



Hilton Veterinary Hospital

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Hi to one and all that take the time to scan through our newsletter. I hope you find it interesting. The techno age is finding its way into the veterinary field in more ways than one. The first sign is the amount of information available to read on the internet. Sometimes Dr Google does half the job for us because pet parents come in already at least partially educated on their animal's problem. Then there is digital radiography, meaning we can use experts far away from our clinic to concur with if necessary. Similarly digital cameras on a microscope. The cameras can show owners what we are seeing and allow us to send slides to pathologists if necessary. Laboratory tests are also becoming more readily available and in house testing by now is a major part of any medical work up. Animals can also be observed on camera from remote locations. Dogs can take electrocardiographic equipment home or wear then in ICU kennels to be monitored from remote locations for heart disease. We do live in an amazing age. Fortunately my 9 and 12 year olds are around to help me understand the "new smarter than humans phone" and any other electronic devices that have a 500 page on line manual. Well what does it all mean? It should mean better diagnostics, better monitoring and better communication. It could mean information overload. It definitely means a huge scramble to stay abreast of developments. This is not always good. Sometimes it is better to slow things down and get back to basics.

It also means good thorough clinical examinations, enough time to have adequate discussions over diagnostic and treatment options. It also means we can give enough time for our patient's needs. This is where people come in. Having the right people to pay attention to detail is surely a prize treasure that may even supersede technological advances. One good thing about technology is our ability to diagnose diseases like cancer earlier.

Following this newsletter we will be sending out a special available to all dogs and cats 8 years and older that are patients of HVH The special will include a tailored bundle of tests designed around each animal and pet parents needs. This screening bundle will help us detect problems such as cancer at a pre-clinical stage. The screening bundle may include a full clinical, blood tests, radiographs and ultrasound. If we can detect cancer at an early stage, cures become possible in many cases. By being proactive we are hoping to practice more effective preventative medicine. We are also hoping that this will reduce the suffering for animals and the cost of treatment for their parents.

Jane has started a positive comment survey. These surveys can be found in the front reception. Please take the time to fill them in to help make Hilton Vet Hospital a better place for your animals.

Please read about the Royal Canin special running during November.

Thank you to all the staff and clients who contributed to this newsletter.

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 theme:

Pancreatitis in Cats

Nurse's Clinic: by Sr Lauren Dommett



At Hilton Veterinary Hospital we offer Veterinary Nurse's Clinics for your companion animal. These clinics are designed to promote good preventative care for your pets and these check ups will help aid your pet to live a longer happier life.

The clinics we offer are:

- 🐾 General Care and Check up Clinic
- 🐾 Mouth Matters Clinic
- 🐾 "Golden Oldies" Senior/over 7s Club
- 🐾 Slimmer's Club
- 🐾 Young and restless Club
- 🐾 Small Furrries Club

Please note these clinics are designed to promote good preventative care for your pets and any abnormalities that are identified will need to be investigated by a Veterinarian. A full consultation and health check by the Veterinarian and investigation or treatment will be charged at normal rates. A fee may be included in the nurses's clinic if any consumables are used. Each Month we will give an overview of each Clinic and the information will also be available on our website.



Mouth Matters Clinic:

Dental hygiene is a necessity for our pets to live a happier and healthier life. The Veterinary Nurses can advise you on how to care for your pet's teeth through brushing, food supplements, and toys etc as well as advise you on when Veterinary help is needed. Bad dental hygiene can lead to heart, liver and kidney disease.

If Veterinary intervention is necessary we will book your pet for a dental consult and dental X-rays with a Veterinarian.

It is advisable to have your pets' teeth examined every 6 months to check for signs of discomfort, tartar and gingivitis.

If you wish to book a check up for your companion animal with one of our Nurses please contact us. The nurses are available from 8am through to 5pm.

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Special on:  **ROYAL CANIN**

During the month of November we are running a special on all non prescription Royal Canin diets on our **pre-order system** for clients of Hilton Vet Hospital. Please phone Lana, Jackson or Rebecca to find out more about this special.

Pancreatitis in Cats: Dr Martin de Scally

It appears our feline friends are very prone to pancreatic disease. The symptoms are usually vague and these felines are usually thin and reluctant to eat or only eat sporadically. A common presentation is long term vomiting. A long term complication is development of diabetes mellitus (sugar diabetes) or liver failure.

Diagnosis is usually made on ultrasound and or with the use of blood tests.

The treatment of pancreatitis in cats includes rehydration, correction of all electrolytes including glucose, potassium and phosphates, anti-nausea medication, pain medication and feeding of a highly digestible low fat diet.

No cat should sit in a hospital not eating without being tube fed. Without food even healthy cats develop liver failure. They are obligate protein eaters and with protein they cannot mobilise fat from their liver cells. During starvation where fat is mobilised from adipose tissue it builds up in the liver cells causing hepatic lipidosis. There is a blood test that helps determine if a cat with hepatic lipidosis has underlying pancreatic or gall bladder pathology called a GGT.

A cat with significant pancreatic disease really is a critical care patient. We make sure they are monitored, given pain control and given anti-nausea treatment and fed 24 hours out of 24.

We also have in house electrolyte measuring capabilities to monitor them in the best manner possible.

Those that develop sugar diabetes usually require insulin treatment for at least a while but possibly permanently.

We see about 24 cats a year with pancreatitis at Hilton Vet. The disease can largely be prevented by paying attention to body mass index, feeding high quality food, early intervention of other diseases

We see about 24 cats a year with pancreatitis at Hilton Vet. The disease can largely be prevented by paying attention to body mass index, feeding high quality food, early intervention of other diseases and avoiding unhealthy treats.

Never give any cat panado, it is highly toxic to them. If you think your cat may have pancreatitis rather have them diagnosed properly.

Pancreatic cancer is rare in cats.

Finally a rare cause of pancreatitis is toxoplasmosis, which should always be considered as it is a zoonosis and has a poorer prognosis than other causes of pancreatitis.

Pedigree Kitten Scam:

"There is a fast-spreading pedigree kitten scam doing the rounds. Scammers are using the name and cattery name of registered breeders, creating credible looking email addresses and are marketing kittens at exorbitant prices and even more exorbitant shipping fees. Of course the kittens do not exist and once payment has been received, the 'breeder' vanishes and the number no longer works. Some complainants have mentioned "West Africa/ French accents" when they did, in early phases of the buying process, spoken to these fraudulent "breeders".

We urge you to please do due diligence and confirm email addresses and telephone numbers of breeders with the 3 South African cat registration bodies before responding to any adverts. If what is seen in an advert or email, differs from what the registration bodies supply, BE AWARE! All reputable breeders would have to be registered with at least one of these bodies. Also see <http://www.kittycat.co.za/warning-kitten-scams/> "

The registration bodies are:

Southern Africa Cat Council (SACC): <http://www.tsacc.org.za/> ; Tel: 011- 6167017

Cat Federation of Southern Africa (CFSA): <http://www.catfederationsa.co.za/>

Cat Association of Southern Africa (CASA): <http://www.casawcf.com/>

The Veterinary Reproduction Specialist: Dr Daniela Steckler

Services a Veterinary Reproductive Specialist can provide include oestrous monitoring and optimal timing of breeding, artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, pre-partum consultations, management of high-risk pregnancies and pregnancy complications, male and female infertility investigations, breeding soundness examinations, and semen freezing. Although some of the above mentioned services can be provided by the local veterinarians the specialist will be able to investigate, explain and likely resolve any arising problems.

Artificial insemination (AI) in dogs using fresh, chilled or frozen semen is one of the many services a reproductive specialist can offer to a dog owner and breeder.

AI is the process of placing semen into the female reproductive tract without a natural mating. AI has become popular as a result of the importing and exporting of frozen dog semen, however, semen can be inseminated fresh, or cooled and stored for a few days prior to insemination, or frozen and stored indefinitely before being thawed prior to use. Kennel clubs of most countries register pups conceived by AI today.

The first artificial insemination in a dog was performed as early as about 1780 and in 1885 a well-documented report on the insemination of three bitches that were on heat at the same time with the divided ejaculate of a single dog was provided. Since these early attempts, AI in bitches has improved considerably and advantages and disadvantages have become apparent:

Advantages:

- ✎ Allows the use of males or females that are unable to breed because of anatomical or pathological reasons,
- ✎ May overcome refusal to breed because of psychological reasons,
- ✎ Allows the splitting of an ejaculate so that more females can be bred,
- ✎ Is an acceptable method of line breeding

- ✎ Can facilitate genetic improvement
- ✎ May allow the control of some infectious diseases either by removing physical contact between animals or by allowing treatment of semen prior to insemination
- ✎ Allows examination of semen quality prior to insemination and if necessary the selection of an alternative stud
- ✎ Can be a convenient and rapid method of breeding,
- ✎ Cryopreservation (freezing of semen) enables conservation and storage of valuable genes from male animals almost indefinitely.

Disadvantages:

- ✎ May cause physical or psychological trauma during the AI process,
- ✎ Undertaking AI for inappropriate reasons (e.g. where reluctance to breed is a manifestation of underlying hereditary disease such as hip dysplasia or anatomical abnormality of the reproductive tract),
- ✎ Has a potential for introduction of heritable diseases or abnormalities
- ✎ May allow the overuse of a male within a program or breed
- ✎ May allow confusion of parentage when more than one male is used.

Semen used for artificial insemination can be deposited into the vagina of the bitch or into the uterus using different techniques. The condition of the semen (fresh, chilled or frozen) and its quality have an influence on the decision on which technique of AI to use. This is due to the fact that if the quality (mainly the lifespan and motility) of semen is reduced and in order to achieve desirable results the semen needs to be placed as close to the awaiting eggs as possible.

Progress on our patient's page: Puff by Sue Alcock

A Tail of Relief

Discovering Martin in Hilton was for us the equivalent of finding the rainbow! I was quite desperate before I found out Martin existed. I have a Pekinese whose severe epilepsy was uncontrolled, and a Pomeranian, Puff, who's hair had fallen out leaving blackish patches of skin. Local vets could not tell me what was wrong with Puff, despite numerous blood tests etc, and Pumpkin the Peke was breaking my heart as the prescribed medication was not working at all, and I found myself in the emergency rooms at night with him every week.

So we trekked up to Hilton from Assagaai, with an appointment for Pumpkin, whom I thought should have priority. Martin simply looked at Puff [who was not the patient that day!] and diagnosed not only Cushings Disease, but collapsing trachea too, all of which were confirmed a half hour later by blood tests and x-rays. I was so relieved, about both Puff and Pumpkin, I could have wept. In fact, I may have in the car afterward!

The trouble with Cushings [or black skin disease] is that you think you are looking at a skin problem, while actually the overload of cortisone in the body is destroying the internal organs. So, if Martin hadn't spotted the problem immediately, Puff would be a very sick little dog.

As matters stand currently, his medication has brought his beautiful coat back as a bonus, and he thinks he's a pitbull again. I recall Martin muttering something about "we'll soon have him looking like a Pom again, instead of a Mexican Hairless", and that is just what's happened!

As for Pumpkin, the long term prospects are probably not good, but Martin has bought us precious time with a dog who is dearly loved, and was in danger of status epilepsy when he first came to Martin.

They are the best little companions in the world, and no words can express my gratitude for Martin's skill, knowledge, and kindness, to us and the dogs. As for the staff at Hilton Vets, you have no equal, and I should know.

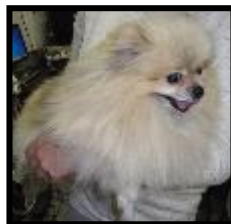
You guys are a hell of a team,

With gratitude, Sue Alcock

Puff before treatment



Puff after treatment



Pumpkin

Rosie and her Rehabilitation Programme:

Dr Derek Clover

Rosie is going into her fourth month with us at Hilton Vet Hospital. After the initial rapid deterioration we are seeing a gradual improvement.

She is now able to use her forelegs normally and can bear weight in her hind legs when supported.

In order to try and build back some of the muscles that have shrunk due to the lack of use, we have started to take her swimming, when the weather permits.

Jackie Marr (a local physiotherapist) has also very kindly given us a series of exercises to do with Rosie to try help speed up her recovery.

She remains very bright and happy and is a good example to us all, in how best to deal with adversity.



To make you smile



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