



# Hilton Veterinary Hospital

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

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Inside this issue:

Getting sick is something we do not want to have happen to us. Unfortunately it is something that does happen. We usually spend some thought in to leading a life style and taking precautions to try and prevent disease. We also usually make sure we are covered financially in the event of needing medical help.

It is no different for our pets, except that they are dependent on us delivering healthy food, protection from parasites, vaccination and affording health care should the need arise. It is better to prevent illness where possible and your animal's annual check-up should play a vital role in this. Make sure you keep aside enough time to discuss any issues with us at these check-ups. We will also fill in a check list and help guide you should any portion of your preventative care be lacking.

Life has got expensive. When we treat an animal, all of staffing costs, drug and consumable costs, facility costs, cleaning costs, lab costs, insurances and taxes have to be covered, as we are not funded by any charities. We have taken the trouble and effort to supply Hilton with a state of the art facility that has high levels of staff expertise and equipment to make sure your animals are treated at the highest level possible including night care. All this is done at pet medical aid tariff rates. Our facility is referred to by Veterinarians all over KZN and from time to time we even treat other vets animals. We do not lock up and forget about our sick patients when consulting hours end. People are employed and are monitored on CCTV camera to continue patient care afterhours. Why do we do this? It is our passion. Our motto is that our patients should be treated for pain, nausea and fed adequately in every case, all the time.

Whilst we can treat animals just as cheaply as anyone else, if animals are receiving higher levels of care, the cost of such treatment increases. You cannot charge for what you do not do and so if you leave too much to chance by not making a proper diagnosis and by not properly monitoring diseases, of course it will be cheaper. I think you will leave too much to chance in such cases and end up with cases doing poorly that could have done better. An example is sick cats on drips not having their potassium levels measured and not being adequately fed. It is well known that such a patient will easily deteriorate and succumb. In the end the disease is blamed and not the treatment.

You can help us be the best we can be for your animals by spending time on preventative care, checking potential problems with us early; feeding your animals good quality nutrition, not just well advertised nutrition, bringing any unresolved problems to our attention and placing your animals on medical aid so that they can receive the best treatment possible.

The hospital has also linked with Real Pay to allow payment of unexpected animal medical expenses over a period of time. We can also help in the form of free advice on parasite control and nutrition and in the form of thorough annual check-ups designed to pick up potential problems early. Contact us about a special we are running on this.

Remember as winter approaches adequate flea control now will pay dividends next summer because you can break the breeding cycle easier in the colder months when they are less prolific.

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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To make you 5  
smile

## After Hours

### Emergencies:

Please phone  
(033) 343 4602

### Contact Details:

If your contact details  
have changed then  
please inform us .

### This month's

#### theme:

Feline chronic renal  
failure

## Nurse's Clinic:



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 Furries 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.



### Young and Restless Club

We want to make sure that you receive all the information necessary in order to raise a balanced healthy pet. For this reason, we invite you to speak with one of our nurses at our Free Nurses Clinic. These appointments are designed to provide you with support and guidance through this time when your pet is growing up so fast! What we offer:

- 🐾 Advice on preventative healthcare such as vaccinations, sterilisation, flea and worm treatment.
- 🐾 Grooming tips such as bathing, brushing, clipping nails and cleaning ears
- 🐾 Diet and Nutrition: type/amount/frequency
- 🐾 Training issues such as toilet training, chewing, mouthing, jumping up and causing general mischief. This may lead to a behaviour consult with Dr. Trish Mills, our qualified behaviorist
- 🐾 Socialisation and handling- to help your pet grow into a relaxed, friendly and happy pet
- 🐾 Insurance.
- 🐾 Micro chipping
- 🐾 Collar/harness/lead + ID tag
- 🐾 Puppy proofing your house/garden



## Feline Chronic Renal Failure Dr Elge Bester

Chronic kidney failure is a condition wherein the kidneys begin to fail in the removal of the body's waste products from the blood.

The kidneys also regulate the amount of fluid retained by the body and the blood pressure of the cat.

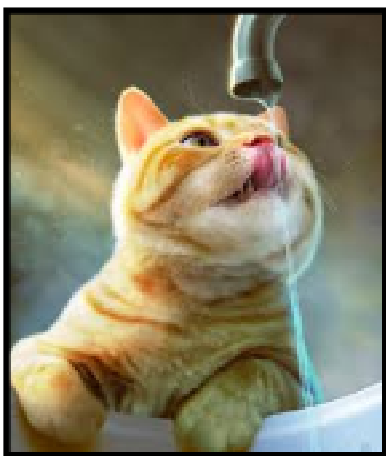
Kidney failure is described by the decrease or total cessation of urination or the increase in urine production by the cat.

The primary cause of chronic kidney failure is due to the progression of age.

Common early clinical signs include the loss of appetite, increase water intake, increased or decreased urine production, increased in the frequency of the urination, poor hair coat, weight loss, vomiting and lethargy.

Diagnosis of Chronic kidney failure in cats is done by a number of tests by the veterinarian. These tests include: urine analysis, blood chemistry testing of which BUN and creatinine is the most important, as well as looking for any electrolyte imbalances present.

Abdominal ultrasound, urine protein measurement and blood pressure monitoring amongst other things are also required to stage chronic kidney failure.



Management of Chronic kidney disease in cats is of vital importance for the improvement of the clinical signs. The treatment of the disease focuses on proper hydration and water intake, fresh clean water should be available at all times.

Dietary management to prevent weight loss and excessive waste product buildup in the body that needs to then be removed by the kidneys, as well as decreased salt concentration. Prescription diets have been designed for this exact purpose and will be recommended by the veterinarian.

Dietary optimization is crucial for long term maintenance.

Avoid unnecessary stress and eliminate and treat any concurrent diseases of the cat. Potassium supplementation and phosphate binders may be recommended and other medication e.g Fortekor will be prescribed by the veterinarian if protein loss in the urine is high.

**Early diagnosis and aggressive diagnosis can add up to 3 years to the life of a cat.**

## Hill's Prescription Diet Metabolic :

Is your pet struggling to lose weight? New **Hill's Prescription Diet Metabolic Advanced Weight Solution** is a nutritional solution that is proven to work in real homes, with real pets, under real world conditions. It has been hailed as the 'next generation' of weight management foods.

Until now, slimming meant a precisely measured weight loss food. And the fact is that's extremely tough. Most of us struggle to be strict enough, we give up too easily and rebounding weight gains just add to the frustration of the whole process.

Now, **Hill's Prescription Diet Metabolic** offers a practical, convenient and long-term solution, even when we're not as compliant as we need to be.

The evidence speaks for itself. During a feeding trial with 314 pets fed in their own homes, 88% lost weight in the first two months. Hill's Pet Nutrition's Dr Todd Towell from the USA is a leading expert on obesity and co-author of 'Practical Weight Management in Dogs and Cats'; she says "Metabolic works in a very specific way, influencing the pet's metabolism to optimise fat burning," which allows pets to lose weight safely and more quickly than when fed traditional weight management foods. "It has also been clinically proven to reduce the likelihood of rebound weight gain."

Towell likens feeding **Hill's Prescription Diet Metabolic** to the Mediterranean diet for humans, "There isn't a single 'secret' ingredient that makes it so effective, rather the combination of healthy nutrients."



**Metabolic** contains a synergistic blend of natural ingredients that provide sources of soluble and insoluble fibres, phytonutrients, healthy oils and quality proteins. If you believe your pet weighs more than it should, come in and ask for a weight check and join the Hill's Pet Slimmer programme. Thousands of pets around the country are successfully losing weight on **Hill's Prescription Diet Metabolic**.



**It's easy to follow**

-70% agreed it was an easy way for their pet to lose weight

**My pet feels full and satisfied**

-65% agreed that the food kept away hunger



**I would recommend Metabolic to a friend**

-80% would be happy to recommend the product to a friend with an overweight pet



## Staff Profile:

### Vicki Smith

Vicki joined the team at Hilton Vet Hospital in October last year. She is one of our very caring and capable nurses. Vicki has been nursing for 10 years.

Vicki has two children, Amber who is 1 year old and Lilly who is 2 years old. Vicki is married to Ryan.

Vicki has 2 dogs, Jack and Sammy, and 9 birds. This includes 2 Macaws, 1 African Grey, 1 blue fronted Amazon, 1 Senegal, 2 conures, 1 Indian ringneck and 1 eclectus.

Vicki enjoys working with anaesthetics, performing dentals and taking X-rays.

In her spare time, Vicki enjoys going for walks with her girls, riding bikes and painting.



## To make you smile

### The Differences in Dogs and Cats

A dog always loves you, in good times and bad,  
He's eager to sit at your side.

The cat is a rascal, a bit of a cad,  
He is strictly along for the ride.

Only call out "here puppy", he's there on the run

so eager to please you, he'll stay.

But call out "here kitty", he remains in the sun,  
and delights in just staying away.

Puppy drools and he prances, content to be near,

When you pet him, he quivers with joy.

Kitty yawns and ignores you, his name, he won't hear,

though he may deign to play with a toy.

Dogs are needy and loving, unselfish and true,  
Cats are selfish, aloof and alone. (by choice)

But you'll love them and pet them, and there may be a few,

Who'll act like your lap is their throne.

In the end, it won't matter, whichever it is,

You have chosen to make it your pet.

You'll just love and care for it, the best that you can

and make sure that it visits the vet.



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](mailto:lauren@hiltonvethospital.co.za)

**In next month's issue:** Why is my pet drinking so much?