms.

With poultry, studies have shown that peak worm counts can coincide with peak egg production. Unless chickens are de-wormed in spring there is a risk that egg production could suffer, just when poultry keepers should be enjoying their best yields. You may even notice smaller eggs and/or loss of shell and yolk colour and birds may lose weight, become anaemic or even die.

**Totally Vets sells a wide range of bird worm treatments that can be added to your bird's drinking water or that can be administered directly into your bird's crop, so call into the Feilding branch and talk to us today about the best plan to de-worm your birds this spring.**