



Bay of Islands Veterinary Services

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Pawprints Newsletter Summer 2013-14

Season's Greetings to You and Your Pets from Bay of Islands Vets

In our Summer edition of "Pawprints" newsletter, read about

- *Pet Care Holiday & Travel Tips
- *The Perfect Stocking Filler & Dog Treats for the Christmas Tree
- *Kiwis for Kiwis Campaign
- *Why is My Dog Scratching?
- *Rachel passes her Final Certificate in Veterinary Nurse Exam
- *Newsflash - Never Struggle to Worm Your Cat with a Pill
- *Rabbit & Guinea Pig Diets* & *Shade 7 Umbrella Winners Announced



Pet Care Holiday and Travel Checklist

More than half of Kiwi pet owners take their beloved animals on holiday with them, a new survey has revealed as reported in the New Zealand Herald, 18/10/2013. "But it's not just dogs that get to enjoy a break - guinea pigs, birds and even fish are going away too. The survey, by travel website Wotif.co.nz, found that more than half of Kiwi pet owners surveyed took their pets on holiday." So what can you do to make sure your pet travels safely or if left at home is well cared for. Most importantly you should ensure the following:



- ✓ A microchip has been inserted, and registered on the national database in case your pet decides to go walkabout while you are gone.
- ✓ Vaccinations, flea and worm treatments are up to date as, your pet will be in a new environment and doesn't want to be exposed to easily preventable illnesses and irritations.
- ✓ Motion sickness can impact the whole family. Just like humans, when your dog is car sick, travelling can turn into an unpleasant experience. One option, approved to prevent vomiting due to motion sickness in dogs, is CERENIA® (maropitant citrate). Make an appointment to discuss further with one of our team.
- ✓ Behaviour modification may be needed if your pet hasn't travelled in a vehicle before – ask us about DAP, a natural pheromone spray which can help the dog feel more at ease.
- ✓ Are the kennels/catteries booked or if staying behind is somebody available to check on and feed, water and exercise your pet? Is there plenty of shade and water available?

The Perfect Stocking Filler - A tasty treat that cleans teeth

If the your pet wants a treat, try Greenies, the teeth-scrubbing, breath-freshening treats with added natural sources of antioxidants to promote a healthy immune system and dietary fibre for digestibility. Not to mention, they taste better than ever!

- ✓ Biometric shape to reduce plaque & tartar build up, as developed by Waltham® the world's leading authority on pet care and nutrition
- ✓ Greenies™ contains chlorophyll, which has natural odour absorbing properties and helps Greenies™ to significantly reduce bad breath
- ✓ 100% soluble, 90% digestible
- ✓ 100% complete and balanced nutrition
- ✓ No wheat gluten, reducing allergens
- ✓ Less plaque, tartar & gingivitis = happier pets & fewer dental costs for owners
- ✓ Our recipe now carries the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) Seal of Acceptance



Did you leave enough room for your kittens to grow?



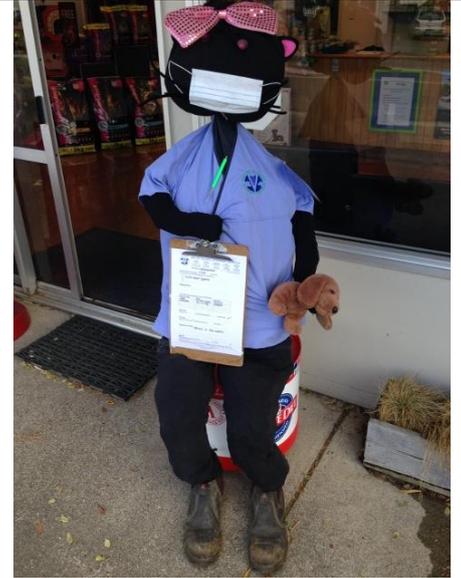
When planting your cats make sure to space them 6 inches apart so they have room to grow.

Kiwis for Kiwis Campaign

In October we were keen to raise awareness of our dwindling kiwi numbers, by supporting the Kiwi for Kiwis Campaign. In Northland, for example, dogs have surpassed stoats, ferrets and cats as the main kiwi killer. Dogs and cats can be very dangerous for wild kiwi. Dogs are particularly hard on adult birds, while cats are a big threat to young kiwi chicks. Check out the website for tips on how to ensure your animals are safe around kiwi.

<http://www.kiwisforkiwi.org/resources/dogs-cats/>

Our Scarecrow Entry for the Kerikeri Garden Safari



Why is my dog scratching?

The number one cause of excessive scratching in dogs in Northland is fleas. With modern flea control, you may not even see live fleas on your pet, as the chemical will quickly kill the flea. However the flea will still have had time to bite your pet and make it itchy. If the itch is over the lower back, it is highly likely that fleas are the problem.

Parasites like ticks are easy to see and deal with, but there are some other skin parasites which are microscopic. One of these is a mite called Sarcoptes which can make dogs extremely itchy. It is highly contagious, can be very hard to find, but is easy to treat. Another mite, called Demodex, is easier to find but harder to treat.

Another common cause of itching is a rash caused by Tradescantia [also known as Wandering Jew or Wandering Willie]. This weed grows in uncultivated areas and near waterways. The sap of the plant causes a rash on hairless skin, like the dog's belly, and it can look like masses of mosquito bites. It is important to keep affected dogs away from this plant especially when it is growing fast in warm, wet weather.

About 1 in 10 dogs can have skin allergies to things like house dust mite, pollens or various plants. These dogs often show up with itchy ears and feet, with signs starting between 1 and 3 years old. While we may not be able to cure the allergy, there are lots of things that can be done to help.

About 1 in 50 dogs can have itchy skin due to a food allergy. Usually the pet is allergic to a type of protein (i.e. beef, dairy, wheat or soy). To test if a dog has a food allergy, an elimination diet will need to be trialled. The wonderful thing about this allergy is that once the cause is identified, the dog's problem can often be resolved just by dietary management.

Many dogs with itchy skins develop infections which make them even itchier. A very important part of treatment is checking for, treating, and controlling infections.

Dealing with a constantly itchy dog can be very frustrating – for the dog, the owner and the Vet! We can help a lot but often these pets need on-going management and every case is likely to need a tailor made treatment. New medications are being researched all the time and we will keep you updated as they become available.



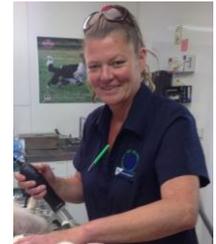
Tasty Dog Treats for the Christmas Tree

These tasty treats by Pacific Organics in Matakana have brought out a special Christmas range*. Be it a rich reward for being good, eagerness to be helpful, best performance or big 'I love my best friend'. These treats are made with New Zealand Organic ingredients including Real Local Bacon, Roasted Lambs Fry, Chicken, Turkey, Tripe, Roast Beef, Hoki Fish Oil, Kelp powder, Glucosamine and Chondroitin, Molasses, Local Organic Blueberries, Hazels from Blenheim, Wholemeal Flour from Ashburton to mention a few. We are often told "they look and smell good enough to eat" Best fresh quality ingredients that you would buy if you were to make them yourself.* In selected clinics and while stocks last.



Upcoming Graduation for Rachel Byfield

Recently Rachel completed her Certificate in Veterinary Nursing from Otago Polytechnic. Rachel has worked in the Practice for the last 15 years starting as a part time staff member and last year taking on the role of Head Veterinary Nurse in the Kerikeri clinic. Her interests include surgical nursing as well as customer service. In addition, Rachel has a vast knowledge of equine health and training which she uses to teach dressage and show jumping to children and adults alike.



Newsflash - Never Struggle to Worm Your Cat with a Pill Again – Use New Broadline!

At long last we can recommend an economical, easy to administer topical wormer that does all the worms (Round worm, Tape worm and Hook worms) as well as fleas and ticks. No longer do you have to use pills to worm your cats; you simply apply new Broadline to the back of the cat's neck. We recommend interspersing it with their usual flea control, where it will cost no more than using Frontline plus a worm pill.



Rabbit & Guinea Pig Diets

We often talk about the importance of good nutrition for our canine and feline friends but equally if you have rabbits or guinea pigs you want to make sure you are meeting their nutritional needs as well. For instance did you know that hay should account for 70-80% of rabbits & guinea pigs diets? If you don't have ready access to good quality hay, some of our clinics sell compacted meadow hay which makes up to 25 litres filling a large fish bin. RRP \$8.90



Safe to Feed	Do not feed
Broccoli, Celery Leaves, Grapes, Puha, Raspberries, Snow Peas	Avocado, Beans, Mushrooms, Rhubarb, Potato, Sweet Peas

Shade 7 Umbrella Winner

Phillipa Moor from Waimate North & the Wells Family from Kawakawa won a Shade 7 Umbrella each with the Spring Promotion for Frontline Plus/Broadline. Good luck to all entrants with the national draw for the outdoor furniture setting.



Current Promotions

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

What's cooking this Summer?

Purchase any FRONTLINE® Plus cat or dog pack or two packs of BROADLINE® from your veterinary clinic and go in the draw to **WIN** one of ten Weber Q220 portable BBQ's valued at \$599 each.*

Your pets will thank you too, as it is also the time of year when flea explosions can occur so this will give them the best flea protection.



WIN ME!
Weber Portable BBQ



FRONTLINE Plus
BROADLINE

spot-on solution for cats

Merial is a Sanofi company.

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****We have 2 x Weber Portable BBQs to be won across our Bay of Islands Veterinary Clinics****

Thank you to all our loyal clients for your trust and support through 2013. We hope you have a safe, restful and enjoyable festive season.