



Hilton Veterinary Hospital

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Inside this issue:

It is a Girl! Congratulations to Lillian and Matthew on the birth of Cayley. (who came a lot sooner than expected)



We would also like to welcome Trish back in the middle of July. Trish has completed a behaviour course at Onderstepoort and now as the most qualified person in KZN, will be taking referrals for behaviour related problems.

What is in the name hospital?

One of our pet parents recently asked me why Hilton Vet **Clinic** changed to a **hospital**. The question made me realise that people may not even know that there is a difference. The South African Veterinary Council has criteria which determine whether a clinic qualifies for hospital status or not. The key features that differentiate a veterinary hospital from a clinic include equipment levels, facilities, staffing and services that a hospital can and must offer to achieve this status. A hospital is required, amongst other things, to have high levels of emergency equipment and 24 hour staff to look after patients.

All vets are required to meet minimum standards for the various services they offer even if they are just running a clinic or mobile service. The South African Vet Council is gearing up to start performing practice inspections, something that we at Hilton Vet Hospital welcome. We recently had to fill in a Hospital assessment form for Hilton Vet Hospital and I feel it is important for our pet parents to know that we have exceeded the minimum requirements in every aspect required already, since 2010.

As we have continued to build our equipment and staff base since then, we have become one of the best equipped small animal hospitals in Africa. Sporting clinically valuable items such as holter ECG monitors and cardiac defibrillators not even found at Onderstepoort yet.

But what does this mean to you? By staying small and compact Hilton Vet Hospital has been able to achieve a high level of efficiency so that we can continue to offer very high levels of patient care at tariff rates. Be very careful of services being offered at below tariff rates as something has to be compromised to achieve this. Usually it is poor quality equipment with poor quality results.

At Hilton Vet Hospital you and your pet will receive personalised dedicated care. You will be offered state of the art diagnostics and treatment on high quality equipment. If hospitalised, your animals will be looked after all night by dedicated staff with a vet on stand by should they be needed. You will be quoted and communicated with and your pets will have full access to rapid or immediate diagnostics and treatment.

Does this mean that Hilton Vet Hospital only does the fancy stuff? No it does not, but we do strongly believe in getting the basics right and exceeding minimum standards of patient care in every aspect from preventative medicine, such as vaccinations and desexing, to intricate diagnostics and treatments. As we have an open door policy do not take our word for it, please come and be part of your animal's treatment.

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:

How do animals learn?

Preventative Care Clinic:

Pets not receiving adequate preventative care, can end up with ill health and high treatment costs that were avoidable. Why do you think medical aids reward people with healthy lifestyles? It is because they spend less money fixing them because they are ill less often than those people with unhealthy life styles. All animals should be receiving a full health check at least once a year to try and detect diseases or problems early. This should not be a quick pass over and temperature. It should be a full clinical examination. You are paying for this service at each vaccination so why not demand it. At an early stage it is simpler, more successful and cheaper to treat most diseases.

Internal and external parasite control, micro chipping, vaccination, desexing, oral/dental care, skin and ear care, nutrition assessment, and assessment and control of any chronic pain, all form part of our preventative care programmes.

Hilton Veterinary Hospital

Pet name: _____
 Date: _____
 Weight: _____

Temperature °C

Nervous System

Mucous Membranes

Lumps and Bumps

Heart P

Lymphnodes

Lungs R

Hair Coat

Teeth

Urinating

Ears

Faeces

Eyes

Anal Glands


Arthritis

Nutrition

Behaviour

Body Condition Score

Muscle condition score



Comments:

Vaccination
 Deworming
 Faecal
 Desexing
 Microchip
 Flea/Tick Control
 Pet Insurance

Next Appointment Date: _____

At Hilton Vet Hospital we have systematised the assessment and introduced an assessment form which you can take home with you. If you have been to us recently you will recognise the form below.

Collapsing dogs.

Do you have a collapsing dog? Many collapsing dogs are as a result of periods of abnormal heart beats. The best and sometimes the only way to detect these abnormal periods is by performing a 24 hour assessment of your dog's heart beat. This is done with a special ECG that the animal wears. It probably costs less than you think to have this assessment done on your dog. If you are concerned that your dog is a breed predisposed to heart arrhythmia or if you have a collapsing dog then please consider having this test done on them. It can lead to prolonging their lives, improving the quality of their lives and even preventing their death due to anaesthesia. See our holter monitor brochure on the next page. Hilton Vet Hospital has the only veterinary dedicated holter monitor in Africa. There is a short waiting list but more serious cases will receive priority.

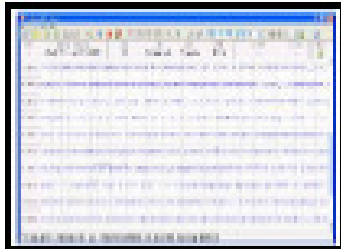


I may be having periods of abnormal heart beats that are life threatening and no one knows about them

Holter Monitoring

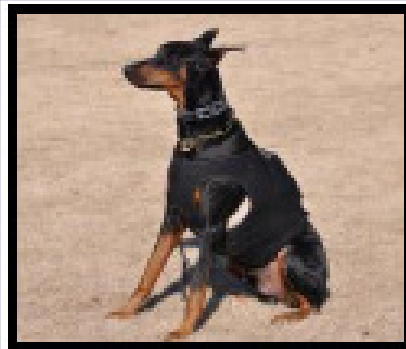
Holter Monitoring is used to explain collapsing episodes.

It is also used to detect cases of heart disease and arrhythmias in Dobermans, Boxers and Bulldogs before symptoms are evident.



Other breeds which may benefit from screening are Great Danes, Irish Wolf Hounds, Newfoundlands, Rhodesian Ridgebacks and Old English Sheep Dogs amongst others.

Holter monitoring can be used in conjunction with genetic tests. It can be performed on any age dog and is monitored annually.



A holter monitor evaluates 120000 heart beats during normal daily activity.

A 2 minute ECG evaluates 240 beats and is done stationary.

The specialised jackets worn, enable free movement. The SD card and blue tooth function enable freedom or real time monitoring

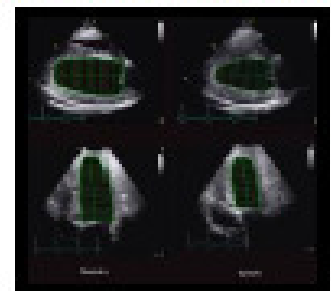


**Hips L:A0 R:A0
Elbows L:0 R:0
VPC's/24hrs:500**

Best breeding practice may include holter analysis in dilated cardiomyopathy breeds predisposed to arrhythmias. Genetic testing is not yet conclusive on its own.

Simpson's Method of Discs

Ultrasonography using the Simpson's method of discs compliments ambulatory holter monitoring. Together these tests are good at detecting early heart disease.



Hilton Veterinary Hospital

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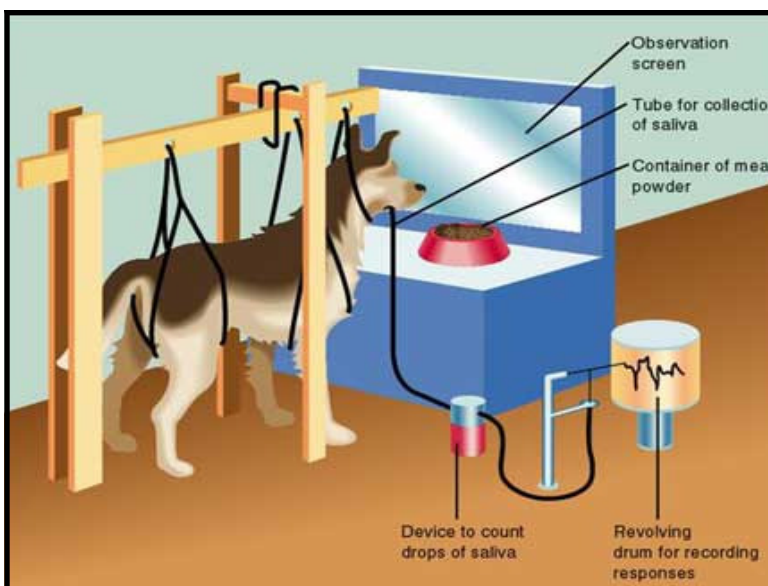
How do Animals Learn? by Dr Trish Mills

How animals learn is based on the idea that a certain action or behaviour (called a stimulus) causes a response. An example of a stimulus is food, which causes salivation - salivation being the response. Responses are classified as *voluntary* and *involuntary*. A *voluntary* response is when a decision is made to behave in a certain way - for example when a dog sits in response to the command "sit". An *involuntary* response occurs without a conscious decision - such as the example above where food causes the body to respond by salivating. These two different kinds of responses result in animals learning in two different ways - 1. *Classical conditioning* and 2. *Operant conditioning*.

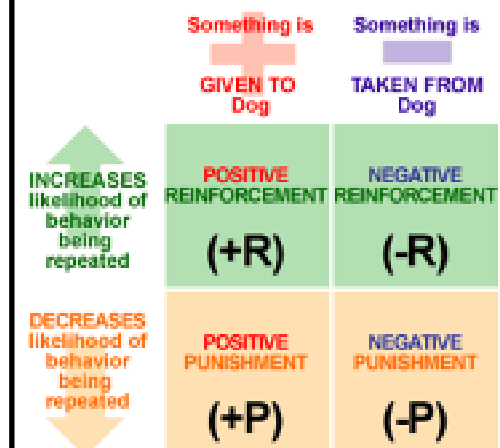
Classical conditioning involves the involuntary responses and there is a well-known example of an experiment where a scientist (Pavlov) conditioned his dog to salivate when it heard a bell ring. First he would ring the bell when he fed his dog. Since salivation was a reflex response to the sight and smell of food it eventually became paired with the bell.

Operant conditioning has to do with voluntary responses. In this case behaviour is learnt due to the presence of reward or some other consequence - an example is housetraining a puppy. This type of learning is also known as 'trial and error' or 'trial and success' learning. Here there is a stimulus, a response and a **consequence**. An animal will learn to repeat those things that are beneficial to them. Our pets are constantly learning what will be advantageous to them - they try out different things and those that work for them and have a positive consequence will be repeated - an example is when a puppy grabs an object that it is not allowed to chew and someone ends up chasing the puppy to get the object out of it's mouth, the chase becomes a game which is fun for the puppy and so is a positive reward resulting in the puppy repeating this behaviour!

Next month we will consider how these learning processes affect how we punish our pets or rather, how we can reward desired behaviour rather than punish



The "Operant Conditioning Spectrum"



Staff Profile

Daniela Steckler

Dannie joined the practice in July 2011 as a breeding specialist. She is able to assist with any reproduction related queries and procedures.

Dannie is married to Steve who is a large animal vet and they recently had a son, Benjamin. They have 3 dogs and 2 cats.

Dannie enjoys dealing with animals and she is passionate about making baby animals.

In her spare time Dannie enjoys being a Mom, running and enjoying the outdoor life.



Hilton Vet was burgled along with some other Hilton businesses. Thanks to excellent systems, losses were minimal, no data was lost, and the intruders were contained two doors away from our animals. The whole security system has been improved and all the computers bolted down. This includes external beams and cameras. Thank you to Gary and the team at Knight Force, Ryan and his team at Hilton Fencing and Ian Marr one of our IT men for all your efforts in repairing and improving our security.



To make you smile

A Boy and a Dog

Mary Hale

I want my boy to have a dog,
Or maybe two or three...
He'll learn from them much easier
Than he would learn from me.

A dog will show him how to love
And bear no grudge or hate;
I'm not so good at that myself
But dogs will do it straight.

I want my boy to have a dog
To be his pal and friend,
So he may learn that friendship
Is faithful to the end.

There never yet has been a dog
Who learned to double-cross,
Nor catered to you when you won
Then dropped you when you lost.

Dog Loyal Protector and Friend

Patricia Walter

Gives with an open heart-Love and Affection
Shares with no obligation-joy and happiness
Works without question-hard and energetic
Lives without regret-for the joy of the moment
Loves with no bounds-his master his friend.



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