



Welcome, this winter issue we have some tips for your pets, new staff introductions to make and a brief arthritis update.



We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for participating in our client satisfaction survey that was sent with the summer newsletter. We were delighted to get so many positive comments and will be making changes based on your responses to provide a better service for you.

We also have a new email address for any enquiries you may have - pets@greenlanevets.co.nz. We hope you enjoy this little update and look forward to seeing you and your pets soon.

Top 5 winter tips for your pet:

- 1) Continue flea control throughout winter to avoid the spring flea outbreak.
- 2) Leave a litter tray inside for cats on those wet days so your cat doesn't 'hold on' and risk bladder problems. See website for more details.
- 3) To avoid boredom, provide your dogs with kongs, treat balls or clicker training to keep them entertained. See www.kongcompany.com for ideas.
- 4) It's getting dark early now and we are seeing an increased activity in cat fights, and the majority of these fights happen after dark. Have an earlier feline curfew to help keep them abscess free.
- 5) An easy solution for exercising your dog in the colder months is to go to the K9 hydrotherapy centre. They can swim happily while you stay warm and dry!

Is your pet Microchipped?

Every now and then our pets decide to go for a walk around the neighbourhood. This seems harmless enough, but often these pets are picked up as 'strays' and taken to the SPCA or a nearby vet clinic. If, during their adventure, they've lost their collar and are not microchipped, their fate and any decisions regarding injuries lies with strangers.

Not all strays go to the SPCA. Often they are held for 7 days by a vet clinic and then rehomed.

If there is ever an ownership dispute, microchipping provides irrefutable proof of ownership. **Microchipping is as simple as one injection!**

Farewell Hannah



After 4 years of leading our nursing team Hannah is now off on a new adventure to England to pursue her music career and nurse English patients. Lets hope they're as well behaved as our New Zealand pets!
Best Wishes Hannah!



"My pet is old, I expect a bit of arthritis"

Winter is upon us and with the cold comes arthritic aches and pains for our pets. People often think that the limping or reluctance to walk is due to 'old age'. The truth is, many of these older pets are quietly suffering from arthritis. This is especially true in older cats as they are especially good at hiding their symptoms.

Arthritis is a slowly progressive primary disease in cats and usually due to an old injury or joint malformation in dogs. Arthritis is an inflammatory and painful condition that our animals do not need to suffer from. There are many treatment options for arthritis. 'Natural' options include Synoquin and Pentosan injections that are proving helpful in earlier stages of arthritis. For those suffering from greater pain, anti-inflammatories or opiates (morphine type pain killers) may be needed to keep them comfortable over winter. There is also a food available that helps with arthritis! Research is continuing into the use of stem cell therapy for animal arthritis. With so many options, we are sure to find one suitable for your pet! Come in for a consultation and we can form a personalised plan for your pet.



Normal Hip



Arthritic hip

Weight loss is a commonly forgotten, but essential part of the fight against arthritis. Being overweight not only increases the workload on a joint; fat cells encourage inflammation in the body and in the joints. Arthritic animals benefit from multiple short walks and swimming. This keeps their muscles strong and flexible. Rusty is a perfect example of the burden of being overweight. Rusty is an 11yr old female cat. She came to us with a hindleg limp and was struggling to jump onto the bed. She was more than 2kg overweight!! After implementing a strict diet she is now slim and agile! Rusty's owners are delighted to have their active cat back with weight loss making all the difference!

Interesting Case: Nugget



In March this year we met an adorable 7kg puppy called Nugget. Nugget had stolen panadol from her owner's coffee table. Nugget was very pleased with herself and her speed in eating those tablets while her owner was not looking! Her owners however, were not so impressed when they learned her overdose was risking her liver and her life. Nugget was presented at the veterinary clinic within 1 hour of ingestion, where vomiting was induced and she was started on intravenous fluid therapy. The next day Nugget was back home, happily terrorising her brother Dexter. Repeat testing confirmed Nugget's liver had recovered from the toxic insult. What a lucky dog!!

Some of our patients have ingested other potentially toxic substances recently, including slug and rat bait, raisins, chewing gum, heart medication, grapes, diabetes medication, weed killer, chocolate and pollen from lilies (toxic to cats).



Nugget and Dexter

If you are ever worried that your pet has eaten something toxic, the sooner we know and can induce emesis (vomiting), the better outcome for your pet. Please don't hesitate to call us.

Meet our new friendly faces at reception

Cat

Cat is a human dental assistant who has recently started her veterinary nurse training. She has years of experience in veterinary clinics and we are delighted to have her with us.



Malin

Malin has been a fully qualified veterinary nurse for 4 years. She is undergoing further training at Unitec in Auckland. She is passionate about our furry patients and loves caring for pets, especially the ones that like a cuddle!

