

the pet & vetletter

Dr Simon Wright and Associates

The pet owner's newsletter from the Team at

pet & vet

(Milford) Ltd. Vet Practice, Boarding Cattery, Grooming Parlour and Pet Shop.

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Tribute to Baxter



It is with a particularly heavy heart that I have to tell you that our lovely Baxter had over the last few months become very ill. Baxter was the wonderful grey long-haired mate who used to sit on the counter and also visit various neighbours. So with many tears in a special ceremony with most of the staff present I put him to sleep. I rescued him about 4 years ago when he was presented to be put to sleep with cancer of the lips and his owners were going overseas. He was such a character that I couldn't bring myself to do the deed so we fixed him up and he has been a delight ever since. He was a great example of what pet ownership should be - a partnership where pet and people bring delight to each other and enhance each others lives. He will be sorely missed by us all.

Hungry Cat Losing Weight? Great NEW Treatment if it's Hyperthyroid.

Our new Hyperthyroid Treatment Facility has recently been Approved by the National Radiation Laboratory. This means we are now taking bookings for cats either now under treatment for hyperthyroid or potential at risk cases. This is what you need to know.

1. Hyperthyroid cats are usually over 8 years old and display an increase in appetite and a loss of weight- they hassle you for food all the time and break into the fridge!! Clinically we also often see heart problems, upset bowels and aggressive behaviour.

2. Diagnosis is by a simple blood test. On rare occasions multiple tests are required.

3. Treatment currently involves giving a tablet once or twice daily for the rest of the cat's life.

4. The new treatment we are now offering involves a single painless injection of Radioactive Iodine under the skin and hospitalization for 7-14 days in our specially designed facility.

5. The treatment is 95% effective and because Iodine is taken up only by the thyroid the radiation risk is negligible because it is limited to 1-2 mm from the thyroid.

6. The treatment however is only suitable for patients who are well in other respects ie have good liver and kidney function.

7. Not only does this treatment relieve you from the daily hassle of having to dose your cat but you will be better off financially because the treatment is equivalent to about 2-3 years of having to treat with tablets.

8. So if you have a cat already under treatment with Neomercazol or have a cat with undiagnosed ravenous appetite and weight loss please do call us.



Staff News

Two new faces on the scene are Debbie who has joined the cattery team and Chloe who is joining the nurses on a part-time basis. Barbara, the cattery manager, is now also doing some reception work so you will be greeted by her friendly tone and face at the reception desk from time to time.



Chloe



Debbie

We are also privileged to acknowledge Linda who has been part of our team from the start, almost 12 years ago. She has always given of her best, firstly as a Veterinary Nurse and more recently as a capable and friendly receptionist. Thank you for your continuing great contribution, Linda.



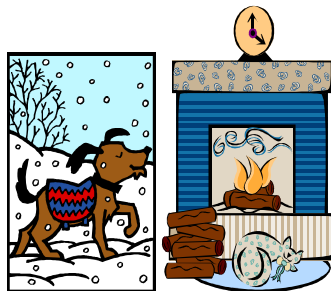
Web Site Now Active

www.petandvet.net.nz

After much hard work on the part mainly of Mary, my wife, (Wife now means **Work InFormation Executive!!**) our Website is up and running. We will be posting the newsletter on it, pets for sale, Practice news etc. We have had lots of good comments about it but as many of you will know it is a lot of work to keep it fresh. To this end we really would welcome any input from you about improvements, additions or deletions. It is mainly for you so

do let us know how we can make it better.

Winter Time Petcare Program for both young and old.



Winter has arrived so here is a wee (yes, check the wee!!) checklist to keep your pet happy and healthy.

1. **Desexing.** Cats start breeding from the age of 6 months of age and the mating season starts in July so do not delay – let's get those gonads away!!

2. **Check for fleas.** Fleas will overwinter in our nice warm houses. Do the flea test- hold your pet up by the front legs on a pale surface and ruff up the coat especially at the tail base. Collect the bits which fall out looking especially for the tell tale black sand like grains. Spray water on these. If they go red ie your pet's blood in the form of flea poo you have fleas. You should then treat with one of the topical treatments like advantage. Call the nurses for advice.

3. **Treat for worms.** Good news - bad news! In pets over 2 years treating every 6 months is fine - past advice was 3 monthly - but if your pet has soft poos discuss the worming interval with us. Bad news is that many supermarket wormers do not kill the common old tapeworm. Ask us about the right medication

and, just as important, the right dose. If soft poos persist we should send a sample to the lab as there are many other causes of soft stools apart from worms.

4. **Having trouble getting up** - we have lots of good stuff for this from anti-inflammatories to joint supplements to joint growth injections to great diets. See our current promotion for some of these. Remember dogs have a high pain threshold so although they may seem to be coping, they are probably in pain if they are arthritic. This is quite common in old dogs and cats.

5. **Getting alzheimeryyy???** We have some new drugs which improve brain blood circulation. Give us a call to discuss this .

6. **Leaking either urine or faeces?** Joys of having a old pet, yeah right! but again we might be able to help. Check kidneys, bladder, bowel – oh, how wonderful if you didn't have to step in dog wee in the morning!

Drugs - new and old to help older pets.

*Brain ageing in dogs and cat.

Is your pet becoming vacant, staring strangely, wandering aimlessly?

Two products might help. **Aktivait** is a neutraceutical with 11 ingredients associated with optimal brain function, no side effects and simply sprinkled on the food - you might just get your dog back!!

Vivitonin - helps increase blood flow to the brain and heart so is good for age related circulatory problems, unwillingness to exercise and overall lethargy.

***Arthritis.**

Dog or cat having trouble getting up or jumping on the bed. Call us to find out about relief available in the form of supplements of glucosamine and chondroitin or anti-inflams such as rimadyl together with great diets to help with arthritis.

***A wee bit of leaking or a bit of leaking wee!**

These cases need investigating starting with you dropping off a urine sample. It may be just a weak sphincter or something more serious like bladder stones or even cancer so don't put up with getting wet socks in the morning give us a call for advice. **Incurin** the drug available to tone the bladder sphincter is now back in stock so dryness prevails!!

Cat Aids Vaccinations - a quick reminder.

We used to think that Cat Aids was mainly only associated with chronic oral ulcerations and respiratory disease but new evidence suggests that it may have role to play in many other diseases. The incidence in the roaming cat population appears to be rising and may be as high as 20% of such roaming cats. So here is what you need to know.

1. It is transmitted mainly from cat to cat when they fight. Sadly we treat many cats with abscesses resulting from cat fights and will be recommending blood testing all these cases.

2. If cats test positive they can live a happy life but there are some management tools which both help the patient and help prevent the spread of the disease such as housing indoors, feeding the best possible diet and being meticulous about flea and worm control. We provide lots of help in managing these cases so all is

not lost if you do have cat with a positive test.

3. If they are negative we will be recommending a vaccination program.

4. So if you have a fighting cat or one with chronic dental problems or indeed even a cat which is just "not doing well" or having recurrent infections do give us a call to discuss whether Feline Aids may be part of the problem.

Acupuncture/Laser therapy sessions available.

Elaine who is a human - yes, she is a human! - trained osteopath works in our clinic every Thursday afternoon focusing on back and hip lameness in dogs. She uses both laser and manual manipulation. Call for an appointment.



A WARNING - GOOD & BAD NEWS DOWN AT BETTY'S BOARDING CATTERY!!!

The good even great news is that our guests are loving the big new premises. They love the TV, the outdoor run, the individual runs, the personal care from Barbara and her team. From a Veterinary point of view we have noticed very low levels of symptoms of stress which can include upset tummies, urinary problems and loss of appetite.

All this good news has brought what may be bad news for you.

The bad news is that you and your feline family like the place so much that we are nearly booked fully for Christmas and other holiday times. So if you are contemplating a holiday and want to board your cat with us please book early. Also please remember that we have special rates for long stays for which we are ideally set up.

Charitable Donations and Entertainment Book sales benefit Esther Honey Rarotonga Vet Clinic.

When I was in Rarotonga last year I did some voluntary work at the Esther Honey Vet Clinic there. It is very run down and badly in need of funds but the people are lovely and genuinely want the best for their animals. I am going back again in July to do some more work and take some drugs and theatre supplies. You can help too by contributing to the fund we have started at the Practice. We have a donation box on the counter so please if you have loose change or anything even bigger!! they would be most grateful. We are also selling the great Entertainment Book which is packed with lots of savings on restaurants, like free main courses or 25% off plus cinema and many other savings. \$13 of the \$65 sale price goes straight to the Esther Honey Clinic. Call us to order one.



Puppy preschool going well with roll over classes.

Julia has been getting wonderful reports about her puppy preschool classes especially with the new format of her taking on new entrants into existing classes rather than you having to wait a month for a set of classes to finish. Apart from the advantage that you do not have to wait to get into a class it makes the socialization aspect even more effective as new pups are coming and going constantly. However as these classes are so popular do book as much in advance as possible. Pups can go to the classes right after their 8 week vaccination.

Rat and Slug Bait Warning.

Rat bait poisoning in dogs is quite common. It causes internal bleeding so you might see bleeding gums, lethargy, black stools or blood in the urine. Symptoms take a while to show from the time of eating the bait.

Deaths do occur so please please make sure any bait you set is away from your pets and please store the packets safely.

Slug bait causes terrible seizures, salivation, vomiting, diarrhoea and sometimes death. Again do not lay too much and please store the packets safely.

Pet Insurance Cover.

With the increasing demand for expensive procedures like ultrasound and MRI having pet insurance makes more and more sense. The expectations of pet owners I believe are higher now but because many diagnostic procedures are expensive sometimes we are not able to make diagnoses because funds are short. It is these sorts of cases which I think really do benefit from having insurance. We have brochures here from a variety of companies which we are happy to send you. Do however read the small print very closely as the exclusions vary from company to company.

pet & vet SERVICES

**Veterinary Practice
*Puppy preschool
*Hyperthyroid treatment
*Cat Boarding
Grooming Parlour

**Raw Petfood
*Dog Training
*Holistic Approach
*Petshop
Acupuncture/laser therapy

Hours for Winter

Open 6 days
Mon – Fri: 7.45am-6pm
Late night: Thu 'til 6.30pm
Saturday: 9am-3pm
Sunday: Closed

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