



Hilton Veterinary Hospital

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The New Year usually brings new hope and new challenges. Christmas and New Year were busy for the team at Hilton Veterinary Hospital. We hope that all your pets are recovering well at home. Those of them that had to be hospitalised over the festive season would have received our usual compassionate standards of care. I am very aware that others are soldiering on with their chronic issues. You can read about Buster, who is one such patient, in this issue.

2012 promises to be another busy year for me. It is the third year that I have been asked by the world veterinary association to take lectures to the Universities and Veterinarians of various African countries. I also have a few continuing education lectures lined up for the other local veterinarians in KZN and I have been elected chairman of the South African Veterinary Association KZN branch.

From the 1st of February we will be back to 4 veterinarians ensuring enough staff to deal with all the referrals and local patients with the same compassion and enthusiasm that you have become accustomed to.

A new year also brings new opportunities and new beginnings. Please welcome Jackson in his new position as receptionist. Jackson is going to be working alongside Jane at the front

desk. Jackson has been with the practice since it opened its "new doors" in April 2010, but has worked with Martin previously. He is the sole provider for his younger sister and is currently financing her university tuition.

Please also welcome Candace Burgess. She will be helping Jane and Jackson out at reception. Candace lives in Hilton and her daughter attends school in the area. Candace previously lived in Cyprus.

A staff profile section has been introduced into your newsletter. We would like to introduce you to our staff members and let you find out a little more about the team that is so instrumental in looking after your animals. We thought we would start by introducing you to Dr Lillian Hirzel.

As always please feel free to contact me on martin@hiltonvethospital.co.za or 0827845537.

Regards

Martin de Scally

Dedicated to the health of animals



After Hours

Emergencies:

Please phone
(033) 343 4602

Contact Details:

If your contact details have changed then please inform us .

This month's theme:

Back to School.
Puppy classes.

The Nurse's Clinic: Chronic Renal Failure

Kidneys are essential organs to the body. They filter blood in a specialised manner so as to excrete metabolic toxins and retain essential nutrients. Unfortunately because they concentrate urine to stop dehydration they also concentrate substances toxic to their own cells. These toxins are known as nephrotoxins. Examples of nephrotoxins are Lilies, raisins, grapes, aminoglycoside antibiotics, snake venom, antibabesia drugs and non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Other conditions damaging to the kidney include inflammatory conditions, chronic dental disease, heart disease and some heart drugs, high blood pressure, anaesthetics, infections such as Leptospira, tick bite fever, heat stroke and any condition causing dehydration.

Once the damage to the kidneys becomes irreversible the kidney failure is termed as chronic kidney failure. The severity of which can be classified into 1-4.

One of our patients with chronic renal failure is Buster. He is a real soldier. He was adopted by Rob when Buster's then dog parent wanted to give up on him. Buster had been in a series of altercations at home with some larger and meaner house mates. The second bust up of Buster left him in a septic state in ICU. When Buster emerged he was short of one hind leg that could not be saved. Undeterred, Buster with his usual zest for life went about taking care of his new dog parent safe from his mean ex-house mates jaws. Unfortunately Buster's challenges have not ended there. He is suffering from a rare immune disease of his kidneys called amyloidosis. This is similar to the disease that debilitated Jonah Lomu.

Here Buster is seen receiving his alternate day subcutaneous fluid from nurse Debbie, this acts like a crude form of dialysis and helps keep Buster properly hydrated. He is also on special medication to slow down his immune system destruction of his kidneys. Buster is not suffering and has made small steps in the right direction. His main kidney enzyme has reduced from around 800 mmol/l down to around 300 mmol/l. Normal is less than 150 mmol/l.

Please make sure you know about household toxins for both children and animals and keep them safe from them. Please also make sure you treat kidney diseases early and aggressively to try avoid chronic kidney failure. If your animal is drinking more than is normal please find out why so that appropriate treatment can be given.



Rod and Debbie with Buster receiving his subcutaneous fluids for chronic renal failure.

What is in a Spay?

By Dr Martin de Scally

A spay is short for ovar-hysterectomy. In female animals it is deemed best practice to remove both the ovaries and the uterus in order to effectively sterilise them. The reason for this is three fold. One it stops the female coming on heat and attracting males, two it helps prevent mammary and ovarian cancer, and three it helps prevent uterine infections. One side effect is the potential to develop incontinence. The reason for this is that the bladder sphincter tone is estrogen dependant and natural estrogen production will cease once the ovaries are removed.

The actual procedure of spaying is currently (until laparoscopic spays become available) a full intra-abdominal operation. As with anything in life protocols for spays will vary from clinic to clinic. At Hilton Veterinary Hospital we follow a protocol that all our Veterinarians and Veterinary Nurses feel is as safe and humane for your animals as can be.

The Spay Protocol at Hilton Veterinary Hospital

- Pre-anaesthetic check (Minimum 40 point)
- Pre-emptive pain control and premedication is given to make anaesthesia safer
- An intravenous catheter is placed
- Patients are induced with freshly opened glass vialled propofol or similar
- Fluids are given to each anaesthetised patient
- Patients are intubated for gas anaesthesia and protected with a bacterial/viral filter
- Maintained on sevoflurane gas anaesthesia
- Anaesthetic monitors measuring blood pressure, heart and lung parameters
- Local anaesthesia given into incision wound to help with post op pain
- Dedicated veterinarian and nurse team per animal
- Use swaged on sterile dissolvable suture material
- Where possible only internal sutures are used for safety reasons
- New gloves, gowns and theatre packs are used for each patient

- Each patient is recovered before the next operation
- Minimum 40 point check is done on each patient after the operation
- Placed on soft sealed foam mattresses and monitored the whole night after their operation
- Pain control is maintained for 3 days (Day 2 and 3 at home)
- Patients are fed after surgery to speed up recovery
- Our cell numbers are supplied for any unexpected complications.

Every other operation undertaken at Hilton Veterinary Hospital is afforded similar or if necessary more advanced care.

Why do we do follow such a strict protocol? Surely such intensive treatment adds significantly to the baseline costs of doing operations?

The fact of the matter is that surgical procedures in veterinary medicine carry a high complication rate. At Hilton Veterinary Hospital we feel that doing anything less than what we already do would leave too many things to chance. We feel it is better and easier to prevent complications than to try fix them.



Staff Profile

Dr Lillian Hirzel

Lillian joined the practice in May 2010.

She received a degree in wildlife science before she studied veterinary science. She has 3 cats Tangerine, Smirnoff and Dhania (who is also known as mouse). Lillian has worked at 2 specialist practices in Johannesburg. She enjoys dentistry, spays and general procedures. She is trying to further her knowledge in the field of surgery. Lillian is very passionate about young animals.

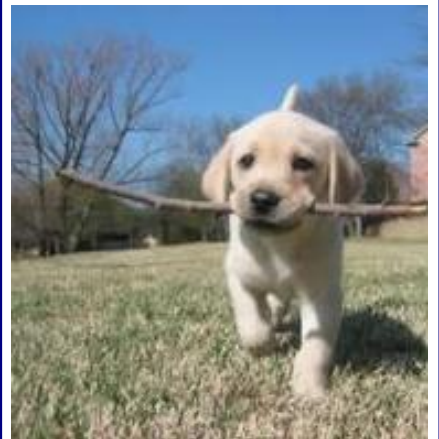
In her spare time she enjoys cycling, playing squash and outdoor activities. Lillian also enjoys dabbling in the Arts.



Back to School

Puppy Classes

We are going to try and introduce a new theme each month. This month our theme is back to school. So we would like to incorporate back to school for puppy classes. Our nurse Debbie has held quite a few puppy classes. If you would like your puppy to attend these classes then please contact Debbie.



Me Too Mattresses

Me Too mattresses are used throughout Hilton Vet Hospital in the animal's domicile. So they have been tried and tested for over a year and a half, with fantastic results. They are foam mattresses sealed in vinyl plastic and come with summer and winter material covers. We carry standard stock but they can be ordered to your specification. Please speak to Jackson or Jane for your requirements.

If you have a story about your pet that you would like to share with us, then please e-mail it to lauren@hiltonvethospital.co.za