



Bay of Islands Veterinary Services

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Pawprints Newsletter Autumn 2013

In our Autumn edition of "Pawprints" newsletter, read about:

Photo Competition Winner announced

Reintroducing Geraldine – our resident Vet in Paihia is enjoying new dental X-Ray facilities

Autumn Pet Care tips –pesticides continue to cause life-threatening situations; protect our cats and our native wildlife

Microchips - ensure your pet is on the NZCAR lost and found registrar

Sprocket the Rocket - from Okaihau lucky to be alive after receiving an air rifle pellet through the head

Autumn Promotions – the latest food and flea treatment promotions

Photo Competition Winners – Pets Enjoying our Northland Spring/Summer!

Thank you for all our fabulous entries for the photo competition. You certainly have some gorgeous pets and it was great to see them enjoying Northland just as much as we do. The Kerikeri SPCA kindly agreed to vote on our behalf. John Logie, SPCA Manager said how inspiring it was to see the many loving families our pets in Northland enjoy every day. Britney's foster Mum is now the proud owner of a digital photo frame and all 3 winners get to take home a 6kg bag of Hill's™ VetEssentials™ nutritious dog food.



Overall Winner was foster dog, Beach Babe "Britney", taken on her first outing after 10 months behind a chain link fence.



Runner's up "Rain" & "Cass" try their hands (paws) kayaking! & "Kruza" the Labrador enjoying the smell of Spring Flowers.

Reintroducing Geraldine

Geraldine Gorman was born in Ireland and immigrated to New Zealand via Zimbabwe with her husband, Hugh, and their 3 children in 1994 (later number 4 was born in NZ). Geraldine has been the resident Vet in our Paihia clinic since early 2000 and has spent the last couple of years increasing her expertise in the field of small animal dentistry. Geraldine passed her exams to become a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary surgeons in small animal Dentistry and Oral Surgery in 2010. She is one of only a couple of Vets in New Zealand who have this qualification and she has helped us to raise awareness of dental issues and treatments for our clients' pets. Late last year we invested in new dental x-ray facilities and equipment in Paihia. The image to the right is an x-ray image of the lower canine teeth in a cat, showing root resorption and surrounding bone damage affecting one tooth. This cat had pain when eating but showed no obvious signs in the mouth so the x-ray revealed the hidden problem.



Beware – Slug Bait or Rat Bait Poisoning?

This continues to be an all too common occurrence in our region. Especially as the weather gets colder and these pesticides are used around the home and in the garden.



Please remember to lay bait in a place where it can't be ingested by your cat or dog. It is also extremely important you know which type of poison has been ingested as they require different approaches to treatment.

If you have pets and need to use slug/snail bait in your garden, we recommend using 'Quash' which is much safer than the others. 'Mesuroi' can poison but has an antidote treatment. Unfortunately the commonly used 'Blitzem' (metalddehyde) has no antidote available.



Cat Population – harming bird life?

The issue of wild cats and their effects on New Zealand's bird life has received attention in the media recently and is one which provokes a variety of strong emotions in many people. Cats are obligate carnivores – they must eat meat or meat based diets to survive. They are skilled hunters whether feral or owned and because they are an introduced species in New Zealand many birds have no natural fear of them. Feral cats have a high reproductive rate and their numbers can increase rapidly in favourable conditions – e.g. if they are regularly fed by the public. Feral cats may carry and spread diseases such as toxoplasma, feline leukaemia, feline AIDs and cat scratch fever and they cause injury to pet cats by fighting. There are many views on how we should deal with feral cats in our communities but as individuals there is much we can do to prevent the problem and ensure that our own cats are not a threat to wildlife.

- Neuter all cats before they are old enough to breed
- Lock up all cats at nights
- Use bells on collars to warn birds
- Microchip your cat so that if it does stray or get lost it can be returned to you
- Consider making an enclosed cat pen to prevent cats wandering, more info. at: <http://www.catnets.co.nz/>

Microchipping is not Registration

NZCAR (New Zealand Companion Animal Registrar) is a Lost and Found service that has had an increasing number of calls to their 0800 line from owners who have had their dog or cat microchipped, however they have not paid to be on a pet register. When the animal goes missing they are upset because they weren't aware a register was needed. Microchips carry a number, but this number means nothing unless it is linked to your details on a database. When dogs are registered with the FNDC they go onto the National dog database, but this is not very accessible. If someone finds your lost dog or cat, they may need to find you urgently and out of normal working hours. We offer NZCAR registration as an extra at the time of microchipping but, if you missed that opportunity, we can do it for you at any time. Registration cost is \$15.30. Visit <http://www.animalregister.co.nz/Default.aspx> to check if your pet is registered.

Free Microchip Rechecks

If you received a letter from us to say your microchip may not be working, please be sure to bring your pet in for checking as we have needed to make several replacements already.

Summer Frontline Plus Winners

Congratulations to all our Summer Frontline Plus Winners:

Free Frontline: Adriane Boase, Leonie Main (Kaikohe), Kyra Topia, Robin Rhodes (Paihia), Pam Coates (Kawakawa), Jodie Scott (Kerikeri), Shane Dromgool, Brent House (Waipapa).

Breville Coffee Machines: Felicity Jack (Kerikeri), Anthony Pivac (Paihia).

Desexing Draw for 1 pack of Frontline Plus: Olive Ashby (Kaikohe).

World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) Conference coming to Auckland

This month 4 of our Veterinarians are lucky enough to be attending this Conference, which is being held for the first time in Auckland. Toni, Shirley, Joanna and Maren will be hearing about the latest and greatest veterinary diagnosis and treatment options for pets during this 4 day Congress programme. They are looking forward to bringing home the new information for the benefit of the pets in the Bay of Islands.

Sprocket survives air rifle pellet...

Sprocket was our Clinic cat in Kerikeri for a couple of years until finding a home with our, then Clinic Coordinator, Joey in Okaihau. He is a super cheeky cat with an attitude and no fear. His comfy “shark” bed used to sit on the front counter and he would sleep all day on top of Joey’s computer screen back in the day. At 5pm he would go and hide somewhere either in the shop or drug room and then used to set the alarm off when everyone had gone home! He’s the sort of cat that makes friends with anyone or anything!

Back in November last year he returned home one morning swaying and very drunk like. Joey thought straight away he had been hit by a car. There was blood to one side of his head... so very carefully he was bundled up and taken into the Kerikeri clinic, where he was given pain relief. On shaving his head wound however, we came across a small round hole.... maybe it had been a dog attack? And then after clipping the other side of his head we struck a bump which felt like a round pellet. X-rays were taken to confirm it was an air rifle pellet ...

From that day we took one day at a time and he has slowly improved over a few weeks.

The other day he managed to climb his favourite tree and play fight with his mate, a Cornish Rex, so with each day his confidence is getting stronger but we think he will be left with some degree of deafness. Just another reminder how fatal air rifles can be! Identifying your target is essential. Be careful and double check – that suspected pest could be someone’s precious pet!



The pellet shows up clearly on the X-ray (left bottom).

Current Promotions



Eukanuba 12kg or larger bags: Puppy, Adult Breed, Specific & Daily Care \$20.00 off, while stocks last.



Check out this fabulous promotion with Frontline Plus – **2 draws for a \$500 Garden Hamper and 1 draw nationwide for a \$10,000 garden makeover or Husquvarna Mower.**



Two free feline frenzy mugs with the purchase of any bag from the great tasting Hill’s™ Science Diet™ and VetEssentials™ 2 kg and above bag from the Feline range.

For the latest in store savings and giveaways, visit our promotions page at: <http://www.bayvets.co.nz/Promotions.html>