



# Hilton Veterinary Hospital

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

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## Welcome to your first newsletter

Dear Clients

Welcome to your first monthly electronic newsletter edition. If you have any ideas of what you would like included in the newsletters or if you would like to unsubscribe, then please can you contact Lauren at:

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

Our Face book page is active. Search for **Hilton Vet Hospital**. You will find a gallery of patients, lost animals and animals looking for homes. Feel free to send us your pictures.

We thought we would like to take this opportunity to explain our **practice logo** to you. **Ginger** is our practice cat and was part of the "package deal" when the practice was taken over in April 2010. Ginger is the "Big Boss" at the practice and is always there to welcome our clients. As you can see it is hard work being the "Boss



Ginger hard at work during crunch time

**Marley** is an epileptic dog who looks and acts just like Marley from "Marley and Me". When his owners had to relocate they knew it would be impossible to find him a home. We could not put this special soul down. So we offered him a personnel management position at Hilton Vet Hospital. He now takes care of Dr Richard Burchell but does come and inspect the practice from time to time . We hope that you enjoy reading your newsletter.



Marley

Regards

Martin de Scally

Dedicated to the health of animals

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### After Hours

### Emergencies

Please phone  
(033) 343 4602

### Contact Details

If your contact details have changed then please inform us .

### Me Too Mattresses



Me Too mattresses are used throughout Hilton Vet Hospital in the animal's domicile. So they have been tried and tested for over a year and a half, with fantastic results. They are foam mattresses sealed in vinyl plastic and come with summer and winter material covers. We carry standard stock but they can be ordered to your specification. Speak to Lana or Jane.

## The Nurse's Clinic



Sr Nicky, Sr Cheryl and Sr Debbie

### Nurse's Nook

We have 3 qualified Vet nurses who are dedicated to assist you in helping your pets. Sr Debbie Kleu joined us a short while ago, her passion is preventative animal health care. We have introduced a new concept at the practice, a nurse's clinic. This clinic is available at **no charge to animals registered at Hilton Vet Hospital.**

The nurses clinic is available from Monday to Friday from 8:00-12:00. **Phone Lana or Jane to book for an appointment.**

The Nurse's Clinic offers the following services:

- Pedicures
- Dental Checks
- Ear medication application
- Nutritional advice
- Weight Loss Clinics
- Advice on Flea, tick and de-worming control
- Advice on acquiring a new pet
- Kitten Kindies (Kindergarten)
- Puppy Parties



## Dentals

### Dental Clinics

These photos have been taken of some of our patients who have undergone a dental scale and polish. If for any reason you are concerned about your pet's oral health please book to see one of our nurses for a free assessment and cost estimate for their oral care.



## Weight Management Programmes



Sally

Obesity in dogs and cats predisposes them to arthritis, diabetes and heart disease. A few diseases lead to obesity as a primary symptom such as hypothyroidism but mostly ad lib feeding and dietary indiscretions are to blame. Please feel free to use the nurse's clinic to help your pet with a weight

loss programme. These programmes are computer tracked and include weight loss incentive schemes

A year ago, Sally was fighting for her life as a result of a fungal infection that had invaded her abdomen.

It is a pleasure to see her

fighting the battle of the bulge (like so many of us). She is now part of our weight management programme and is winning this battle too.

**Well done Sally!**



## Focus on the Ageing Dog

By Dr Richard Burchell

Some memories remain forever emblazoned in our minds, as they were associated with such powerful emotions at the time. Growing up on a farm with a horde of happy mutts, we used to take the whole crew for a run (behind the bakkie of course) to the river. We loved to watch them all in full flight. I recall one day as my dad stopped and dropped the tail gate to let them jump on I asked him to let them run a little more. When he told me they were tired I pointed out that they were still running! Of course in my mind, when you're tired, you stop running. Dogs are different he explained, they are loyal and will follow their master until they drop with fatigue. I cannot describe how this struck me. It changed the entire way in which I viewed the canine kind. I can understand why Mark Twain said that a dog is the only thing that loves you more than he loves himself!

So if your beloved pet is getting old, it may become more and more difficult for him to honour this loyalty. His greatest call in life is to be your trusted companion. Arthritis, heart disease, hormone diseases, lung diseases, kidney diseases and cancers all afflict our "senior citizen" pets. Often the signs of these problems are not obvious, because their drive to serve as a loyal companion outweighs their sense of being aware of their own physical constraints. Bear in mind that a yorkie or dachsie will fearlessly attack 5 thugs to protect its master. With this in mind it is our responsibility (much like a wife dragging her husband to the Doctor for a check!) to be proactive about the ageing pets health and well-being.

husband to the Doctor for a check!) to be proactive about the ageing pets health and well-being.

At Hilton vet we are passionate about preserving the health and dignity of an ageing pet. Many of us have experienced the pain of having to let go of one of our old pets.

### **So what can I do to prolong the health of my ageing pet?**

Have your old dog checked twice yearly to assess the teeth, heart, lungs and examine for lumps and bumps. If your dog has a reduced appetite, a chest x-ray or an abdominal scan may help to pick up problems like cancer early when they can still be successfully treated. At an annual vaccination ensure that your vet does a thorough check. At Hilton Vet we have a standard 40 point clinical exam for all pets' physical examinations. A 6 monthly in-between check can be done by one of our nurses (free to our Hilton Vet clients) to screen for problems, and to decide if a check with one of the vets is necessary. If your old dog is on chronic medication such as anti-inflammatories, we have a fully equipped laboratory to perform screening blood tests as necessary to ensure the ongoing safety of the medication being used. Hilton clients are welcome to book our nurse Debbie to discuss the management of the senior pet. With our help and your care we hope to keep your old shadow plodding behind you for many years to come!

We are able to give you accurate cost estimates of a work up needed are assessing your animal during consultation.

[richard@hiltonvethospital.co.za](mailto:richard@hiltonvethospital.co.za)



## Food savings

We have introduced an order by e-mail concept that allows you to place an order for food and preventative care consumables such as Frontline, via e-mail. By doing a pre-collection EFT payment we are able to give you a 5% saving on your purchase. If you are interested in this concept please speak to Lana or Jane .  
lana@hiltonvethospital.co.za  
jane@hiltonvethospital.co.za

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## Intensive Care Unit

Martin and Richard receive referral patients requiring intensive care from all over KwaZulu Natal. The hospital is staffed and set up with intensive care equipment to offer 24 hour monitoring and treatment of critical patients. All animal domiciles are kitted out with comfortable mattresses and are temperature controlled. Cats are kept in a separate ward to the dogs. Infectious diseases are kept in a quarantine wards. We are also "Hilton compliant", with a three-phase generator capable of running the entire hospital during our frequent Hilton "blackouts".

## Vaccinations

When dog parvovirus (cat flu) hit the canine population in the 70's, many a vet and owner alike stood helplessly and watched as puppies succumbed to this deadly disease. The development of modern vaccines has made this a distant memory in suburban areas, and yet the communities that have benefitted from this marvel of medicine are beginning to question the value of annual vaccination. Some clients have abandoned annual vaccination programmes along with dog foods and de-wormers, because they think that their pets have better chance of survival if they live naturally. The reality is that in the wild animals die of infectious diseases and do not enjoy the long healthy lives that our pets do! Another alarming fact is that in recent times outbreaks of distemper and canine parvovirus have occurred in countries like Sweden and the US, because people have become complacent given the reduced incidence of these diseases because of extensive vaccination programmes. So... the jury is in. Vaccination is important, have your pet vaccinated yearly. This gives your vet the opportunity to assess the health of your pet every year, as opposed to sporadically when he/she is sick. (This check up is done for free) There have been outbreaks of distemper in the Pietermaritzburg area. Please see our website for further information on preventable diseases.



## Fireworks

The Fireworks season is now upon us. For the SPCA it is the busiest time of year. Pets are often found a long way from home and are exhausted, disorientated and sometimes injured. Please take precaution to safeguard your pets during this time. Dogs have been known to jump over high fences, they try and go through glass windows and doors and may even break any restrainers holding them back

You may want to consider the following to help your beloved pet:

- Keep your animals inside wherever possible
- Close curtains at night-time
- Close doors and windows
- Block off dog doors and cat flaps
- Give them medication if necessary
- Have your pet micro chipped so that if they do run away in fear, they can be identified and returned to you

Medications that can be used include:

- Anxitane tablets
- Nutricalm
- Alpraxolam
- Good behaviour pheromone collar

