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Companion Animal Newsletter

WINTER 2013

Is your pet fat and SAD?

Most people know obesity is on the rise in the human population, but you may not realise that our pets are getting fatter with us. It is easy to dismiss this problem, thinking your pet is "fat but happy". However, a lot of the animals we see are not fat and happy, they are fat and sad. As well as causing health problems, extra weight can make it hard for your pet to run and play and do the things it loves.

Obesity is unique because it is an entirely preventable condition. This does not mean it is an easy fix though. There are a lot of habits (of both pets and people) which need changing for successful, sustained weight loss. Many people find it easier with the guidance of a veterinary supervised weight loss programme, covering food, treats, exercise and regular weigh-ins to ensure all is on track. A range of tools to assist weight loss have recently been developed by Hill's Pet Food Company, including morphometric measurements to assess body fat percentage and a computer program allowing us to develop specialised weight loss plans for your pet.



Through June and July we will offer
FREE BODY FAT MEASUREMENTS AND WEIGHT LOSS CONSULTS

A client **information evening** will be held at the Pahiatua clinic (2 George Street) on **Tuesday the 18th of June at 7pm** for those interested in learning more about how you can help your pet stay trim and happy.



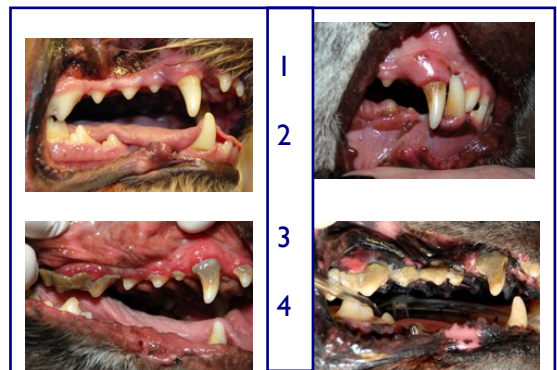
Faulty Microchips

Fair Go ran a story on the 15th of May about faulty microchips. A small percentage of microchips within a defined range are faulty (<4%). At TVS we have not used the microchips in question, however, if you would like your microchip checked, please contact us and one of our nurses can scan your pet's microchip(s).

Dental Month

Dental disease is the most common disease in cats and dogs. It starts with a build up of plaque on their teeth which leads to inflammation of the gums called gingivitis and rotten teeth. A lot of owners complain about their cat or dog smelling bad or having smelly breath. 80% of the time it is due to their teeth. During a physical exam a nurse will grade your pet's teeth on a scale from 1-4 using the following guidelines.

Grade 1 and 2 can be reversible with brushing and chewing on appropriate chew sticks and raw bones. Grade 3 and 4 are a bit more serious and may need a Vet Consult.



**FREE Dental Nurse Check
+ HILL'S TD Food Vouchers
through June & July**

**+ 24 HOUR
EMERGENCY CARE**
PAHIATUA 063768046
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We are on the Web
www.tararuavets.co.nz

Regular health checks are important for the early detection of disease in older pets. Our pets age much more quickly than we do. For every one year we age, our pets age 7 years. Large breed dogs age the fastest; cats and smaller dogs age more slowly. If we can detect problems or diseases early it may make it easier for you to help your pet lead a happier, healthier life.

We are currently offering a senior wellness special. This includes a check over and screening tests that allow us to detect many diseases before the signs are physically obvious. These tests include blood glucose, a urine test and a blood screen. This will detect diseases such as diabetes, kidney and liver disease and many other diseases. The blood screen will also show changes in red and white blood cells.

If your pet is seven years of age or older, give us a call to arrange a visit so we can perform a complete physical and arrange any further tests that may be appropriate for your pet.

Arthritis

Just like humans, our pets also suffer from arthritis. Osteoarthritis is a progressive condition in which the articular cartilage is slowly eroded. Joints affected by arthritic disease have pain, thickening and reduced range of motion. This is physically seen as lameness or weakness, but symptoms such as difficulty getting up, not wanting to play, weight gain or an attitude change may indicate arthritic pain.

There is no cure for arthritis but there are many options to help your pet live a more comfortable life. The first step is to schedule an appointment with your vet to diagnose your dog's condition and advise you on the best course of therapy.

Therapy options include:

A good start for arthritis management is to have somewhere warm to sleep with soft bedding. Coats can be beneficial through the colder months to keep your pet warm.

Regular exercise helps to keep the joints moving and builds strength in the muscles surrounding the joints. It is important not to over do it, small gentle walks may be all that is needed. Do not suddenly change exercise levels as this can put extra strain on your pets joints, muscles and ligaments.



Keeping your pet a healthy weight is very important. Excess weight puts a lot more stress on joints. If you are having difficulty getting your pet to lose weight please contact us.

Joint supplements such as Mobilize or Cat-Pep contain Glucosamine and Chondroitin. These are thought to promote healthy joints by slowing down the degradation of cartilage and to have an anti-inflammatory action on the joint. They are available over the counter.

Pentosan injections help with arthritis by improving blood flow to joints, reducing cartilage degeneration, promoting new cartilage formation and thickening the joint fluid.

Prescription joint diet. Hill's j/d diet contains glucosamine and other nutrients to help reduce inflammation and slows the degeneration of cartilage in the joints.

Ultimately most animals with advanced arthritis require anti-inflammatories to relieve pain and lead a good quality of life. There are a few different types available. These can be given daily (Rimadyl/Metacam) or monthly (Trocoxil). They can significantly improve your pets quality of life .

If your pet is lame or you are worried about arthritis please call us so we can arrange a visit to give your pet a physical exam and discuss the treatment options to suit you and your pet.

Winter Warmers

Come in to our clinics and check out our range of jackets, bedding and heat pads for cats and dogs.

**Book a FULL SENIOR WELLNESS CHECK
in June / July and SAVE up to \$36-**