



# Hilton Veterinary Hospital

Website: [www.hiltonvethospital.co.za](http://www.hiltonvethospital.co.za)

72 Hilton Avenue Hilton 3245

Tel (033) 343-4602

Small Animal Veterinary Advice e-mail: [martin@hiltonvethospital.co.za](mailto:martin@hiltonvethospital.co.za)

Well the year is in and we have hit the ground running. This year we plan to continue driving our preventative care programmes for younger animals and our early disease detection monitoring programmes for the older ones. These form part of all our annual check ups so just book a visit with Lana or Jackson.

As the hospital matures, it's role as an emergency facility is emerging. This facet of the hospital is a service offered to sick animals when their normal vets are not available. It is quite a monster to manage and is not appreciated by all and sundry, but it does get massive praise and saves many animal's lives. This year a lot of my focus will be on improving this facility. We have begun this, with a state of the art camera system throughout the hospital. We have also acquired new hospital furniture such as emergency cots, state of the art drip management systems, new ventilators, general anaesthetic machines with high end monitors, new blood testing machines, and created 5 separate wards to choose from.

Lillian our resident veterinary dentist, has written a short article on dentistry in this newsletter. I was particularly taken by the last bar chart in her article that shows how dental prophylaxis cost much less in monetary terms and cost to the animal's health than major operations to remove multiple decaying teeth. So pet parents, let us get to brushing our pet's teeth.

As you may have heard before, all the

staff at Hilton Veterinary Hospital are asked to take the reason you contact us, to resolution. That may mean fixing sick animals for you if possible. It may mean palliative treatment of an unsolvable problem. It may mean referral to another facility if we feel we are not the right facility for that specific problem, or if we feel your expectations are unreasonable. The buck does eventually always stop with me and I will not ignore anyone ,so please feel free to contact me personally.

Should you wish to discuss anything, I am available to talk to you on 0827845537, or [martin@hiltonvethospital.co.za](mailto:martin@hiltonvethospital.co.za). By now 1000's of people can testify to my dedication and availability to our patients. We are always willing to improve.

Thank you to all our clients for your support. We hope that you have seen some of the benefits that our new facility offers to you and your beloved pets. Enjoy reading the newsletter.

Kind regards

Martin de Scally  
Dedicated to the health of your pets.



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## After Hours Emergencies:

Please phone  
(033) 343 4602

## Contact Details:

If your contact details have changed then please inform us .

## This month's themes:

Summer Fears

## Biosecurity by Sr Cheryl Marr

Internationally the world has become aware of Biosecurity issues with the devastating outbreaks of Avian Flu, Cholera and Ebola virus among others. Biosecurity is the term used for methods of monitoring, controlling and minimising the risk of contamination by harmful micro organisms. In the animal world it is no different.

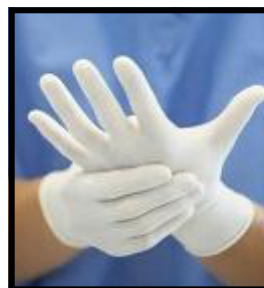
Specifically at Hilton Veterinary Hospital this starts in our reception area, the face of the practice. If a transmissible condition is suspected be it fungi (ringworm), kennel cough, parvo virus or rabies, the pet is taken straight through to a treatment room and the reception area is treated with the appropriate disinfecting spray. Once identified the pet is hospitalised in an isolation ward where a footbath is placed at entry and exit, protective clothing worn and separate instruments are in use.



Access to the isolation kennels is restricted. After discharge the ward is fogged, disinfected and sanitised. A separate washing machine deals with the bedding. In a general ward, safe procedures are also practised as most pets are immune compromised, whether from surgery or illness.

Areas of the hospital are also divided into colour coded zones. The dedicated operating theatres are red zones so bio security is at its highest. Access to theatre is limited, surgeons and scrub staff are gowned, use gloves, masks and special shoes or covered footwear. Assistant staff are also masked and wear hair covers. Theatres are fogged, cleaned and disinfected regularly.

Treatment of post op surgery, wound checks, outpatient bandaging, wound flushings and some treatments are always done wearing gloves. Hands are washed between patients and treatment surfaces are disinfected regularly. The hospital also has hand sanitisers spread throughout it.



### HILTON VET PARLOUR

We cater to all shapes and sizes, both canine and feline and offer a complete range of grooming services.

Working hand in hand with the vets, allows us to sedate animals if required.

Contact Heather on 0762798589 for any further information regarding the parlour. Bookings are essential.



## Summer Fears (When things go bump in the night) Dr Natanya Faurie

We all associate summer with lovely hot days, and exciting outdoor activities, but for our furry friends, summer can be quite traumatic, with fireworks and thunder storms taking precedence. Although scientists are unsure why some pets experience this fear, it seems to be more commonly experienced in dogs rather than in cats.

In this article I wish to give pet owners some advice on how to manage pets with noise phobias, the do's and don'ts, and the clues that would lead you to seek out experienced help.

Not all pets will respond the same to storms and other loud noises. For example, some become more alert and show greater reactivity, others display avoidance behaviour or fear while some will react in downright panic.

Signs that your pet may be suffering from a noise phobia:

- 🐾 Hiding under beds or furniture, or in closets, bathrooms, etc. (typically small enclosed spaces)
- 🐾 Vocalisation such as intense barking, whining, and/or howling
- 🐾 Pacing
- 🐾 Drooling
- 🐾 Trembling
- 🐾 Destructive behaviour located at exit points - gnawing at window sills or ripping drapes, chewing door frames, etc.
- 🐾 Attempts to escape the house (breaking through windows)
- 🐾 Aggression

If your pet suffers from noise phobias you should refrain from giving excessive attention or punishment for the fearful behaviour. Constant petting or consoling may be interpreted by the pet as a reward for the fearful response. Similarly the pet should not be punished for showing fear as this will only increase the anxiety level, making the fearful event even more frightening.

Although noise phobias cannot always be resolved, it can often be improved and managed. Treatment of noise phobias generally involves changing the environment, behaviour modification and medication. *Remember, it is always easier to treat a dog or cat for anxiety before the anxious event occurs, and quite difficult to calm a dog, even with medication, once they are experiencing stress.*

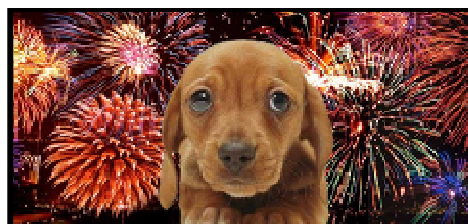
Changing the environment would include moving the pet to another location, perhaps where the noise isn't as prominent, or creating a safe haven for them such as putting them into a small bathroom or crate. You could also counter the loud noise, by adding what we call "white noise" such as a fan, or playing the television or radio.

Behavior modification involves counter conditioning and desensitisation. Counter conditioning in short, associates a positive thing, such as their favorite treat or toy, with a bad stimulus (e.g. thunder storm or fireworks). With desensitisation you gradually teach them to become comfortable with loud noises, using recordings of the associated loud noise.

Both over the counter and scheduled medication is available for noise phobias. The over the counter medication have good reviews, and work well when given an hour or two prior to an anxious event. If your pet does not respond, scheduled medication can be prescribed once a thorough physical examination has been done to rule out any medical concerns.

These summer fears can be extremely traumatic for your pets, and in some instances, when severe enough, can be life threatening. I recommend contacting the Hilton Veterinary Hospital for further advice, and possible medication. We are also able to recommend some good animal behaviourists who can assist you in long term behavioural changes.

Here's to a happy, stress-free summer for you and your pets!

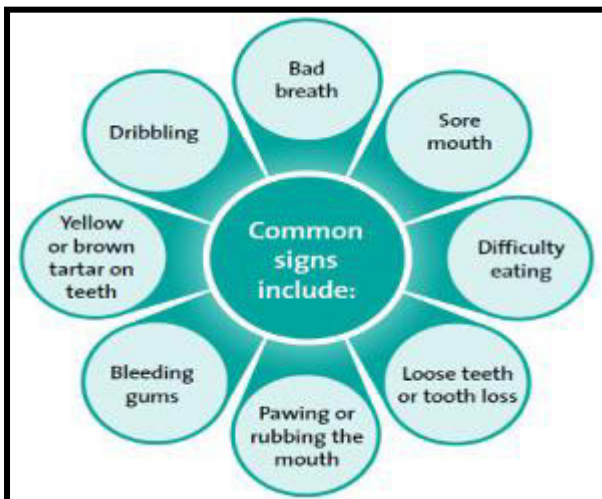


## "Minty Fresh Kisses" Dentals: by Dr Lillian Hirzel

Have you noticed that your pet ...



- Has SMELLY BREATH
- STRUGGLES TO EAT
- Has BLEEDING GUMS
- Has BROWN DISCOLOURED TEETH



Please come in for a **FREE DENTAL CHECK UP** with our nurses

We will evaluate your pet and advise appropriate dental care.

- A scale and polish
- Dental x-rays to pick up problems under the gum line
- Extractions of damaged or rotten teeth
- Future care
- Extraction of damaged or rotten teeth
- Advice on future care

A **healthy mouth** helps ensure a long **healthy life**.

Please come in for our dental promotion: (Scale and polish:)

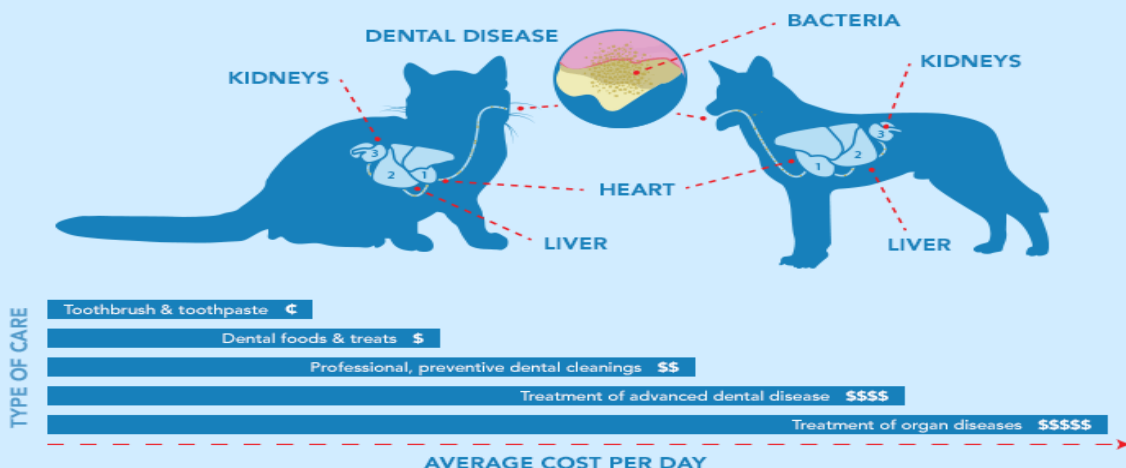
Pricing:

Dogs less than 15kg: R800

Dogs heavier than 15kg: R1000

Cats: R800

BACTERIA FROM THE MOUTH CAN BE CARRIED THROUGH THE BLOOD STREAM TO INTERNAL ORGANS AND CAN BE LINKED TO SERIOUS & COSTLY HEALTH CONDITIONS



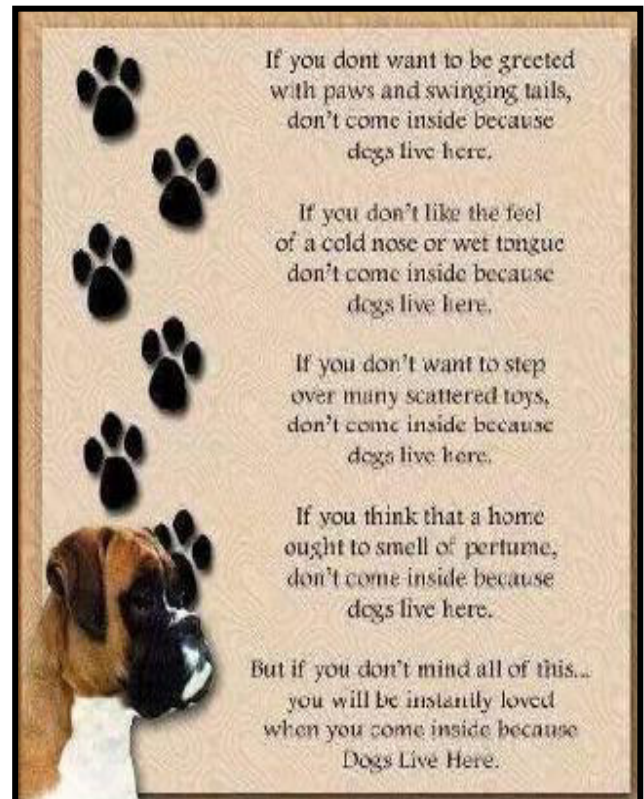


## Sr Lezaan Haupt:

Lezaan joined Hilton Veterinary Hospital in June last year. She is one of our dedicated, caring nurses that form part of our team. Lezaan qualified in 2007 and she spent 3 years at another specialist practice. She did some locum work at Onderstepoort as well as some outreach clinic work in Dundee. Lezaan also spent 1 year at a vet practice in Jeffrey's Bay. Lezaan has a particular interest in surgery. She has 1 16 year cat called Nina. Lezaan is dating Dan and they share a common interest, he is a vet. In her spare time Lezaan enjoys swimming, photography, camping, hiking, walking and going to gym.



## To make you smile:



In next month's issue: Blood Pressure Monitoring