



SMALL animals

november 08



Matamata Veterinary Services

feed raw bones not cooked bones

In the veterinary profession, we are continually challenged to keep up with ever increasing amounts of more and more complex information. Sometimes it is really refreshing to learn something simple.

This was the case for Nigel, when after 28 years in veterinary practice, he learned 'feed raw bones - not cooked'.

"When I (Nigel) look back at all those treated animals with oesophageal and intestinal obstructions and severely constipated animals, they are generally dogs that have been fed cooked bones. The penny never dropped until Fiona arrived and pointed out what should have been obvious".

Important points when feeding bones include:

- Feed raw - not cooked
- Feed brisket bones and not hard cannon bones
- Raw chicken necks are good, but be aware of possible Salmonella or Campylobacter infections.
- Chop bones are dangerous and should not be fed
- Bones of sheep origin must be frozen for at least seven days



pet food

MVS stocks premium quality dry pet food for your family pet.

This premium food is enriched with the very best ingredients, including beef, chicken, rice, vegetables and

barley. This premium food provides your pet with a complete and balanced diet.

MVS also stock specialist non-prescription foods such as joint care, sensitive skin, sensitive stomach and weight loss for dogs with specific needs.

microchipping – NZ Companion Animal Registry

The NZ Companion Animal Registry is a new database set up by the NZ Companion Animal Council, NZVA, CAS, SPCA and NZKC and CatFancy Inc.

Prior to this NZ database, a private registry based in Sydney (AAR) was used with great results.

With the new Dog Control legislation introduced on the 1st July 2006, your dog's microchip number has to be registered at your local Council.

Access to this information is limited to opening hours, so if pets should go missing after hours, it can be difficult to locate the owner.

However, registering with NZCAR enables any registered vet clinic or animal organisation, access to the website database 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can register at MVS.

The NZCAR is a private registry and all dogs with microchips **STILL** need to be registered and details recorded on the Council database under the Dog Control Laws.

The NZCAR database registry is optional and costs \$15.00 of which profits are donated to local animal charities or companion animal research through the NZ Companion Animal Council.

For more information please enquire at the Small Animal Counter.



welcome to summer!

Welcome to the summer edition of our Small Animal newsletter. By the time this goes to print, the USA and NZ elections will have been and gone, and I hope the world economic crisis has settled down without too much impact on our local community.

To be able to offer the best level of care possible, it is critical we stay up to date. We need to continually re-invest in our clinic, equipment and people.

This year we purchased a new x-ray machine, new anaesthetic and endoscopy equipment and started the development of new kennelling area. All our vets and nurses have spent considerable time on professional training and development.

Thank you all for your support over the year, for the continuing referrals you make on our behalf and the notes of gratitude we receive on a regular basis. We work very hard to continually improve the level of care we provide to your animals and the level of service we provide to you, and we really appreciate your feedback. It makes all our efforts worthwhile when we receive this support.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas for the holidaymakers, hot and sunny weather at the beach, and for the farmers - a warm summer with sufficient rainfall.

Best wishes

*Nigel Chris Fiona Alison
Kristie Lynne Alice*



Fiona went to Italy



In July this year, Fiona was invited to speak at the International Symposium on Canine and Feline Reproduction in Vienna.

This conference is held once every four years and to be invited to talk at such a prestigious event is truly an honour.

Fiona presented the research work she conducted while working at Cornell University, New York, on factors affecting stillbirths in whelping bitches. Her talk was extremely well received and the findings from her work are the first of their kind to be presented to the veterinary community.

We are extremely lucky to have someone with such a high international reputation running MVS Glenbred (Advanced Small Animal Reproduction).



clinic open hours over christmas/new year

The Small Animal Clinic will be closed over the following days:

Thursday 25 December - Sunday 28 December 2008

Thursday 1 January - Sunday 4 January 2009

If you require a veterinarian urgently during this time, please phone 07 888 8197.

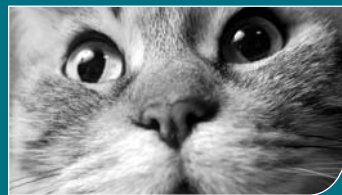
dog obedience and puppy preschool



This year's classes have been well attended in both obedience and puppy preschool. Please register to ensure your enrolment in our 2009 classes, phone 07 888 8197.

Dog obedience (contact Teresa), starting date is Monday 23 February 2009.

Puppy Preschool (contact Lynne), starting date is Tuesday 24 February 2009.



de-sexing

why should i neuter or spay my cat or dog?

- To prevent male cats wandering, fighting and spraying urine. This type of behaviour results in higher incidence of Feline Aids and cat bite abscess
- Bitches on heat attract dogs from a wide area, resulting in inter-animal aggressive behaviour
- Reduces unwanted pregnancies and over population of animals
- Pyometra, a common uterine infection in entire females, is eliminated in spayed females
- Early de-sexing in both dogs and cats virtually eliminates the risk of mammary and testicular cancer
- Neutered males suffer with far less Prostatic Disease

when should i neuter or spay my cat or dog?

Cats 12-20 weeks of age

Dogs 16- 20 weeks of age

Extensive research over many years has confirmed that cats, both male and female, can safely be de-sexed from eight weeks of age.

Early castration and spaying of cats from eight weeks of age onwards has become standard practice in the USA and many follow up studies have failed to show any adverse long-term medical or behavioural conditions as a result of the early surgery.

While we are happy to de-sex cats from around eight weeks or 1kg bodyweight, we usually recommend they be done between 12-20 weeks.

The old idea that both queens and bitches need to have a heat and reproduce kittens or pups, is NOT true.

Do you realise that two cats producing eight kittens per year results in almost 800,000 animals in seven years. So the benefits of pet population control are immense. We all have a responsibility to manage our pets to avoid problems of over population, overcrowding, stray colonies and feral cat populations.

what is involved in de-sexing?

On admission to the clinic for surgery, animals are examined and checked for general health. **PLEASE LET US KNOW** if your kitten or pup has not been well.

Next, a sedative analgesic injection is given. This provides pain relief and permits a smooth induction and recovery from anaesthesia. Anaesthesia is induced with an intravenous injection and maintained on anaesthesia, using the safest drugs available in veterinary medicine.

The fur is clipped, skin area disinfected and the surgical site prepared for surgery. In males, both testes are removed. In females, we open the abdomen and remove both ovaries and the entire uterus. Major blood vessels are ligated and the muscles of the abdomen sutured back together. The skin is closed with sutures under the skin that dissolve over 3-6 weeks.

Long acting local anaesthetic is used in the wounds and more pain relief is given after surgery depending on the procedure. The animals are then allowed to recover in a warm, quiet and comfortable area after the anaesthetic.



travelling with pets

If you take your pets away with you on holiday or just enjoy taking them with you in the car, here are some tips to keep you and your pet safe and healthy:

- Always have the animal restrained, either in a cage for small dogs and cats, or in a dog harness that are secured with a seatbelt or bungy cord. Having to stop suddenly, can cause damage to them as well as you, should your pet fall forward into you.
- Do not feed your pet before travelling - wait until you have reached your destination.
- If pets are nervous travellers, products such as Feliway for cats or DAP for dogs, can help relax them.
- Carry water, drinking bowl and poop bags with you.
- If travelling with dogs, make pitstops every couple of hours to allow them to have a walk, toilet and drink. Ensure you have a good collar and lead, and are careful when opening doors in high traffic areas.
- Cats also can do with a break on long trips and can be offered water in their carry cage.
- Never leave pets in parked cars for any length of time unattended, as they can suffer from anxiety at being left alone or heat exhaustion. Animals can be overcome by heat very quickly, either from temperature or stress, with disastrous outcomes. The temperature in a parked car can rise very quickly, turning it into an oven even if windows are left partly open. Shade does move and windows can only be left open to the point where animals can't escape. If they are stressed they will pant more causing more heat in the small space.

If this happens to your animal, it will require immediate emergency attention -

- Lower body temperature, move to shade and douse, hose down or submerge in water
- Get to Vet asap



do not despair with an itchy scratchy dog!

While most of us look forward to summertime with blue skies and warm days, for some of our pets it can be an irritating time of year.

Many skin and ear problems become worse over summer and can be very distressing for both pets and their owners.

At MVS Small Animals we have a special interest in dermatology and are very experienced in dealing with these frustrating and challenging cases.



95% of itchy dogs are caused by parasites, allergies or infections and the challenge is to sort through these in a logical and systematic manner.

care of sick and injured birds

We frequently have people bringing in native birds that have been found or are injured. We are really happy to treat these birds for no charge and are more than happy for people to deliver them to us.

Our policy on treatment of wild animals is:

- In introduced species, to relieve suffering at no charge
- In native animals, to treat appropriately at no charge
- In endangered native animals, to refer immediately to the wild life unit at Massey University.

Unfortunately, wild animals get extremely stressed when held in captivity and one needs to carefully weigh up the benefits of a stressful treatment with relief from suffering.

Should you ever come across sick or injured wild birds, please give us a call. We undertake to treat these animals appropriately at no charge. We see it as part of our responsibility as veterinarians to care for this sector of our animal population.

