



Hilton Veterinary Hospital

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Inside this issue:

April and May has once again been a month full of accidents for pets. It is very sad and tragic to see pets poisoned, run over or lost.

As of the 29th of May, Hilton Vet Hospital will be offering after hours services to all the pets we look after, as well as to other veterinary practices. Details will follow in another e-mail.

Prevention though is better than cure, so here are some tips. One of the best things you can do for animals, is to house them away from general incoming and outgoing traffic at home. This not always possible but sometimes only requires a gate or fence here or there. This also stops them leaving before the gate closes when driving out.

Secondly do a perimeter check on your property often, to ensure integrity of your fence, and microchip your pets. That way you will reduce the chance of them escaping and if they do escape, increase the chances of finding them.

Thirdly put a lot of thought into any pesticides used in the garden and house. 95% of all rat poison ingestion happens in homes where it is impossible for the pets to get to the poison. Some companies incorrectly advise people that the toxins they use are "pet friendly". This is not always true.

Symptoms of poisoning vary from bleeding to nervous signs and many toxins also affect children so please be careful.

We also see a lot of malicious poisonings in the area. Of concern is that these poisonings are designed to remove dogs from the property quickly and so are

rapid acting. The best way to avoid these are to keep the animals inside at night. That also prevents unnecessary barking for which your friendly neighbours will be grateful. Unless they are deaf, dogs still hear intruders whilst inside and can alert you to the presence. Something they cannot do if poisoned. So what does one do if your animal is poisoned? The first thing is to establish if the poison has a direct damaging effect on tissues. Such substances include acids, alkaline substances, heavy metals, petroleum oils and paraquat. In such cases do not induce vomiting as you make everything worse. The safest is to check for a swallowing reflex then if present rinse out the mouth with water (flowing away from the throat). In the case of paraquat (found in broad leaf herbicides) you can inactivate the toxin with earth. Medically rare earth is used. Paraquat is so toxic and highly absorbable that it can go through skin. It should be banned. Animals that survive the initial burning of their tissues often end up dying of lung fibrosis months later. Toxins administered on the skin can be washed off with soapy water.

If the toxin is not damaging to tissues and the swallow reflex is intact, then inducing vomesis and if necessary stomach washing, is essential. Once absorbed anticoagulants and neurotoxins need antidote administration and symptomatic support for varying periods of time to aid survival. Thank you to all the staff and clients who contributed to this newsletter.

Regards

Martin de Scally

Dedicated to the health of your pets.

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Why is my pet 3
drinking so
much water?

Why is my pet 4
drinking so
much water ?

To make you 5
smile.

After Hours

Emergencies:

Please phone
(033) 343 4602

Contact Details:

If your contact details
have changed then
please inform us .

This month's theme:

Why is my pet
drinking so much
water?

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.

Each Month we will give an overview of each Clinic and the information will also be available on our website.



Small Furrries Club

At our Free Nurses Clinic we offer advice on nutrition and diet, weight, preventative health-care, behaviour, suitable environments and husbandry for your small pets.

We also offer the following:

- 🐾 Nail Clipping
- 🐾 Teeth check: if filing is needed or dietary changes
- 🐾 Ear check: for cleanliness or mites
- 🐾 Coat check: for mites and lumps
- 🐾 Sexing



Why is my Pet Drinking so much water? Dr Lillian Hirzel

Have you noticed that your dog suddenly seems to be drinking a lot of water? Now, instead of refilling your cat's water bowl once per day, you need to top it up several times? You may have noticed an increase in the volume or frequency of urination. These are all indicators of possible abnormalities and you should bring your pet in to the vet for further investigation.

Water plays a vital role in the physiology of a healthy animal. A careful balance exists in the body to maintain the required hydration for an ideally functioning unit. The normal fluid intake is 20 - 50 ml per kilogram per day and can be acquired through drinking or the consumption of fluid in the food. There are a variety of reasons which can cause the balance to go out of kilter. For example, on a hot day, increased panting can cause an animal to lose more water from its tongue through evaporation. To counteract this a dog will increase its water consumption. Cats that eat only dry kibbles will often drink more water than a cat that eats wet food too. Certain drugs, such as cortisone, can cause increased thirst.

There are several diseases that can lead to an increase in water consumption. The most common amongst these being renal failure, diabetes, Cushings, urinary tract infection, liver failure, hyperthyroidism and hypercalcaemia.

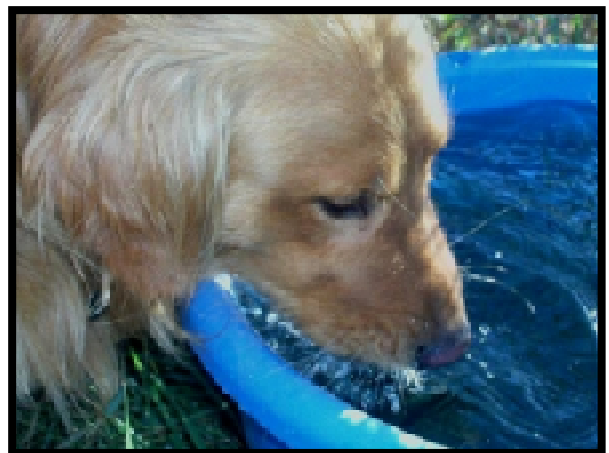
Renal failure

The kidneys are responsible for eliminating waste and for maintaining the body's hydration. A complicated transfer system is used to concentrate the urine and retain as much fluid as the body requires to run smoothly. When the kidney fails, this system no longer works and the kidneys excrete large volumes of dilute urine. The body responds by stimulating the animal to drink more water in order to try and maintain its hydration.

The body responds by stimulating the animal to drink more water in order to try and maintain its hydration. Some of the signs to look for that may indicate that your pet is in renal failure include excessive drinking and urination, weight and muscle loss, vomiting and decreased appetite. Blood tests looking for increased breakdown products (urea and creatinine) in the blood and a urine analysis will be done to diagnose the problem.

Diabetes:

The cells in the body require glucose to run normally. The food we eat is converted into glucose, spread around the body via the blood and then absorbed into the cells with the help of insulin. When the pancreas does not function normally to produce insulin, the glucose cannot be absorbed into the cells. High levels of glucose in the blood get passed on to the urine and cause the patient to urinate excessively through osmotic diuresis. This in turn causes the patient to drink large volumes of water. Some of the signs to look for that may indicate that your pet is a diabetic is excessive drinking and urination, sudden weight loss and an increased appetite (initially). Tests to show a high concentration of glucose in the blood and the urine will be used to diagnose this disease.



Why is my Pet Drinking so much water? continued Dr Lillian Hirzel

Cushings (Hyperadrenocorticism) :

This disease is caused by the over production of the hormone cortisol by the adrenal glands. High levels of cortisol in the blood causes the excessive excretion of fluid and in turn the increased consumption of water. Some of the signs an animal with Cushings shows is symmetrical hair loss, weight gain (often as a potbelly), lethargy and the excessive water consumption and excretion. To diagnose the disease the vet will run some blood tests and do an abdominal ultrasound.

Hypercalcaemia

Hypercalcaemia is a higher than normal concentration of calcium in the body. This is not a disease in itself but a symptom of several serious conditions. Some of these conditions are primary hyperthyroidism, chronic renal failure, cancer and Addison's disease. A high calcium level is diagnosed with a blood test. To diagnose the cause thereof further blood tests, ultrasounds and urine analysis may be required.



Excessive drinking can thus be an indication of several serious conditions. We therefore encourage anyone noticing their pet drinking an increased volume of fluid to contact a veterinarian. If it isn't a hot day, the pet hasn't been doing more exercise than normal and is not on certain medications such as cortisone, the increase in water consumption can be an indication of your pet being seriously ill. A rapid diagnosis may allow for the efficient and successful treatment of your pet enabling it to live a happy life. Allow us to help you find the solution to this puzzle and help your beloved friend



To make you smile

Dogs are Welcome



We need to work on
your **KISSING** skills!

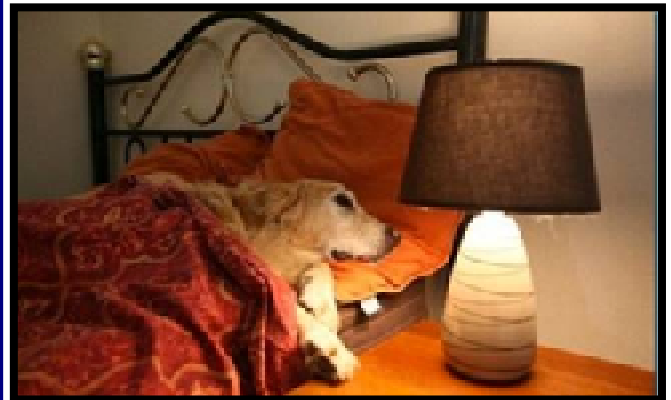


A man wrote a letter to a small hotel in a Mid-west town he planned to visit on his vacation. He wrote: "I would very much like to bring my dog with me. He is well-groomed and very well behaved. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?"

An immediate reply came from the hotel owner, who wrote:

SIR: "I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time, I've never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or steal pictures off the walls or use them as a colouring book. I've never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being drunk and disorderly and I've never had a dog run out on a hotel bill.

Yes, indeed, your dog is welcome at my hotel and, if your dog will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here, too."



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: Emergency monitoring and treatment