



Welcome to our Summer Newsletter.

In this issue: - *Pet Photo of the Month; Safer Anaesthetic; Dental X-Ray Machines; No Name Mouse; Feline Immune Deficiency; Micro Chipping Facts; Beaglemania; Family Health Diary*

STAFF NEWS

Vesna recently attended a conference on dentistry and anaesthesia.

Congratulation to our 2 vets with new babies;

Kurt - son born 29/7/06 Keagan James

Sharon - daughter born 28/7/06 Sara Patricia.

Sharon is currently on maternity leave and we hope to see her back soon, kids permitting!



Kurt



Sharon



Vesna

Nervous pets? Call the clinic for advice and the latest measures for upset pets.

FAVOURITE VET?

We and our pets, all have our favourites, and that is only natural. We always endeavour to have your preferred Vet or Vet Nurse available when you visit, do let us know.

We do offer extended services and hours and have a high ratio of care givers for every pet that visits us, so it can sometimes seem like we have a lot of staff, but that doesn't mean you can't see who you want.

So please let us know and barring holidays or emergencies, we can nearly always oblige.

HAVE WE GOT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?


We periodically have email newsletters and specials, which you will only receive if we have your email address. Your email address, as are all your details are completely private and never disclosed.

You can give your email details to our client relations team at the clinic or enter online on our website

www.manukaveterinarygroup.co.nz

We also are introducing the ability for you to check your pet's details from our records online, but you will need an email address to access this service.

*South Auckland Veterinary Hospital
128 Great South Road
Manurewa
Phone 267 4055*

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New Zealand
Permit No.159571



PETFRONT

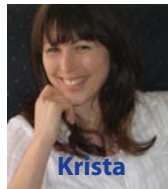
CHAPEL ROAD VETERINARY CLINIC

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STAFF NEWS

Krista recently attended a conference on dentistry and anaesthesia.



Krista

BEST OF LUCK PETRA.

Many of our clients know Petra. She has been part of our team since 1994, and has recently left to pursue her special interest and love for cats, at the Auckland Cat Practice. Best of luck Petra.



Petra

NEW PERSONALISED PET INFO CARDS AVAILABLE SOON.

This is a new service that we are pleased to offer our regular clients. You may notice our team taking your pet's photo at the time of your visit. This is great for our records, but now enables us to post your pet a special personalised card with all their important information on it, such as their microchip number, any medical alerts, their vaccination booster due dates and also a log in so you can see their details online. This card will be sent to you approximately 10-14 days after your dog or cat has been in for their annual health visit, and is the size of a drivers license. It can be used at boarding kennels or catteries instead of the current vaccination booklets, and your pet will receive a new updated card after each vaccination, and all this is a free service for our regular clients.

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Ph: 274 4068



PAPATOETOE East
VETERINARY CENTRE

Ph: 278 5343



Ph: 267 4055

If undelivered, please return to: PO Box 98832, South Auckland Mail Centre
Manukau Veterinary Group



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STAFF NEWS

Michelle Proud and Michelle Cross are continuing nursing papers through Otago Polytech.

Michelle Cross recently attended a conference on dentistry and anaesthesia.



Michelle Proud



Michelle Cross

Craig recently attended a week long course on dermatology and joint problems.

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PETFRONT

PET PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Have you got a cute or funny photo of your pet(s)? You could win one of our monthly prizes so send them in.

Check these out!



TECHNOLOGY MAKING GENERAL ANAESTHESIA SAFER!

Over the past few months we have added to our general anaesthetic monitoring equipment and have been using a digital wireless patient monitor on all our animals undergoing anaesthesia.

This monitor is able to provide real-time analysis of heart electrical activity and heart rate, blood oxygenation, body temperature and respiration rate. It is very easy to use, the vital information being passed from a handheld monitor attached to the patient, to a laptop via a wireless bluetooth connection.

The information is displayed on the computer in easy view of the surgical team. We are able to set the computer to alarm if the readings obtained change are not therefore optimal for patient safety.

The same soft tongue clip can be used on cats and dogs of all sizes and an oesophageal or rectal probe can also be used depending on the patient's requirements.

As with human medical care, veterinary medical techniques and procedures are always being refined and improved. It is good to be a part of this here at The Chapel Road Veterinary Clinic.

DENTAL X-RAY MACHINES.

Did you know that our clinics now have dental X-ray facilities. We routinely X-ray 'suspect' teeth before removing them, to save your pet from any unnecessary extractions and discomfort. Together with our modern dental suites, dental diets, vaccines and treatments we can help your pets keep their smiles for longer.

NO NAME MOUSE

No Name is a one and a half year old mouse, that had a mass removed from her left thigh area. Aliy, our head surgical nurse, devised an Elizabethan collar made out of old xray film to prevent No Name chewing the stitches out too soon.



No Name had 2 stitches removed as planned and had 1 stitch left to come out, which she chewed out herself, after the wound had healed nicely. Well done No Name.

FELINE IMMUNE DEFICIENCY VIRUS(FIV)/FELINE AIDS.

FIV is a virus that causes Aids in cats. The virus is host specific and Feline Aids is a cat-only infection. There is an asymptomatic period after exposure before Aids develops.

There is no cure for the disease and eventually the virus causes decreased white blood cell counts and the cats immune system is compromised, making the cat vulnerable to life threatening infections.

The average life expectancy is 5 years from time of diagnosis.

How do cats become infected?

The major route of virus transmission is through deep bite wounds during cat fighting. Queens do not readily infect kittens except in the initial stages of infection.

Casual contact through mutual grooming, shared bowls are not associated with transmission of the virus.

What happens to a cat that is infected?

In the first few days after it is infected your cat may show signs of ill health, such as a slight fever but it is unlikely that you would notice these minor changes.

Usually several years after exposure the cats immune system will become deficient and they will become susceptible to various infections.

How wide spread is the infection?

FIV is more common in populations where there are large numbers of un-neutered male cats. Up to 14% of cats in New Zealand carry the virus.

Because there is a long gap between infection and clinical signs, the disease is more commonly seen in cats between six and ten years old.

PETFRONT

How do I know if my cat has Feline Aids?

Cats do not show any clinical symptoms until there failing immune symptom predisposes them to secondary infections.

A blood test to assess for antibodies to the Feline Aids Virus is available. Cats take up to two months to develop antibodies after contracting the virus, during this period they will test negative.

The FIV virus is not of much concern for indoor cats. However outdoor cats are at risk for contracting the disease and the American Association of Practitioners recommends annual testing of cats.

What can be done to prevent cats contracting the disease?

Confining cats to indoors especially at night will significantly decrease the chance of exposure to the Feline Aids Virus.

Neutering significantly reduces fighting and hence the number of bite wounds an individual receives (the major route of transmission of FIV)

Vaccination should be considered in high-risk individuals eg those that fight regularly. However the following points need to be considered before the decision to vaccinate can be made.

A FIV vaccination has recently become available in New Zealand. There are five known subtypes of Feline Aids. The primary subtypes in New Zealand are A and C.

The vaccine provides protection against subtype A, B and D. The vaccine company thinks that it may provide protection against the subtype C found in New Zealand but this as not been proven.

The vaccine will provide protection in 3 to 4 out of 5 cats against subtype A.

This means that vaccinated cats may still contract the virus. The other concern with the vaccination is that vaccinated

cats test positive with the current commercially available Feline Aids test.

This makes it difficult to differentiate truly infected cats from vaccinated cats.

A new test to look for the virus has become available in Australia and should be available to us in the near future. *Cats that are going to be vaccinated must be tested first to ensure they are not already harbouring the virus.*

Vaccinated cats must also be micro chipped to avoid confusion if the cat does test positive on a feline aids test.

What lifestyle changes are required for cats with feline aids?

Spread of infection to other cats will be limited by keeping the infected cat indoors. Having an infected cat neutered may reduce the risk of him passing the disease to other cats. Avoid raw foods that may contain pathogens that could overwhelm the suppressed immune system of infected cats.

Continue with the cat's routine vaccinations and appropriate parasite control. Biannual checks with blood and urine tests are important to assess for infections or organ failure. An immune suppressed cat can increase exposure of immune compromised agents to immune suppressed people. This situation should be avoided.

Cats that live together in a household are unlikely to fight, however if there is a chance that they may inflict deep bite wounds to each other then it would be advised to keep them separate.

Immune stimulating agents and antiviral drugs are available however none of these products have been shown to be definitively beneficial.

By Dr Kurt Wolsky



MICRO CHIPPING FACTS

Which dogs need micro chipping ?

Any newly registered dog (working dogs are exempt) or dangerous dog. That means you don't have to have your older dog micro chipped, if they are already registered , unless you shift into a new territorial authority area.

Who keeps the records of my dog's microchip?

We will keep details of your pet's Micro chip number and details, and the council will store them on the National Dog Database. Vets can not access these details so we still recommend that your Pet's details are entered on the Australasian Animal registry(AAR) as well.

Lifetime registration can be paid for at the time of chipping and this will help repatriate any lost and found dog, any where in NZ and Australia.

What does it cost to get my dog micro chipped?

This can vary. Some councils have increased their registration fees for **ALL** dogs, and then insert the chip for **free**.

We currently charge \$39.50 to insert a chip and provide a certificate, with another \$20 for lifetime registration on the AAR. Our chips are sterilely and painlessly inserted, usually with a bit local anaesthetic.

PETFRONT

BEAGLEMANIA WITH ABBY ROSE

Abby Rose is a very special 11 month Beagle puppy who is well known and loved by the staff at the Chapel Road Veterinary Clinic and the Manukau Veterinary Group. Most puppies are only seen for routine vaccinations desexing worming and flea treatment, however young Abby, keeping her parents on their toes, has already needed two major surgeries along with her routine care.

Earlier this year Abby needed an enterotomy to remove a pebble that she had swallowed. The pebble blocked her intestines and this caused her to become ill very quickly with vomiting and dehydration. Her latest escapade was a more dramatic affair and started with an enthusiastic rabbit chase.



Unfortunately in her excitement with the chase she careered off a 35-metre cliff plunging onto rocks below. Her quick thinking owners managed to retrieve her and rushed her to our surgery where she was immediately assessed and placed onto intravenous fluids via a fluid pump. Once pain relief was given and she was stabilised we were able to assess her injuries.

Xrays were taken to rule out spinal, chest or pelvic injuries. It was noted that she did sustain a fractured humerus (upper forelimb bone) which needed surgical repair, but the good news was that she was relatively unscathed considering her life threatening fall.

Once we were happy that Abby was stable enough to undergo a general anaesthetic, Dr David Barrowman, who has a special interest in orthopaedics and is part of the team, undertook repair of Abby's fractured leg.

During the procedure Abby received intravenous fluids to maintain a normal blood pressure and to reduce the risks of anaesthesia. We were also able to monitor her blood oxygenation and heart rate with our portable pulse oximeter machine. Intravenous antibiotics and on going pain relief was also part of her treatment plan.

We are happy to report that Abby is healing well and will have her pin removed once healing is completed in a few weeks. Exercise restriction is important until this time, but as you can imagine this is easier said than done with such a wonderful energetic character!



By Dr Andrea Gits

FAMILY HEALTH DIARY

Following the success of the 2005 showing of the Family Health Diary in conjunction with FRONTLINE® Plus, Merial (the manufacturers of FRONTLINE Plus) has undertaken to conduct a full season of screenings until the end of December 2006. Feedback from veterinary clinics and FRONTLINE customers from last season was outstanding, and Merial was thrilled that clinics also supported the educational message that only FRONTLINE Plus can deliver.

Screenings of Family Health Diary will run every week commencing mid October right through until December. There will be handy hints and amazing flea facts with which you can startle your friends and amaze your family!

AS SEEN ON



The Family Health Diary magazine will also be available from our veterinary clinic throughout the showing season. Just ask at reception.

So come in and see us, pick up your copy of the Family Health Diary magazine, and ask your veterinarian about fleas. As a special offer there is a voucher for \$2 off FRONTLINE Plus for people who mention this article at time of purchase.

Remember, treat all your pets, all year round with FRONTLINE Plus – and read up on health tips for your family and your pets, and ask us in clinic all about fleas!

Go to www.scratchy.co.nz for info on keeping your pet flea free.

\$2.00 OFF
with this voucher

(Only redeemable at a Manukau Veterinary Group Clinic. Expiry 31 December 2006. Not transferable. Conditions apply.)
To the clinic: please provide proof of purchase with this voucher to your Merial territory Manager for redemption.

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