



HILTON VETERINARY
HOSPITAL

Hilton Veterinary Hospital

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They say time flies when you are having fun. As some of you know I recently made a half century. It is a good time to reflect on what is important to you. Hilton Veterinary Hospital has become my most rewarding chapter in my veterinary career for one reason. I have become surrounded by equally minded people in the form of our staff that believe in patient care. It is thanks to them that animals in hospital get cleaned and fed and cared for all day and night. It is thanks to the care they give that gives us such a high success rate in treating critically ill patients.

Another thing that is very important to me, is preventative care. From simple things like adequate bedding and nutrition to complex things like disease prevention. By now many will have benefitted from early treatment of internal and external cancers made possible by our geriatric check ups and ultrasound scans. The real point, is treating cancer aggressively before it spreads, is the most successful way. My advice to pet owners is take simple problems to resolution as early as possible. Being aggressive up front about issues usually saves both lives and costs in the long run.

On the note of preventative care *Spirocerca lupi* has re-emerged as an important disease causing esophageal cancer in dogs. Again early diagnosis is essential to help these animals and prevent this carcinogenic (cancer promoting) worm from taking their lives. At the moment the scan studies available indicate that Milbemax or a similar Macrolide dewormer will need to be given monthly to prevent this issue. We have seen cases recently on every three months milbemax with esophageal cancer as a result of *S.lupi*.

Back in February Dr Jeannette Oosthuisen joined our team. She is a very competent general surgeon and a highly dedicated veterinarian. She is the first person that I have worked with, that stays after her shift ends longer than I do. Sometimes until 2 am to look after her patients. Thank you for joining our team Jeannette.

Dr Elge Bester is doing well at Bryanston Veterinary Hospital, my old haunt, pursuing her surgical specialist degree.

Dr Derisha Reddy has chosen to leave as the demands of the after hours work have impacted her studies. Most people are not aware of the fact that, supplying emergency vets and a 24 hour patient care facility comes at a high cost to us, both in monetary terms and in emotional terms. We value the positive feedback from the clients who have used the after hours facility and are appreciative that we were there for them in their hour of need.

Dr Anuschka Smith has replaced Derisha. She has already completed her honours degree in veterinary medicine and has fitted right in. New blood always brings new ideas and both Jeannette and Anuschka have been forthcoming with some great ideas.

We are in desperate need of blood donors. If you have a healthy dog that is between the ages of 2 and 7 years old and weighs more than 20kg, please will you consider putting them on to our donor list. We would so appreciate your help.

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

For those of you who asked, Nick and I will return to play at The Knoll later this year.

Kind regards
Martin de Scally
Dedicated to the health of your pets.



Inside this issue:

Opening Letter:	1
Nurse's Clinic:	2
Blood Pressure Monitoring:	3
Dentistry:	3
Tribute to Annabelle:	4
Boston Terrier Rescue Group:	4
Staff Profile:	5
To make you smile:	5

After Hours Emergencies:
Please phone
(033) 343 4602

Contact Details:
If your contact details have changed then please inform us.

This month's themes:
Blood Pressure

Nurse's Clinic: by Sr Vicki Smith

At Hilton Veterinary Hospital we have an excellent team of dedicated and caring veterinary nurses. The nurses carry out a variety of nursing clinics, your appointments can be booked through reception and include the following:

Weight and Nutritional Clinics:

Each patient's needs are individually assessed and a personalized dietary program is designed for your pet, taking into account your pet's age, body condition score, pre-existing medical conditions and lifestyles.

The nutritional requirements of puppies and kittens differs from that of an adult and even a senior pet. What diet to feed your pet can be very confusing. We stock a wide range of Veterinary diets and taking into account your pet's individual needs, can give you recommendations on a diet to suit those needs.

Deworming and Flea Control:

Deworming and flea control needs to be maintained throughout the year. At our nurse's clinic we will offer you the best advice, and those difficult to dose pets, who will find the tablets hidden in the tastiest of treats we can make the procedure less stressful by dosing the tablet for you. We can also teach you all the tricks of the trade to be able to dose them yourself at home.

Nail Clipping:

We offer nail clipping for your pets. If your pet is wriggly and you are unable to help hold, we always have an extra pair of hands to help.

Post op checks, wound management, bandage change and suture removals:

Bring your pet for a check up, wound flushing and cleaning, bandage change/removal and suture removal post any operation. If we are at all worried about anything, we have the backing of our vets for any further treatment that may be required and will always put the care of your pet first.

Dental examination and advice:

Dental disease is one of the most common problems amongst our pets. Damaged teeth and infected gums can lead to other health issues, not to mention the pain. Tooth brushing significantly reduces dental disease and helps keep your pet's mouth healthier. We can give you recommendations on products and even assist you in getting started, including a demonstration on your own pet.

Dental diets are also available, and they are formulated to help maintain dental health along with a good brushing routine.

Blood pressure monitoring:

Monitoring your cat's blood pressure can help identify early kidney disease and hyperthyroidism, if any problems are identified a vet is then consulted and a blood profile done to help identify the cause



HILTON VET PARLOUR:

Hilton Vet Parlour is now offering a collection and delivery service. This service will be charged for accordingly and booking is essential

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.



Blood Pressure Monitoring: by Dr Martin de Scally

It has been called the silent killer. High blood pressure causes organ damage and the most susceptible organs include the eyes, the heart and the kidneys. Cats especially suffer from blood pressure abnormalities.

Causes of high blood pressure includes diseases such as hyperthyroidism, kidney disease, Cushing's disease, heart disease and essential hypertension where no cause is found.

Measuring blood pressure in animals has been difficult and inaccurate due to movement issues. This has been resolved using computer generated impulses that record each pressure pulse in a blood pressure measurement allowing for operator and computer elimination of inaccuracies.

Blood pressure should be measured in all animals at least 1-2 x a year. And in sick animals a variable amount of times per day depending on the condition.

For routine screening of animals for blood pressure issues a nurse's consultation is booked at reception.

The animal's blood pressure is recorded and abnormalities are reported to a veterinarian who will decide on the most appropriate course of action with you.

This course of action may lead to the early diagnosis of some of the life threatening diseases already mentioned. An early diagnosis if acted upon will in most cases lead to more successful and often less costly therapy.



Dentistry: by Dr Martin de Scally

Dr Lillian Hirzel has been performing dental hygiene and dentistry on numerous animals since her return from maternity leave in November 2015. There must be few things worse than chronic tooth pathology which often causes pain and ill health. She has developed a grading system of 1-5 in severity which can mostly be determined by direct examination but should be supported by dental x-rays. A simple question to ask your human dentist is whether they can they work without dental radiography. You will get a resounding no. Yet we are happy for our animals to have dental procedures with veterinarians working only on what they see on the surface. The grading system allows predictability for the cost of such procedures. Well cared for mouths score a low grade and require short procedures. Decaying smelly mouths may require multiple extractions before a long term hygiene programme can be instituted. These cases score higher in grade and need more prolonged procedures. The moral of the story is get in on the program early to improve health and reduce costs. Book Lillian with Lana or Jackson on Tuesdays or Thursdays.



Tribute to Annabelle: Jenny Jones

Dearest Martin,

Thank you so much for all the years you cared for Annabelle. We appreciate the fact, and are very aware, that without your expertise we would have shared a lot less years with her. Your immediate diagnosis was correct and her quality of life improved immediately.

During her ups and downs you were always available, no matter the times we called, and you always had empathy for all of us. Your staff gave her love and kindness every time she visited. If she stayed in your hospital being able to visit was a great comfort. You and all your staff were, once again as with Monty, both compassionate and efficient - whether for a small nail clipping or to stay in an emergency. Special thanks to Vicky, and Nicky; and Jackson and Lana, when they all realised the road was nearing its end.

To you personally, words cannot express our gratitude for all you did and for the sage and gentle advice you gave recently. Best wishes and big hugs to every single member of your staff who shared Annabelle's journey.

Love,
Kerry and Jenny



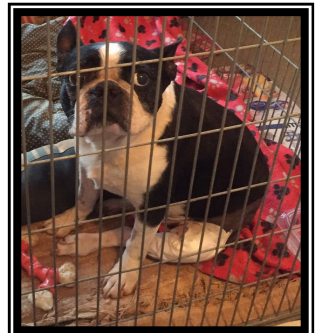
Boston Terrier Action Group: Yulinda Noortman

Almost 20 years ago we got our first Boston Terrier, her name was Yoda and at age 10 weeks she stopped breathing. No one knew what the problem was, let alone know what a Boston Terrier was. Everyone said "aaah, cute Pug or is this a miniature Boxer?" We spent several weeks going from one vet to the other in JHB whilst Yoda battled to breathe and stay alive. Then one day someone told us about "that new young vet in Bryanston who is brilliant!" So we rushed with our Yodie to meet Dr Martin de Scally. Our referral letter which suggested tests to be conducted by Dr de Scally was a long one. When we walked in Doc Martin took Yoda in the palm of his hand, which she barely filled and just stood with her, listening. We were a bit baffled. Calmly he told us that this was a soft palate problem and that her nostrils were too small. He was not optimistic about her chances and he told us that it was a huge risk. We went ahead. Yoda lived to the wonderful age of 14 years and in a strange confluence of events, it was Doc Martin that helped us say goodbye to her here in Hilton when the time came. Yoda changed our lives and in a way set us on a course which resulted in the establishment of what was originally called Boston Terrier Rescue but has now morphed into Boston Terrier Action Group (BTAG), here in KZN. Needless to say, BTAG adopted Doc Martin as our own resident Bostie Specialist! Through the years, he has been instrumental in helping Karen and my own Bostie clan but also the BTAG rescued Bosties. The last case in particular is an example of where a community of Bostie lovers, the vets and the rescuers all worked together for a positive outcome. George is an older Bostie boy who was diagnosed with a cruciate ligament tear, an elongated soft palate, narrow nostrils, a congenital spinal

defect and horrible teeth! He was severely undernourished and indeed a very sad little boy. He was taken into our care programme with a wonderful foster family. He needed his knee fixed and his soft palate reduced as well as new nostrils in order to breathe better. His teeth will have to wait for a later stage. The anticipated cost of such work made us all gasp for breath as this was not the kind of money rescue organisations have readily available. However Doc Martin went ahead with the procedure in good faith, trusting the crazy Bostie bunch. In the end, we turned to our supporters to help us raise some of the money. They all came to the party willingly, and so did Doc Martin who was accommodating, to say the least, when it came to the money matters. The generosity kept on rolling in. Our resident animal physiotherapist has been doing all his post op rehab and his foster family Jacques and Louise have been taking care of his healing process. George will be having his teeth done shortly and then it will be time to find him the perfect adoptive family which will love and nurture him till his end days.

Rescue work is not easy. Yet, one story like this where everyone pulls together to save one little dog, fills us with motivation.

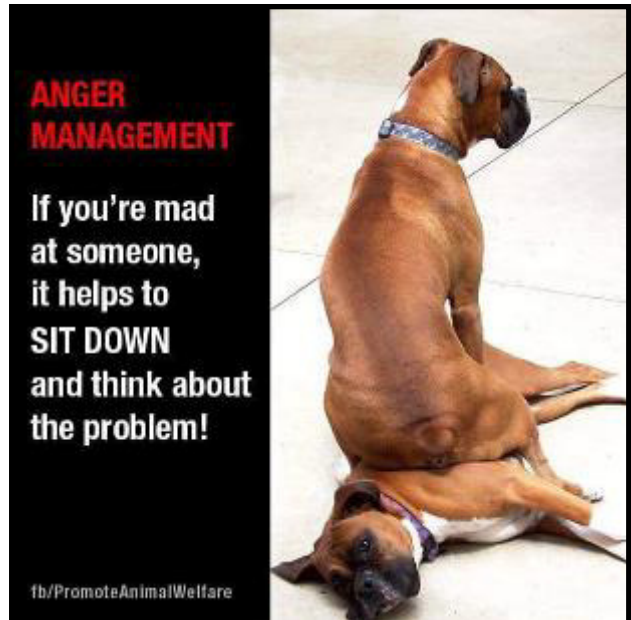
From George, George's Fan club, BTAG, and all the Bostie lovers in SA, we say thank you Doc Martin, colleagues and staff for your generosity and the quality of care you gave our boy George.



Dr Jeannette Oosthuizen:

To make you smile:

Jeannette joined Hilton Veterinary Hospital in February. She is one of our dedicated, caring vets that form part of our team. Jeannette qualified in 1995 and she has spent her time practising in Gauteng, the Free State and also spent 7 years in the UK. Jeannette has worked with small animals and exotics. Jeannette has a particular interest in all aspects of small animal surgery and has completed her honours degree in surgery as well. She has 5 dogs called Lollypop, Jelly bean, Pepsi, Molly, Misha, 2 budgies and 2 gold-fish.. In her spare time Jeannette enjoys cycling, reading, swimming, hiking, going to the gym and spending time with friends.



In the next issue: Blood donors, kennel cough and spirocerca.