



Bay of Islands Veterinary Services

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Pawprints Newsletter Winter 2013

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

Senior Pets – make an appointment to take advantage of the savings with a Senior Health Check through June – August

Tammy and Nikita – we welcome resident kiwis who trained in Australia into the team!

Pet Care Tips – Motion Sickness; Repeat Prescriptions; Free Dental Checks, Free Microchip Checks; Best Dog Website

Hyperthyroidism – Albert receives the latest treatment

Congratulations - to our \$500 Gardening Hamper winners

Winter Promotions – food and flea treatment offers and savings



Seniors Pets, Early Disease Detection = The Best Medicine

Your pet may still behave like a puppy or kitten and look like a youngster, but after their 7th birthday* cats and dogs enter their senior years, the equivalent in human terms of entering your 50s.

Our pets are at a greater risk of developing age-related conditions such as joint, kidney, heart or dental disease and dementia. Regular visits to your vet will help identify medical conditions that could become evident or more pronounced in old age. The earlier these diseases are identified, the better the chances of managing them successfully. To help maximise your pet's health in their Senior years, we have put together a discounted Senior Health Package valid through June - August

- Physical Health Check for \$29.90**
- Free urine check – usually costs \$17 - \$34
- 10% off laboratory tests, if required
- Special offers on Senior food
- And 10% off bedding

For more ideas on looking after Seniors, visit our Senior Pet info. page: <http://www.bayvets.co.nz/Senior-Pets.html>

* 5 years for large and giant breed dogs – dogs over 25kg bodyweight

** Certain conditions apply



Suzanne Williams with her 14 year old cat, Tortie

New Faces in Kerikeri & Waipapa

In the last few months Tammy Sweetapple and Nikita Osborne have joined the practice. Both Tammy and Nikita grew up in Northland although completed their veterinary nurse (Tammy) and veterinarian (Nikita) training in Queensland.

Tammy has worked as a Dairy Farm Manager on various farms milking up to 400 cows before completing her Certificate in Veterinary Nursing at AIRC in Queensland. Tammy and her family are proud owners of 2 guinea pigs and 3 working dogs.



As some of you may know Nikita is a keen horsewoman, she particularly enjoys eventing and dressage. In her spare time, Nikita likes all water sports although wake boarding and kite surfing are probably her favourites.



Check out the Doogle Website

Doogle, was designed as a dog-specific website to create something that recognized the unique bond between dogs and people. It is also a space that provides new dog owners with support services for the development, training, health and wellbeing of their dogs from infancy right through to old age. <http://www.doogle.co.nz/>

Does your pet suffer from motion sickness?

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.

Free Dental Checks Continue

By the time dogs and cats show signs of dental disease such as bad breath or having trouble eating, they often have advanced dental disease, and quite often will end up needing to have teeth removed. Having a dental check can allow us to detect problems in the mouth and discuss preventative measures to stop or slow-down plaque formation before it results in periodontal disease. **Book an appointment** and have your pet's mouth examined to find out if there are any issues with their teeth that need to be dealt with.

Albert Receives the Latest Treatment for Hyperthyroidism

Molly and Albert Ramsay shifted north to Kerikeri from Nelson in 2012. Shortly after arriving in Kerikeri Albert was seen by Bay of Islands Vets. Albert is 18 yrs old and had lost weight and condition. After performing a blood test to check his thyroid hormone levels, it was found that Albert was hyperthyroid. This means that his thyroid gland was producing too much thyroid hormone or thyroxine. This is not an uncommon finding in elderly cats, and is usually due to a benign tumour of the thyroid gland. The common clinical signs of Hyperthyroid cats are deterioration of the coat condition and weight loss even though the cats' appetites are still often heightened. Their heart



rates are rapid and bounding and you can often feel this by placing a hand on the side of the chest wall. Cats may show all or only some of these signs. Albert had definitely lost weight and his fur was no longer thick and velvety. Once diagnosed Albert was started on twice daily oral medication in the form of a tablet, however Albert turned out to be a demon to pill, and so the decision was made to start Albert on the Hills y/d Hyperthyroid kibble food as an alternative form of controlling the production of thyroxine by his thyroid gland. Albert was however one step ahead of us again, and he declined to eat the new food. As his weight was already too low, any anorexia only exacerbated his poor body condition. Luckily for Albert, a new vehicle for medication administration had just come on the market. This new thyroid medication is a measured amount of paste that is smeared on the inside of the ear, once daily. So Albert started on the HyperT transdermal paste and it has worked a treat. He has gained weight and his fur is thick and luxurious now. Molly says it's like having the old Albert back again.

Congratulations Monique and Lyle

Who both won a \$500 Garden Hamper in the Frontline Plus competition. The nationwide \$10,000 garden makeover/ Husquvarna Mower winner was Sarah Taylor from Tuakau.



Kaikohe's Monique Brennan



Kawakawa's Lyle Dodds

Microchip Checks – Free of Charge

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. Please be assured that both the check and the replacement (if necessary) are free of charge.

Repeat Prescriptions – Help Us to Help You

We are always striving to provide you with the best possible service which includes minimizing waiting times. If your pet needs a repeat prescription, it would be great if you could:

- Ring 24 hours in advance for a repeat prescription so we can endeavour to have this ready for you.
- Avoid waiting until the last dose is taken before requesting a repeat prescription – get in touch a day or 2 before.

We would be happy to recycle your old prescription pottles.

See our Website for Current Food and Flea Promotions <http://www.bayvets.co.nz/Promotions.html>

Would you like to receive our newsletter by email? Email us, and receive an extra 20 Pet Club Points! info@bayvets.co.nz