



Hilton Veterinary Hospital

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Inside this issue:

Small Animal Veterinary Advice e-mail: martin@hiltonvethospital.co.za

A big thank you must go out to all who have endured the building process with us. As testimony to Kim Phillip's brilliance, we were able to function at full steam throughout the process. I can recommend him and his team with absolute confidence. Thank you Kim. So what have we done? We have increased the reception area allowing us to have a separate feline and canine waiting area. There are also two new 5 star rest rooms, one is wheelchair compliant. There is a mini-conference /staff tea room for staff and client education on recovery. There are the new walk in extra large dog cages, the ICU, the parlour and two new theatres. The theatres are one of the very few which are compliant to human standards, in a veterinary hospital in our country. We have a shaded seated area in our back garden where you are able to spend some outside time with your sick animal.

I have been asked why we did the extensions by a few people. The simple answer is that it was necessary to help us meet our mission statement as a veterinary practice. For those that do not know our mission statement "**To ethically prevent disease where possible and to take problems to resolution where necessary for both pet owner and animal**".

One important change that affects those amazing people that pick up animals wandering the roads of Hilton especially at night time, is, you can no longer reach our night staff by walking around the building. Firstly alarm beams will pick you up and secondly you will encounter a locked gate. This is all for our housed pet's safety. If you are wanting to get hold of the night staff member on duty, you go to the air

phone at the right front door as you face the building. Press the button and wait a short while for the night staff to answer. They will be able to assess the situation on camera and will open up for you, if you need their help to house a stray safely over night. If they are micro chipped we will be bale to contact the owners.

I would like to welcome Sr Lezaan Haupt, Dr Derisha Reddy and Dr Natanya Faurie who have joined our team. Dr Reddy and Dr Faurie will be alternating working the day and night shift. Dr Reddy has worked in a busy emergency clinic in Cape Town. I will always be available to support them if the need arises. We wish Dr Lara Brown well, with her work adventures overseas.

Thank you to all our clients for your support. We hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter.

Kind regards

Martin de Scally

Dedicated to the health of your pets.

HILTON VET PARLOUR

Our newly built parlour is now complete and open for business. 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.



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After Hours

Emergencies:

Please phone (033) 343 4602

Contact Details:

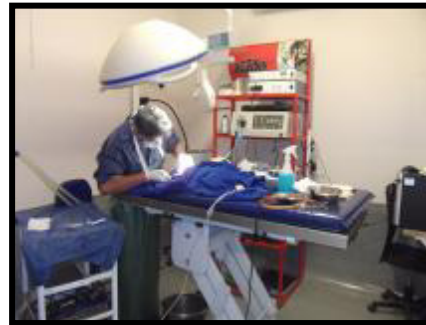
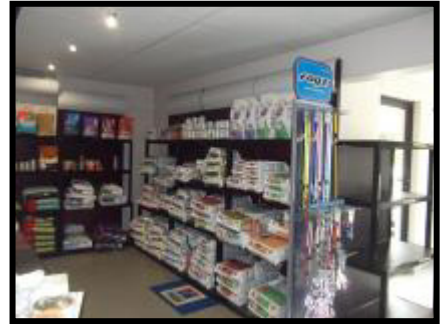
If your contact details have changed then please inform us.

This month's

themes:

Special needs of the cat and Rabies

Photo Gallery of Extensions (Some areas are not quite complete yet)



ICU and large dog ward
nearing completion



Nurse's Clinic: Missing Pets by Sr Vicki Smith

I'm going to start this with a story of a cat that was recently brought into us as a stray. We scanned him and he was micro-chipped. We tried constantly to contact the owner, who's details we found online. In this particular case the owners had moved overseas and his details had not been updated. We eventually got hold of someone who knew the owners and they then contacted a family member. A few hours later the owner (who happened to be the daughter of the original owner) came in and collected this loving cat. He had been missing for over a year, so they were ecstatic to have their pet back. A very happy ending, but this is often not the case.

There is no worse feeling than having your beloved family pet go missing and not ever know what happened to him or her. Spending countless hours searching and never really knowing what happened to them. Have they found some nice caring family who are looking after them, or are they cold, starving and hiding from the rain?

Having your pet properly identified is very important, be it a collar with your name and details written on the inside or a tag hanging on the collar. But remember collars can be broken while your pet is wandering or collars can even be removed.

A better method is to have your pets Micro-chipped and your details are then linked to the number on your microchip.

Microchipping is something that can be done at any age and the paper work is filled in and sent off at the same time. When your pet is brought in as a stray at your local Veterinary hospital or SPCA they are scanned and the microchip number is then looked up on a website, where your details are obtained. You are then notified of your pet being found. But please always remember if you move, or your pet has to be

When strays are brought into us, our standard practice is to have a Vet or Nurse check them over, making sure they are healthy and not needing any medical attention. They are scanned to see if they are micro-chipped or if they have any identifying collars, tags or tattoos. If so the owners are then contacted. If they are not identified we then look after them and feed them whilst sending their photo's out on to social media, contacting the SPCAs and other vets in the area in an attempt to find the owner. We have a good success rate reuniting loved ones, but for those unlucky few they are collected by the SPCA. They will attempt to re-home them if the owners are never found, or sadly if no home is found, they are euthanized.

Don't let this happen to your loving pets, have them properly identified.



Special Needs of the Cat: Dr Richard Burchell

Many a veterinary lecturer has expounded the statement "dogs are not small cats" to a class of veterinary students, with reference to their unique nutritional, husbandry and medicine requirements. Indeed, our feline co-inhabitants (it would be inaccurate to refer to them as pets!) are probably more dissimilar from dogs than we are! In their natural environment, cats are solitary hunters, but also serve as small prey to bigger opportunistic predators, as my own kitten nearly tragically discovered when she ventured into an eagle owl's tree! As such, cats are supposed to be active creatures, that feast on wild-caught prey, much like our own barbarian ancestors. However, domestication has confined both us, and our feline friends, to a sedentary life of comfort and plenty, leading to the telling toll on our waistlines, that is the unfortunate consequence of a western lifestyle. Interestingly, antagonists of western domestication, vociferously advocate a return to a natural lifestyle that would see us reverting to a tent dwelling-raw food eating-herbal remedy consuming individual. And some clients have similar aspirations for their pets as well. The dog must be a wolf (imagine trying to convince a Dachshund of that) and the cat a lion! However, we too quickly forget that our ancestors (human, dog and cat) lived significantly shorter lives, and often died of causes that have been avoided by modern practices, such as cooking and pasteurisation to destroy pathogens in food.



In addition, improved nutrition, vaccination, dental care, primary healthcare and modern medicine have resulted in us being able to live longer healthier lives. This is true of our feline friends, whose wild counterparts generally die significantly younger due to disease and malnutrition. So it would appear that the poor cat is destined to one of two fates: a lean athletic short-lived predator, or a fat lazy couch potato! Well, it needn't be so. I would posit that we adopt some of our pre-war ancestors wisdom and look for the middle ground between these two extremes. Cats are by nature carnivores, and are not metabolically equipped to deal with high levels of carbohydrate (CHO). As such, high CHO diets are inclined to result in obesity, insulin resistance, fatty livers and eventual diabetes if unchecked. Ideally cats should be fed higher wet food diets are a more ideal cat ration, given the higher protein content, however, many a cat (especially in the developed world) has lived beyond 20 on a commercial dry diet. Cats also have unique amino acid, fatty acid and micronutrient requirements. These have mostly been addressed in commercial registered diets, and I would caution owners to seek the assistance of a veterinarian experienced in the unique nutritional requirements of a cat if they are going to attempt a home prepared diet. Simply summarised, if your cat is on a high quality veterinary cat food diet which is rationed according to his/her caloric needs and yearly health checks are performed to discuss nutrition, it will ensure optimal nutritional health.



Special Needs of the Cat cont: Dr Richard Burchell

Cats also have different tolerances for medications than dogs. The quintessential example being paracetamol which is highly toxic to cats, but relatively well tolerated in dogs. Therefore, dog registered drugs or human drugs should never be used in your cat without consulting your veterinarian. This extends to tick and flea care products, which have cost many of our poor cats their lives. Another key difference in the recommendations of cats as opposed to dogs relates to vaccination. In rare cases, cats can develop tumours at vaccine sites that can be difficult to remove. The incidence of this is much lower, than the diseases that vaccines prevent, and therefore this should not be a criterion for vaccine avoidance. However, cats should NOT be vaccinated between the shoulder blades and should be vaccinated in the belly skin preferably, where tumour removal is much easier. If your veterinarian is unaware of this, as the owner you should request vaccination in this site.

As a small animal lecturer I often confronted indifference, and apathy in veterinary students regarding cat medicine. Many students appeared to be imbued with the pervasively paternalistic disapproval of the feline personality. Students felt that dogs are more sensible and simple, and many informed me that cats are an annoyance in veterinary practice! Much of this stems from the fact that cats do not show typical symptoms of disease, and tend to just become subdued and not eat, regardless of what afflicts them. This is unlike dogs that do not typically hide their symptoms. Resultantly, many students were intimidated by a feline case, because of the enigmatic nature of the ill cat. Fortunately, modern veterinary medicine has provided us with the equipment and understanding of the complex feline demeanour, to diagnose and manage cat diseases effectively.

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Rabies: Dr Martin de Scally

There have been some recent cases of Rabies being reported in the Midlands area. Rabies is a fatal disease to all mammals. The only way to effectively treat rabies is actually prevent it. This has been shown by studies all over the world to be best achieved by mass vaccination. By law all pet owners must vaccinate all dogs and cats naive to vaccination twice, 1 month apart. Thereafter they need to be vaccinated every three years. If any animal is bitten by another animal of unknown rabies status then they must be vaccinated again on day 0 of the bite and on day three after the bite even if their vaccinations are up to date.

The whole of South Africa is considered to be a rabies area. These laws therefore apply to the whole of South Africa.

It is very important that any suspect human contact with rabies is immediately treated. Day 0 means the same day as the bite. Do not be complacent as there is no recognised successful treatment. If you are handling high risk animals then get yourself protected.

At the moment rabies is under reported. Giant steps are however been made to try to eradicate rabies in Southern Africa. This is achievable and a 15 year project is shaping up to do so.

A big controversy for some people is whether to vaccinate annually or triennially (every three years). There is no argument that every three year vaccination, after an initial series of boosters, is protective. In our current situation the animals that see vets become over vaccinated and those that do not are un-

There are far more animals under vaccinated. Herd immunity and effectiveness of the vaccine for rabies eradication is not a factor of how many times 10% of the canine population is vaccinated by rather a function of what percent of the whole canine population carry immunity against rabies at any one point in time.

In one study the percentage of total animals immune to rabies in a population increased when vaccines were given less frequently but to more animals.

So if you wish, vaccinate your animals every year against rabies, just know that you will increase the risk of vaccine associated reactions, you probably will not increase protective immunity and you will be outside of vaccine manufacturers recommendations, in other words extra label. You will also still need to do day 0 and day three post contact / bite from an animal of unknown rabies status.

Please check that all animals in your household have valid up to date rabies vaccinations. At Hilton Veterinary Hospital rabies vaccinations are given for free with any annual check up.



Dr Derisha Reddy:

Derisha joined Hilton Veterinary Hospital at the end of March this year. She is doing post graduate studies in Veterinary Medicine. Derisha is one of our caring vets who is part of the night clinic rotation. Derisha worked in a busy emergency clinic in Cape Town.

Derisha has 1 dog, a Shih Tzu called Zepillin and a miniature rabbit called Pepperonius.

Derisha has a particular interest in small animal medicine. She has a passion for exotic medicine, especially small mammals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchilla and rodents. In her spare time Derisha enjoys travelling, watching movies, board games, cooking, and is an avid reader. However, work and post-graduate studies seem to be her most popular interests this year!



To make you smile:



In next month's issue: "Common toxins lurking in your home & garden" and 'The use of Chronic Medication