



Village Vets Summer Newsletter January 2013

Happy New Year for
2013.



Hope you have been able to have a good break and recharge for the coming year.

We look forward to seeing you at the clinic soon.

Don't forget to check your pets' vaccination status - if you are heading away most kennels and catteries require up to date shots...



Pet Insurance



We are seeing a lot of new kittens and puppies recently – so now is a good time to consider pet insurance (for all your pets – not just new arrivals). The cost of veterinary care has not got any cheaper and complex treatments can run into the \$1000's. Pet insurance can provide peace of mind. With premiums as low as \$10/month this cover is achievable for most households. The company we recommend provides 1 month free cover for animals aged up to 20 weeks. **Worth considering...**



FLEA ME PLEASE - MONTHLY IS NOT RECOMMENDED...

WHO'S ROCKIN' THE JOINT? LIVING WITH OSTEOARTHRITIS

According to one reputable pharmaceutical company 1 in 3 cats and 1 in 5 dogs suffer from some form of degenerative joint disease (DJD) or arthritis in their lifetime. Arthritis is a lifelong condition involving progressive deterioration in one or more joints and includes the following processes:

- 🐾 Decreased blood flow – blockages of the blood vessels prevent good nutrition of the joint
- 🐾 Loss of joint fluid – the body's natural joint lubricant is of a poor quality
- 🐾 Loss of joint cartilage – the body's natural shock absorber breaks down
- 🐾 Immune response – the body's response to abnormal processes causes joint inflammation and pain

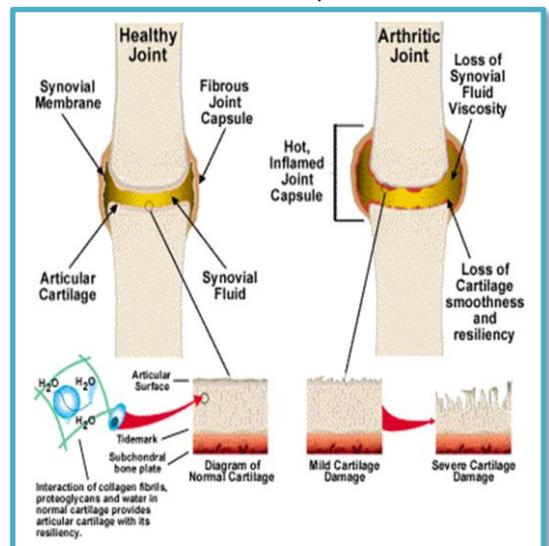
Signs of arthritis may vary. In cats you may see less frequent play, sleeping more often, or a hesitation to climb stairs or jump onto tables etc. In dogs you may see a reluctance to play or go for a walk, trouble in climbing into the car or up the stairs, stiffness on rising and in some cases a change in behaviour due to chronic pain.

Recent advances in both pain relief, promotion of cartilage repair and nutritional support give a variety of choices to help manage this condition. We have had good success with a number of cases and have restored the animals' quality of life. This includes:

- ❖ PPS treatment to repair and promote healthy joints
- ❖ EFA and nutritional supplements to support repair
- ❖ Long term pain relief (We use meloxicam as 1st choice)
- ❖ Weight loss – a big factor!

If you are worried your pet might be suffering from any of the above symptoms come in and see us. Diagnosis can be made from clinical signs, history and physical exam - but sometimes x-rays are needed to confirm.

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LET'S BE CAREFUL OUT THERE: A QUICK GUIDE TO THE DANGERS OF POISONING

With a recent case of rat bait poisoning and notification from the NZ veterinary association about potential poison dangers this summer we thought it timely to give you a brief update on some of the dangers faced by your pets.

Rat-bait poisoning:

These baits are classified as either: first generation, intermediate or second generation rodenticides. Regardless of the product all the anticoagulants have the same basic action by blocking the recycling of Vitamin K in the liver. Rodenticide baits are generally dyed to permit easy identification and are very palatable – to get the target species to eat them!

The clinical presentation of poisoned dogs can be variable and very nonspecific. Lethargy, with or without coughing can often be the only presenting sign however the clinical signs generally reflect some type of bleeding. The animal may show pale mucous membranes, bleeding noses, bruising, bloody motions or urine. Our recent case presented at the clinic showed neurological signs with tremors and a very high temperature. Treatment involves the administering of Vitamin K either by injection or with an oral solution. Treatment is necessary for up to 3 – 4 weeks in some cases. Severe cases may require blood transfusions

Toxic Algae:

While not all species of algae are toxic, cyanobacteria – forms brown or black clumps that are found in rivers and at the river's edge. These algae can kill livestock and dogs which may eat algal mats, or ingest algae when they drink water from a watercourse. Algal growth often increases during the summer because of warmer temperatures, lower river flows and lake levels, and infrequent rainfall to flush the algae away. The Hutt River was declared a no-go area in February 2012 due to this very reason. Check the WRC website for more details: [TOXIC ALGAE](#) Symptoms of poisoning in animal include lethargy, muscle tremors, fast breathing, twitching, paralysis and convulsions. In extreme cases death can occur within 30 minutes after signs first appear.

1080 poisoning:

In late 2012 the WRC began an eradication scheme in the Rimutakas ([DETAILS](#)) – the first since 2007. This is using 1080 as the primary poison. 1080 is used in the form of a paste, cereal pellets, carrot baits, gels and fish-based pellets, depending on the species targeted and the terrain. Secondary poisoning is common in dogs because of their scavenging habits, and particularly when the dog consumes the whole carcass including the gastrointestinal tract. Dogs are particularly sensitive to 1080 and should be muzzled in areas where 1080 has been laid. Secondary poisoning can also occur in cats. In carnivores (cats and dogs) 1080 causes central nervous system disturbance and can result in convulsions and death from respiratory failure. It is not a pleasant thing to see a dog with 1080 poisoning. There is no known antidote; supportive therapy is the only thing that can be done.

Early treatment essential:

This is the key. A good history as to what the toxin might be, induced vomiting to remove as much poison as possible, activated charcoal to absorb any remainder and supportive therapy are needed to get a positive result from a bad situation. Hopefully it won't happen to you but call us immediately if you think you have a problem. **VV**



Did you know you can register your cat or dog's microchip ID on a national database? (Companion Animal Register) Handy if your pet goes missing when on holiday or out of the area

Come along to the Glenside Show on Wellington Anniversary Day. (January 21st)

There is a pet parade being judged by none other than Village Vets – no we cannot be bribed!!

