



Auckland Veterinary Services Ltd

Welcome to issue number 43 of the Auckland Veterinary Services Newsletter.

This issue we talk about:

- what to expect when your female dog comes into season
- some ideas on where you can go to enjoy this summer
- Toby tells us about why he has lost some weight.

Make sure you visit our website at www.aucklandvetservices.co.nz for even more information about caring for your pets.

We hope you enjoy this issue and we would love to hear of any topics or ideas you may have for our newsletter. Just let us know what they are!

The Team at Auckland Veterinary Services



Easy to Administer Flea Treatment for DOGS!

Comfortis is a beef-flavoured, chewable tablet that can be offered as a treat. No residue on the coat and no worries about it washing off after swimming or bathing.

Farewell Bob

After six years working with us Bob is returning to Melbourne with his wife Yvonne and their boys, Eric and Albert at the end of the year.

Bob started working for Auckland Veterinary Services in 2005.

As you can see from the photos below he enjoyed many of the excursions our team has made over the years, even if we did push him out of his comfort zone a few times.

We will miss his easy going attitude and the uncanny way he made us laugh. I am sure many of you and your pets will miss his gentle nature too.

We all wish Bob and his family (including TopCat) the very best for their return to Australia.



Educ NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Make their reward a **nutritional bonus**

Rewarding a dog for desired behaviour during training is a natural and mostly effective method. With a specific formula for optimal palatability and digestive safety and only 3 calories per unit, Educ is the ideal, guilt-free nutritional supplement for training puppies (from 2 months) and adult dogs.

Only **\$0.99** per sachet

NEW TECHNOLOGY

- Suptle, easy to break apart
- Non-greasy to touch

Low calorie <3kcal/unit

ROYAL CANIN
www.royalcanin.co.nz

Dental Grades

At each visit with us your pet's teeth are examined and graded. Dental Grades are from 0 to 5.

The grades indicate the following:

- 0 Healthy gums and no discolouration on teeth
- 1 Healthy gums, some discolouration on back teeth, no tartar present
- 2 Discolouration on front and back teeth, signs of tartar formation, slightly red gums
- 3 Tartar present and gums inflamed, no extractions expected
- 4 Severe tartar present, inflamed painful gums, the odd loose tooth, extractions required
- 5 Severe tartar present, inflamed painful gums, loose teeth, patient not eating, life threatening if not treated now, major extractions required

Pets with grades of 0 or 1 need to start or stay on home care dental health programmes to slow the progression of the dental disease. Home care programmes only slow the progression of the disease and will not result in an improvement in the dental grade.

Animals with Grade 2 and above need to have their teeth cleaned and polished before they start on home care programmes.

Talk with our nurses to choose the right dental programme for your pet.

Summer Excursions with your DOG

Summer is here and what better way to celebrate than to get out and enjoy the wonderful country we have. Here are just a few ideas of where you can go with your pooch. If you only have cats at home these places are just as enjoyable to go to with a two legged friend instead.

In and around Auckland:

Auckland Botanic Gardens Manurewa—If you haven't been here it is a must do for all Aucklanders. You can easily get lost in this wonderful place and the kids will love the "Potters Garden". You can even get a trail book at the information desk for the kids. Make sure your dog is on leash in the main part of the garden, but you can let them free in the large off leash area for a good run around. www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz



Craigavon Park Blockhouse Bay—A very popular dog walking park. This is a very easy walk and there is an off leash section where you can teach your dog a few agility tricks. It is a great park for the kids as well with a playground near the car park.

Meola Reef Westmere— There is a very large off leash dog area that is fenced to keep dogs in the grounds. There are always plenty of canine pals around to interact with.

Fairy Falls and Kakamatua Waitakere Ranges— Fairy Falls is well known in West Auckland so you have probably already heard of it. It is a relatively easy walk from the Scenic Drive end but you could always take the more difficult route and come in from the Mountain Road side. Either way your destination is very pleasant to say the least.

Kakamatua is again very popular with dog owners and this is a flat walk along the stream to the beach with loads of space for your dog to let loose and most likely find many other dog friends while there.

Check out this website, the above places are mentioned plus plenty more for you to choose from:

http://www.doogle.co.nz/exercise_areas.asp

And for those willing to travel a little further afield here are a couple of ideas for you:



Mathesons Bay Track—near Matakana and Omaha.

Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway— near Paeroa

Waiorongomai Valley Tramping Tracks—in the Kaimai Mamaku Park north of Tauranga.

Find out more about these places (including directions to get there) at the website below along with many other destinations to add to your list.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/activity-finder/dog-walkin>

Please be responsible when out and about in conservation areas. They are there for everyone to enjoy and we all want to be able to enjoy them for many years to come.

Don't wait
for them
to tell you.

New
Revolution
For
Dogs



revolution
VET QUALITY FLEA AND PARASITE PROTECTION

Loved by cats.
Now available for dogs.

Toby's Talk

It's time for me to get my Santa hat out again and sign all those Christmas cards for all of my friends.

Please look after your furry friends this holiday season, remember it's a time to cherish all loved ones, furry or not.

A lot of my regular followers have noticed my weight loss lately; I'm ok but as with a lot of old cats my thyroid gland is overactive. I am being well cared for by my nurses, they give me some special thyroid medication to slow down my metabolism. If you think your old cat might have some thyroid trouble you should come and talk to my nurses, they are very experienced with this kind of thing.

Enough about my medical issues, Merry Christmas everyone, I hope it is a lovable and enjoyable season for you all.

xxoo Toby

Auckland Veterinary Services Ltd. 4143 Great North Road Glen Eden.

Phone 818 5697 Fax: 818 4030 Email: auckvet@auckvet.co.nz Website: www.aucklandvetservices.co.nz

Tis The Season

Most of you will not have to worry about your dogs coming into season as they will have been desexed. For those of you who have not gotten there yet or are planning to breed from your dog here are a few things to consider.



Firstly before you do decide to breed from your dog make sure you have seriously thought it through. Please consider the following. We all know there are thousands of unwanted dogs in New Zealand and you could potentially be adding to that tally if you are unable to find forever homes for your puppies. Puppies are hard work, do you remember when your dog was young? Imagine a whole litter of them and what kind of mess and noise they make. Lastly you should also consider the financial implications of breeding and whether or not you can afford it. Costs include feeding, vaccinations, defleaing and deworming and also unplanned costs such a caesarean should things not go to plan. If you can't find homes for your puppies the longer you have them the more money they will cost.

After considering all this if you still want to breed then here is some information for you.

The breeding process starts when your bitch has her oestrus cycle or "heat". The age a dog will first come into heat and how long each heat lasts varies with different breeds and even individuals within the breed. The first heat starts around the same time the bitch is fully grown. This is usually when they are between 9 and 15 months of age. The majority of bitches have had their first season before they are 2 years of age. Once they have had their first season they usually come into heat every 4.5 -8 months.

There are four stages to the oestrus cycle



Proestrus - This starts on the first day of bleeding and you will notice a swollen vulva. Sometimes there is no bleeding or the bitch is very clean and the owners won't notice any. Proestrus can last up to 21 days.

Oestrus - Generally the stage when the bitch will stand for a male dog to allow mating. This can last 7-10days.

Diestrus - The end of the fertile period. This will last until the bitch whelps (if pregnant) or 10-12 weeks.

Anestrus - The time after diestrus but before the next season.

If you are planning to breed blood progesterone tests can determine when your bitch has ovulated and thus optimize the chances of her conceiving and having a large litter.

If you do not want to breed, at this heat, then proestrus and oestrus are the times you need to make sure that your bitch is isolated from all unneutered male dogs. This can mean that she will need to be isolated for up to 4-5 weeks. If you cannot safely confine your bitch on your own property you may need to board her in a kennel for the time she is on heat.

What to do if there is a mis-mating (unwanted/unplanned mating):

There is no point rushing off to the vet to see if she has been mated as there is no reliable way of telling whether she has been mated. Even if she has been mated she may not become pregnant. In our experience more than half the dogs that have been mis-mated do not become pregnant.

Pregnancy can be reliably diagnosed at twenty-eight days after the mating either by palpation or ultrasound examination.

If at 28 days the bitch is not pregnant, you do not have to do anything further, apart from trying to ensure that another mis-mating does not occur at subsequent heats.

If she is pregnant then you have a number of options:

- Spay her
- Have a drug induced abortion
- Have a surgical abortion once she is 6-7 weeks pregnant
- Let her have the pups

If you don't want your female dog to become pregnant the best thing you can do is book her in for desexing and you won't have to worry about unwanted puppies, uterine infections or uterine cancers ever again.



For more in depth information on the above topics please visit our website www.aucklandvetservices.co.nz and click on the Information tab.

Specialists For Our Special Friends

Just like in the human world specialists are available for our pets too. To become a veterinary specialist you have to go through specific and intense training to become qualified in your chosen field. When you take your pet to see a specialist that is exactly what you are going to get.

At Auckland Veterinary Services we regularly recommend referrals to specialists.



The Veterinary Specialist Group (VSG) is a specialist facility that provides care for pets that require advanced surgery, medical treatment or imaging. Their purpose built facility in Mt Albert is one of the leading facilities in the Southern Hemisphere.



Some of the services offered by VSG include:

- Total Hip Replacements
- Endoscopy
- Ultrasound
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.
- Chemotherapy
- Iodine 131 treatment for Hyperthyroidism
- CT and MRI scans



Appointments at VSG are by referral only so you need us to send through a referral report with relevant history before you can make an appointment time with the appropriate department at VSG.



We also often refer our patients to Dr Peter Collinson at the Auckland Animal Eye Centre in Mount Wellington. Peter is a Veterinary Ophthalmologist whose facility offers cataract surgery, glaucoma therapy, corneal grafting as well as tumour and trauma treatments

The final specialist we like to refer to is Dr Allan Bell from the Allergy and Skin Clinic located on the North Shore. Reasons for referral of case to Allan include; difficulty in diagnosing a problem, poor response to treatment, unusual symptoms and/or repetitive or chronic skin diseases.

We are very fortunate to have all of these services available to us and should your pet need specialist care we will not hesitate in recommending any of the above clinics.



Merry Christmas

From the festive Toby and Alley and the rest of us at
Auckland Veterinary Services.

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of our newsletter. The next issue is available in March 2012. Look out for it then!

Our newsletter is always available on our website first! Visit our website soon: www.aucklandvetservices.co.nz
Caroline, Bob, Georgina, Debbie, Nicole, Mark, Andrea, Danielle, Rosie, Kelsey and Toby.