



# SMALL ANIMAL NEWSLETTER

## SUMMER 2011



### Merry Christmas

The Staff at Tararua Vet Services would like to take this opportunity to thank our clients for your custom. We wish you and your family a great festive season.



### Fishhooks

As summer approaches you may be thinking of pulling out the fishing rod and going fishing. Remember if you have animals around, always put the hooks somewhere safe and always Remove the bait from the hook. The bait is very attractive to pets. We have already had one casualty this month where a puppy quickly swallowed a hook and it had to be surgically removed from the stomach.

Fishhooks can be eaten, embedded in the lips or the face, as well as the legs and paws. If your pet has ingested a fish hook, take him to your vet immediately. Removing fishhooks can be risky.

**DO NOT** pull the fishing line in an attempt to pull the hook out of the throat. Just as in a fish, the hook will grab onto a piece of the tissue and become imbedded, making surgery the only option for treatment. Fish hook removal will depend on where the hook is located.

Always be careful when walking dogs around places where people are fishing and keep fishing hooks out of reach from your pets.

**We finally have a website. Check us out**

[www.tararuaveterinaryservices.co.nz](http://www.tararuaveterinaryservices.co.nz)



The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with options: Home, About Us, Newsletter, Services & Resources, and Contact Us. The main content area features a 'Welcome to Tararua Veterinary Services' message, a '24 HOUR EMERGENCY CARE' section with contact numbers for Pahiatua and Dannevirke, and a list of services including companion animals, production animals, equine, and other livestock. A footer section provides detailed contact information for both locations, including phone numbers, fax numbers, and operating hours.

### A Guide To Whelping

#### Whelping – What is normal?

There are three stages of labour in a normal whelping:

The first stage of labour is usually 6-12 hours. A bitch may become restless, not eat, shiver and 'nest'.

The second stage of labour, hard straining and pup delivery usually lasts 6-12 hours but may vary from just a few hours to 18 hours. The first pup is usually produced within 15-60 minutes of forceful straining. There is usually about 30 minutes between pups, but it may take up to 4 hours.

The third stage of labour is the passing of the placentas. This may occur with each pup or later.

Some dogs prefer the owners to be present while whelping, most prefer to be left alone. Avoid intruding more than is necessary.

#### - When to call the Vet

The pregnancy goes over 68 days  
Stage one starts but nothing happens after 24 hours  
More than 2-3 hours of active labour since the last pup delivered  
30-60 minutes of strong contractions with no pup  
Pup stuck in the vulva and no progress  
Green discharge

#### - Problem Signs After Whelping

Pups continually crying.  
Pups losing or not gaining weight (or dying).  
No milk  
The bitch will have a bloody discharge that may last a few days or up to 6 weeks. However if it becomes thick or smelly seek veterinary attention.  
Bitches can become low in calcium (eclampsia) and deteriorate rapidly. Initially the bitch can be restless, stiff, twitchy and pants. Without treatment the dog will have fits and then die, so seek veterinary attention ASAP. Usually eclampsia can be prevented with a good diet.

#### TVS Terms of Trade

Our Terms of Trade have had a tightening up over the last few months. **ALL charges are to be paid for at the time of consultation. ALL products are to be paid for at time of purchase.** Credit may be applied for Emergencies if there is an existing credit arrangement. To apply for credit for an Emergency, a credit application will need to be completed and references checked.

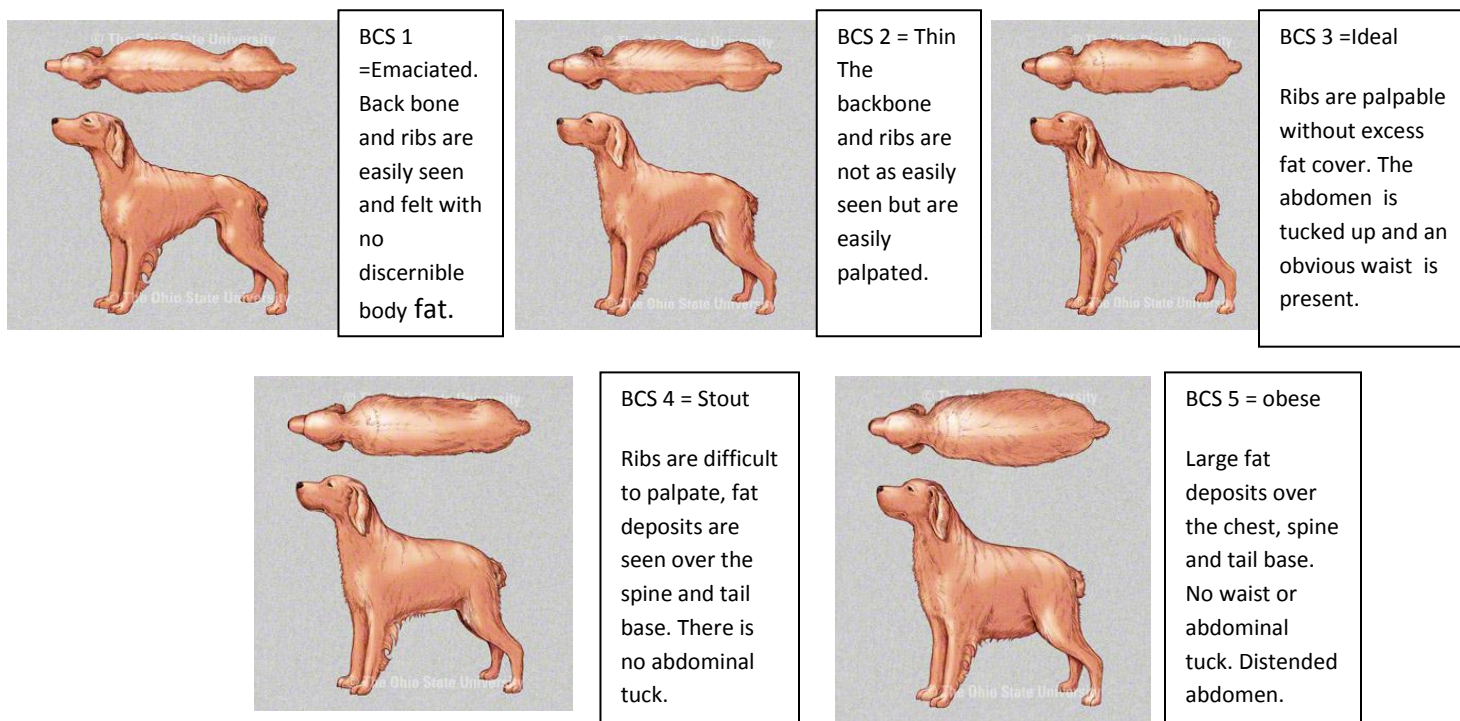


## OBESITY

Obesity is becoming a common issue in our furry friends. Obesity is classified as being more than 20% over the ideal bodyweight. This means that if your fox terrier has an ideal bodyweight of 9-10kg, they would be considered obese if they were greater than 12kg!

As owners, it is our responsibility to manage our pets weight. One of the reliable ways of determining whether your pet is overweight is to determine their body condition score. This involves looking at your animal from the side and from above to assess their body shape and fat cover. It is also important to feel their backbone and ribs to assist in determining their fat cover.

The following pictures are examples of each body condition score from 1-5.



Obesity puts a strain on the entire body and if your animal is overweight they are much more susceptible to the following diseases.

- Diabetes mellitus
- Pancreatitis
- Fatty Liver
- Constipation
- Osteoarthritis,
- Cruciate ligament rupture
- Spinal disease
- Urinary incontinence
- Cardiovascular disease
- Respiratory disease
- Increased surgical and anaesthetic risk
- Increased risk of infection

To correct obesity in your animal we recommend feeding a low calorie diet. The Advance weight control is a great, complete diet which we have seen some huge weight losses with. Other ways you can help to reduce your pets weight is to not feed them any kind of human foods. Table scraps can be very high calorie and often exceed your pets requirements. Feeding two smaller meals instead of one large meal each day can help with weight loss by aiding in increasing the animals metabolism. If your dog is a scavenger keep them tied up or in a restricted area when you are not able to supervise them. Exercise is also an important step in boosting our animals metabolism and helping to burn the excess fat. Swimming is great as it is gentle on their joints. Dogs should be exercised for at least half an hour 4 times a week. If you are concerned about your pet's weight, please come visit us at the clinic for a free weight check and for any advice. We are always happy to help!



Present this **voucher** at Tararua Veterinary Services to receive  
**\$5 off** a bag of Advance Weight Control for Dogs.