

# BLOCKHOUSE BAY VETERINARY CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2017

Dear Client,

As I write this the silly season has not started but I know it's coming. The young nurses want to organise secret Santa presents and decorate the clinic. I refuse to let them do anything before December.

Nearly every business gets really busy in December and our vet clinic is exactly the same.

I would suggest therefore that you get prepared nice and early this year.

If you haven't booked the kennels/cattery you have probably left it too late but get that done.

Make sure your pets vaccinations are up to date before they need to go into the kennels/cattery. Don't leave it to the last minute.

Make sure your pet has adequate food and medicines to get you through the holiday periods. We are only closed the statutory holidays but most of the wholesalers close the entire holiday period.

If you have been slack with the flea treatments over the winter then get them on now as the flea population can explode in the warm weather.

We would like to wish you and all your furry family member a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Lance, Jacqueline, Geoff, Jess, Fiona, Vanessa, Kirsty and Ashleigh.



## Pet Photo Competition.



This is last years winner showing Macgyver about to have a drink.

For the twelfth year running our pet photo competition is back for the summer.

The winner will receive a years supply of **Advocate** kindly sponsored by Bayer .

We love seeing what your furry family members have been up to so send us those pictures.

With all competitions there are terms and conditions so please take note below.

1- Maximum of two photo's per entrant. We are going to be strict this year. If you send us all the photo's you have ever taken of your pets you will not be eligible to win.

2- Photo must be taken by entrant.

3-Entries close 6th February 2017.

4- Winner announced 1st March 2017

5- Send entries to **[vets@bhbvets.co.nz](mailto:vets@bhbvets.co.nz)** with your name, the pets name and a contact phone number.

## My pet has a lump!

Finding a lump on our dogs and cats is pretty common especially as they get older. Many of these lumps will be benign growths or cysts that will not spread or make our pet unwell.

The concerning ones are the malignant skin cancers that can potentially be fatal.

One myth that I hear a lot is the lump is not painful or bothering the pet so it can't be cancer. This is simply false and should not be used as a guideline for getting a lump checked.

Malignant tumours tend to grow more rapidly than benign ones, so a rapidly growing lump should always be checked.

If you find a lump the vet can examine it to try to decide what type of growth it is. He or she will often ask how long have you noticed the lump. This is very useful information. A lump that has been present for over a year and hasn't grown, would be less concerning than one that has appeared and grown rapidly over the last two weeks.

The vet may be able to make a presumptive diagnosis from the lumps appearance but testing it will enable greater certainty. This can be done by a procedure called a fine needle aspirate which involves sticking a needle into the lump, to collect some cells and put them on a slide to be examined by the laboratory. This procedure is not always diagnostic but it is relatively cheap and simple to do.

Alternatively we may biopsy the lump which involves taking a piece of the lump or in some cases the whole lump and sending it again to the laboratory for examination via histopathology. This is generally more reliable in terms of making a diagnosis but often involves an anaesthetic and surgery.

We will often check over your pet for any lumps during its annual health check. If you find a lump that suddenly appears then it is best to get it checked by the vet. One thing to remember is a small lump is often a small simple surgery to remove, whereas a large lump can be a complicated surgery with longer recovery.



## The right to prescribe.

I am sure many of you don't give it a second thought that you come to see us at the vet clinic and we send you home with medicines for your pet. Some of these medicines are non-prescription medicines, such as worm and flea treatments which can be purchased over the counter and do not require a veterinary consultation.

Many medicines are prescription only medications (POM) and are controlled by strict regulations. For example as a vet I can prescribe antibiotics for your cat but it would be illegal for me to prescribe it for a person. Likewise I cannot prescribe POM for animals that are not my patients.

The rules state that for me to prescribe a POM for a patient it "must be under my care". It also states that the "care must be real and not just nominal".

You may be wondering how this affects you. Well often clients will ring up to get repeat medications for their pet. We will often simply make up more medications for your pet. However sometimes we will advise that the pet needs to come in for a check up before more drugs can be prescribed. This is usually because we have not seen the pet for awhile. Usually six months but varies depending on the drug prescribed.

We often get resistance to this request with comments such as "your just trying to get more money out of me". This is simply not true. Having a pet that is on long term medication reassessed makes a lot of sense anyway.

These rules are exactly the same for human doctors. Just try ringing your doctor and asking for a script when you haven't been for a year. They simply won't do it. I know because I have tried.

The right to prescribe drugs is a privilege I take very seriously. I also believe with the development of multiple resistant bacteria the right to prescribe antibiotics especially will be looked at much more closely.





# CASES OF THE MONTH

## Glazby stops speeding bullet with his eye!

Glazby is a nine year old male Tonkinese who was brought into the clinic with a very sore right eye. It looked like Glazby had been in a fight with another cat and had come off second best. He had a cut through his lower eyelid and his eye looked very red and sore.

It was decided that the best course of action would be to anaesthetise Glazby to examine his eye properly and to suture the lower eyelid.

If you have ever looked at a cats eye closely you will realise they have an extra eyelid that comes across from the inside corner of the eye and helps protect the eye. In fact most animals have a third eyelid, us humans are an exception.

When I examined Glazby's eye under general anaesthetic I was somewhat surprised as I could not see his third eyelid. On closer examination I realised the third eyelid was actually folded in half and was stuck under the eyeball. I carefully pulled the third eyelid out from under the eye and to my complete surprise out popped an air rifle bullet.

Glazby had not been in a fight but had been shot with a gun! The truly amazing thing was the third eyelid and caught the bullet like a catchers glove saving the eye from being hit.

Glazby's eyelid was sutured up and we took x-rays to make sure there were no more bullets.

The good news is Glazby made a full recovery with no permanent damage to the eye.

This case is a good reminder that it is often worth having a closer look when it comes to injuries as missing something can have serious consequences.

This is the first time I have removed a bullet from under a cats eye but sadly it is not the first time I have seen a cat shot. In fact we will often see these slug gun pellets on x-rays. In most cases they have been present a long time and are incidental findings, but we have also had to do some life saving surgeries.

I guess we all need to be vigilant as to who has these guns around us. We are talking about people firing guns in heavily populated residential areas.



## Keeping your pets safe this summer

1. Never leave your pet in a parked car.
2. Use pet friendly sunscreen. This is important on areas that are white or pink and have limited hair cover such as noses, ears and bellies (important for dogs that like to lie on their back).
3. Check for grass seeds after being in long grass. Grass seeds can get embedded in eyes, ears, noses and especially feet. These can burrow in and need to be surgically removed.
4. Have a safe BBQ. Don't give fatty leftovers to your dog, as this can be a trigger for pancreatitis. Never feed corn on the cob as this can cause an intestinal obstruction. Also avoid chocolate treats and fruit mince pies as these can be toxic to dogs.
5. Limit exercise on hot days and have water available for your dog to drink. A hot tip, if you place your hand on the pavement and it is too hot for your hand, it is too hot for your dog to walk on.
6. Be water wise. If you are a boatie consider having your pet wear a life vest. Be aware of strong currents that can sweep your dog away when swimming.
7. Provide shade and water. Any time your dog is outside make sure they have protection from the heat and plenty of fresh cold water.





## Breeze's Column– 10 years old.

Yes its true, I have just had my tenth birthday. You may be wondering why you didn't get an invite to the big spectacular birthday party. The reason is their wasn't one.

For awhile I thought it was going to be one of those surprise parties as my Mum and Dad got all dressed up in silly costumes. It turns out they were going to a Halloween party and I was not invited. Apparently ten dog years is like 65 human years. This means I can get a gold card and travel on the bus for free. I did hear something about a pension but have not seen anything yet.

I even had to go to work on my birthday and it was so busy I didn't get to go to the park for walkies. It was the suckiest birthday ever.

As I didn't have a party this year I have put a picture of my fourth birthday party below. Thought all of you who attended might like the picture and I can make you feel guilty about not sending me a present this year.

Hoping for a big eleventh birthday party.

Breeze.



## Cool Dog Facts

- A Dog's sense of smell is 10,000 – 100,000 times more acute as that of humans.
- Unlike humans who sweat everywhere, dogs only sweat through the pads of their feet.
- Dogs' eyes contain a special membrane, called the tapetum lucidum, which allows them to see in the dark.
- Puppies have 28 teeth and normal adult dogs have 42.
- Dalmatian puppies are pure white when they are born and develop their spots as they grow older.
- Dogs and humans have the same type of slow wave sleep (SWS) and rapid eye movement (REM) and during this REM stage dogs can dream. The twitching and paw movements that occur during their sleep are signs that your pet is dreaming.
- It pays to be a lap dog. Three dogs (from First Class cabins!) survived the sinking of the Titanic – two Pomeranians and one Pekingese.

## Holiday Opening Hours

Saturday 24th Dec Open 8.30am-12.00pm  
Sunday 25th-Tuesday 27th Closed  
Wednesday 28th-Friday 30th Open  
Saturday 31st Open 8.30am to 12.00pm  
Sunday 1st –Tuesday 3rd Closed  
Wednesday 4th-Normal hours.

If your pet needs medical care when we are closed contact.

Animal Emergency Centre ph 8492121 or  
Western After Hours ph 8207273

