



Hilton Veterinary Hospital

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Inside this issue:

Festive greetings to one and all. If there is one thing I want this newsletter to do, it is to help prevent unnecessary suffering for dogs and cats and their owners. One way of doing that is to relay some of our bad experiences with you.

If ever you thought medicine safe for humans must be safe for dogs and cats, think again. A single dose of Lornoxicam (a human anti-inflammatory) can cause gastrointestinal bleeding in dogs for almost 2 months, as a result of ulceration. Fortunately with intensive symptomatic support including intravenous fluids, anti-ulcer medications, anti-vomiting medications, good food, and pain killers most animals will survive if treated before the stomach lining completely ruptures. Even better though, is to stick to registered veterinary products and always check with your veterinarian before giving human medications to dogs and cats. Similar cases to this become hard learned lessons for pet owners.

Last December we put in an article on Festive food and how it can adversely affect your pets. We have decided to include it again this year, especially for our new clients and just to remind you how detrimental certain safe for human foods can be for dogs and cats

In November we had some changes to our dedicated team at Hilton Veterinary Hospital. New faces are Vicki Smith who has replaced Lauren on the nursing staff. Vicki's gentle and friendly manner means she fits right in with the ethos of Hilton Vet Hospital.

Jan Gould has also joined us, and replaces Wendy as our practice manager. Jan is energetic and enthusiastic and has many ideas to share with us. She also helps out in a nursing capacity over some weekends, Wendy is moving abroad with her son Dale. Thank you for all your hard work Wendy, you will be missed.

Lillian has returned from maternity leave and has taken over where Trish left off. Trish has decided to become a full time mother for now but will continue to do behavioural consults in her private capacity.

Thank you to all the staff and clients who contributed to this newsletter.

All the best wishes for the festive season.

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:

Preventative care medicine in the first 12 months of the puppy's life.

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 Furrries 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.



Golden Oldies" Senior/over 7s Club

Animals' age quicker than humans and so as your dog reaches 7 years of age and your cat reaches 10 years of age we would recommend **check ups every 4 months.**

This will aid in knowing if your pet is experiencing any discomfort or pain involved with aging.

We will:

- 🐾 Monitor the weight, as ageing dogs are prone to weight gain while ageing cats are prone to weight loss.
- 🐾 Test the eye sight and check for abnormalities as well as check the ears and hearing.
- 🐾 Check for any lumps or bumps that may be causing discomfort as well as any mobility problems.
- 🐾 Test your pets' blood pressure to monitor any signs of high or low blood pressure.
- 🐾 Advise you on the most suitable diet for your aging pet to live a happier and healthier life.

If you wish to book a check up for your companion animal with one of our Nurses please contact us. The nurses are available from 8am through to 5pm.

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 and consumables will be charged at normal rates.



Preventative care medicine in the first 12 months of the puppy's life.:

Dr Martin de Scally

The first few weeks of a puppy's life can be the most perilous.

Viruses, bacteria, protozoa, parasites, toxins, the wrong food and traumatic incidents are the most common threats to them.

- 🐾 Viruses can be vaccinated against and this is strongly recommended.
- 🐾 Bacterial infections are mostly prevented by good hygienic principles and avoiding fridge stored food for more than 24 hours.
- 🐾 Protozoal infections such as biliary and coccidiosis are detected by blood smears and faecal floatations respectively. Any sick puppy should have these tests done immediately. Biliary or tick bite fever is spread by ticks. There are only a few safe products for very young puppies that will help kill ticks.
- 🐾 Faecal parasites are also detected by faecal floatation. Regular de-worming from 2 weeks of age helps keep this under control.
- 🐾 Skin parasites such as fleas are a common cause of itching and also spread tapeworm to puppies. Recently, flea control has got a whole lot better. Please take a brochure from the front if you are battling.
- 🐾 Other potential skin parasites are sarcoptic mange and demodectic mange. Skin scrapings are useful ways to diagnose these parasites. Some of the newer flea products also cover these parasites.
- 🐾 Toxins are a real problem and it is best to have everything edible out of reach. Rat poison is toxic to dogs and yes they will eat it. Many household plants are also toxic to dogs and cats.



- 🐾 Excessive energy and calcium in large breed dogs is likely to lead to orthopaedic problems. Puppies cannot control calcium intake at a very young age. For this reason they absorb all the calcium they eat. Calcium gives you strong bones, right? Actually that is wrong. Strong bone formation has a distinct time factor in the equation. The right amount of calcium gives you slower bone growth and strong bones. Excessive calcium and energy intake gives you big weak bones that can lead to many orthopaedic problems.
- 🐾 Traumatic incidents are usually a result of accidents and often these accidents involve the pet owners themselves. It is a very traumatic time when a puppy is rushed in, half crushed by a car. Frantic efforts to save them may be futile and long term complications may still have to be addressed even if they do make it through the immediate crisis. The best solution is to have the dogs away from any car movement all together if possible.

To summarise

- 🐾 Vaccinate, deworm, detick and deflea your puppies. They can be bathed occasionally.
- 🐾 Keep them safe and keep toxic substances, foods and plants out of reach
- 🐾 Portion feed them an appropriate good quality diet that has its energy levels and calcium levels stated and within normals
- 🐾 Address any problems early with your veterinarian and insist on a diagnosis whenever possible



Progress on our patient's page:

Crinkles by Hazel Vernal Bright

I would like to take this opportunity to say the biggest thank you ever to Martin and his wonderful staff for their incredible work and sincere love they put into caring for our animals. When I took my cat, Crinkles, into Hilton Vet in April, she was at death's door and Dr de Scally gave me the option of having her put down or trying to save her life, if at all possible. I opted for the extensive tests and after months of very careful nurturing, Crinkles is well, strong and enjoying life at the age of 16 years old. She does have daily medication, but is a healthy "old" lady. Thank you, most sincerely, Dr de Scally and your staff



Judge by Margie Spowart

In May 2013 we motored down to the Cape to fetch a 3yr old Black Russian Terrier that needed a new home. His previous owners had noticed that he was not well and had taken him to their local Vet to be treated, but it would appear that they were unable to identify his illness and merely treated him with the basic antibiotics etc. He weighed a mere 36kg when we fetched him and we noticed there seemed to be no inoculation certificate. The morning after arriving home we took Judge to be checked and inoculated by Martin. As always, Martin gave him a thorough examination and blood tests. Although there was nothing obvious other than weight loss, his blood tests showed indication of anaemia. The initial thoughts were Ili-chia having come from the Cape where this is prevalent. Martin prescribed Doxydog and cortisone and although he seemed fine, the medication only seemed to prevent him getting worse but didn't heal him. This started the long journey of trying medication, weekly blood tests, samples to Onderstepoort which came back clear and much head scratching by all. All through this he slowly put on weight, his colour improved and he showed no obvious symptoms other than the blood tests being all jumbled. He became more energetic, ate well and seemed to be settling in to his new home - he was such a happy dog, so easy to love and so totally attached to Warwick, following him around like a shadow. We were now approaching August/September and wondering if we would have to put him down as there were no signs of him being healed. We were absolutely desperate and heart sore. As a last ditch attempt Martin suggested a course of injections over a four week period an anti-protozoal and an anti-filarial.

We anxiously went through the course of medication, almost dreading the final blood test, knowing we had exhausted all avenues, you can imagine our elation when the blood test came back normal and a second blood test also normal!! I think Martin and his staff were as happy and relieved as we were as they had shared our months of anxiety.

At last he can have his inoculation and we can continue to build a loving relationship with him. He now weighs 50kg and loves to run and jump and play at every opportunity. He has become an amazing companion to all the four generations at The Wine Cellar in Rosetta,. If you are in our area please stop in and come and meet him. He now answers to the name of Boris as we feel he judges nothing.



Festive Food: by Dr Lillan Hirzel

We all associate the Christmas season with wonderful feasts of festive food. Large joyous meals and rolling around with full groaning tummies. Mince pies, turkeys, chocolate and other decadent treats. Many of us want to spoil our pets too and add special treats to their bowls. Herein lies the problem though and all too often an over enthusiastic well meaning owner ends up at the vet with a rather unhappy pet. What should you be careful of?

Pets are not small humans and unfortunately many of the things we consider treats can be harmful to your cat or dog. Never feed your pet anything very rich such as turkey skin, marinated meats or cream. Feeding your pet large amounts of anything (even lean meat) can lead to digestive discomfort.

Onions, Garlic and Chives should never be fed to animals as it causes the break down of red blood cells and can make your pet severely ill. **Alcohol** is dangerous as pets are influenced by a much smaller amount than we are and can be made to feel very uncomfortable. **Raw eggs** can cause salmonella infections which can in turn affect the entire family. **Fat** can lead to pancreatitis and **bones** can break teeth, obstruct or even tear the intestines.

What about sweet treats? As with us, excessive calories lead to obesity and its resulting problems. Once again, what may seem like a small amount to us has a much larger effect on your pet. A small biscuit is equivalent to a hamburger. Now imagine eating a hamburger every day on top of your normal meals! Cats and dogs are unable to digest **grapes** and **raisins** and eating these may lead to kidney failure. Remember not to feed your beloved animal **Christmas Cake**.



Chocolate can make your pet fat, but the theobromine in it can also lead to serious consequences such as heart murmurs, tremors, seizures and death. Dark and cooking chocolate is the most dangerous, but all chocolate should be avoided. **Caffeine** may also lead to seizures and hypersensitivities. Never feed your pet **raw dough**. The dough will expand in the cat or dog's stomach and cause extreme discomfort. **Xylitol** is an artificial sweetener found in diet foods, some kinds of candy and toothpaste. In animals this product can lead to liver failure and seizures.

These are but a few of the things we may eat commonly that may affect your pet. Don't feed foods that were not designed with pets in mind. Read the labels closely and always feed, even dog or cat food, in moderation.

Last Christmas most of our emergencies were food related (old leftovers, turkey bones, too much fat). There are several healthy treats available for pets. If you want to include your dog or cat in the celebrations feed it a safe and healthy treat and make your holiday a happy, stress free time.



Staff Profile:

Jan Gould

Jan has just joined the team at Hilton Vet Hospital. She is our new practice manager but still helps out in a nursing capacity. Jan qualified in the United Kingdom and has been nursing for 14 years.

Jan has two children, Aidan and Caitlan and they are 8 years old. Jan is dating JP who is wonderful to her and her children.

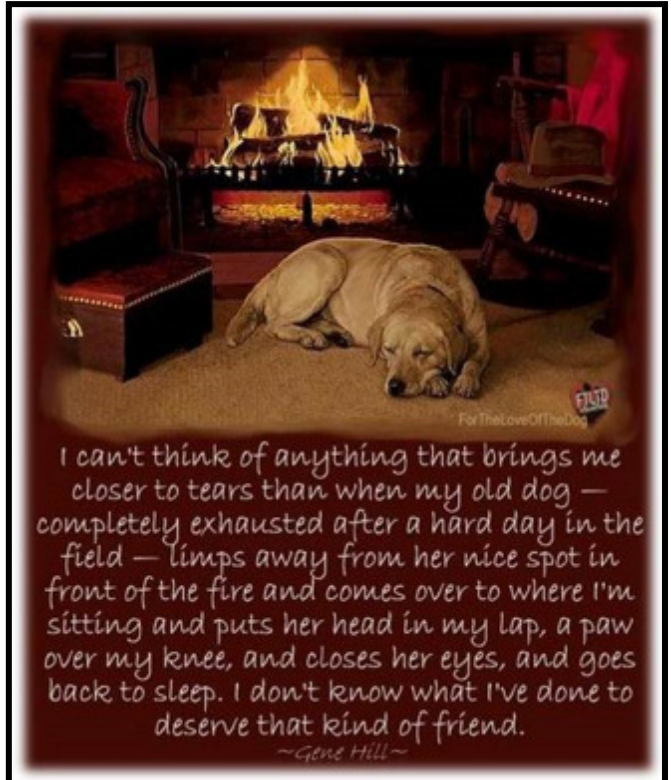
Jan has 2 Jack Russells who are also twins, Buddy and Suzie.

Jan enjoys working with our staff and clients and she has a huge passion for animals.

In her spare time, Jan enjoys travelling, cooking and horseback riding.



To make you smile



**"No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich."
- Louis Sabin**

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

In next month's issue: Vaccinations