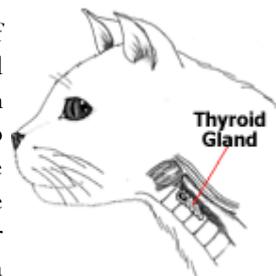


Hyperthyroidism

The thyroid gland is small and is located on the front of the neck. It helps to regulate the speed of metabolism. In some older cats a condition called hyperthyroidism occurs where the thyroid gland enlarges and metabolism speeds up. The result is a skinny hungry cat. Other signs include a rough coat, behaviour change, increased drinking, vomiting and diarrhoea. A blood test is all we need to do to check if your cat is hyperthyroid and we can check for other common older cat diseases like chronic renal failure and diabetes at the same time. Fortunately the signs of hyperthyroidism can be reversed with treatment. Treatment options include daily medication, radioactive treatment or surgery. Regular check ups and blood tests are required to make sure your cats thyroid levels stay on track.



Travelling with your dog

Summer is a great time to get out and about with your dog, though there are a few things to watch out for with having dogs in cars.

HEAT STROKE: Dogs can overheat very quickly when trapped in a car on a hot day. Heat stroke is a very serious condition and can be challenging and costly to treat. Ensure your dog keeps cool by rolling windows down, providing water, having regular breaks, not keeping your dog in an unattended car if possible and parking in the shade if you do have to leave your dog in the car briefly while you stop to get an ice-cream.

RESTRAINT: The risk of unrestrained dogs in the car or on the back of a ute while driving has been highlighted recently. An unrestrained dog can become a deadly missile if you have a crash. Dogs can also be very distracting if they are moving around while you are driving. A harness with a seat belt attachment is a great way to buckle your dog in while travelling and could save the life of your dog, passengers, other drivers and yourself. Unrestrained dogs on the back of utes are dangerous and a disaster waiting to happen. If you travel with your dog think about what would happen if you have an accident. Restraining your dog properly makes it much safer for everybody.

Animal Facts...Did you know?

- A group of snakes is sometimes called a bed or a knot
- Blue whales have an average lifespan in the wild of 80-90 years and are between 25-32 metres long
- One ostrich egg is about as big as 24 chicken eggs and on average is 15cm long, 13cm wide and weighs about 1.5kg
- A female bottlenose dolphin gives birth every 2 to 3 years, normally one calf after a pregnancy of 1 year. The calves are often born tail first so they don't drown
- A honeybee queen can live for 4-5 years and will produce about 2 million eggs over her lifetime—up to 2000 eggs in a single day
- The hair that makes up a giraffes tail is about 10 times thicker than the average strand of human hair
- Adult wolves have large feet, a fully grown wolf would have a paw print nearly 13cm long and 10cm wide
- One peacock has from 100 to 150 long tail feathers. Each one measures approximately 1.5 metres long



10 Tips for Pet Owners

1. **Vaccinations** protect against several nasty diseases. The cost of vaccinating your pet is much less than treating these sometimes fatal diseases.



2. **Fleas and worms** can be prevented by regular worming tablets and flea spot on treatment. This helps to avoid vet visits for skin and gut upsets caused by these parasites.

3. **Premium diets** available through the clinic are of much higher nutritional quality than supermarket diets and on a per daily basis often cheaper. Our practice offers a loyalty reward card that allows you to purchase 10 bags of food then get the 11th bag free.

4. **Desexing** is a one off cost for your pet that will prevent roaming, fighting and extra mouths to feed.



5. **Yearly health checks** are included in the price of a vaccination and help to detect disease early before more expensive treatment is required. This is especially important in older pets.

6. **Dental health** is important. There are lots of ways to prevent dental disease from occurring before a more serious dental treatment is required.

7. **Weight management** help is offered for free by our friendly vet nurses. This helps to avoid weight related diseases later in life.



8. **Pet insurance** is still relatively uncommon in New Zealand. The cost of owning a dog can be around \$700 to \$3000 a year. Over a dogs life you could spend \$20,000 just looking after it. Pet insurance is a great way to manage the expense of pet health care.

9. **Keep your dog secure** behind a good robust fence and walk them on a lead. Escaping dogs are candidates for car accidents and dog fights.

10. **Keep your cat inside at night** to prevent them from getting into fights and hit by cars.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOUR DOG IS EXPECTING.....

- the average gestation length is 63 days (range 64 to 71 days)
- pregnancy can be confirmed via ultrasound 4 weeks after mating
- the body temperature drops by 1 degree just before whelping starts
- if you do decide to breed your dog make sure you can find good homes for the puppies as in six short years, if not desexed, one female dog and her offspring can give birth to 67,000 puppies. That is greater than the population of Invercargill.



Christmas tip: make sure any chocolate is well away from your pets. Dogs and cats are unable to break down a substance called theobromine in chocolate. If theobromine builds up to high enough levels in the body it upsets the nervous system, heart and gut. Remember chocolate can be deadly and should not be fed to pets.



Meet Bill

He is a handsome Sulphur-crested Cockatoo and is one of our most entertaining patients. These birds are of the parrot family, are numerous in Australia and can live up to 70 years in captivity. Bill is very playful and affectionate. Some of his most loved things to play with are banana boxes, pinecones and lego. Bill also enjoys poking his tongue out, being dried off with a hair dryer after a bath and having a dance from time to time.

