

Want a party animal? Get Socialising!

Socialisation is the best way to start your puppies' life
If you miss this you may be in a bit of strife

By 20 weeks this should be complete
I know it's hard but don't succumb to defeat

Socialisation is exposing to everything you hear and see
Showing your pup all that you know is key

If it hears loud noises young it will strive
Hop in the car and go for a drive

You'll find dogs at different stages
And humans of different ages

Don't forget to introduce them to your other furry friends
Your pup will need to learn to blend

Make sure these other animals have been vaxed
Or your pups immunity will be tested
to the max

Playing with your pup isn't just ball
Engage with their ears, mouth and
toes before they grow tall



Christmas/New Year Hours

Vetco Edendale and Kennington clinics will be closed on the following days:

Christmas Statutory Days
25th & 26th December 2019

New Year Statutory Days
1st & 2nd January 2020



If you require Veterinary Services while our clinics are closed please dial the listed clinic number. Your call will be automatically diverted to the cell phone of the duty veterinarian. (After dialing the clinic number there is a pause while the call is diverted, please wait while the call is being connected).

Panleukopenia Virus

Recently we have seen an increased incidence in cases of panleukopenia virus. This is an often fatal disease which affects cats and kittens and is one of the important components in the core vaccination. Panleukopenia is a highly infectious disease which spreads when a cat comes in contact with excretions and secretions from an infected cat, mainly faecal matter. This makes kittens which have come from a group housing or shelter situation particularly susceptible as well as wild kitten populations. It is a hardy virus which survives well in the environment, requiring thorough disinfection with appropriate products in order to kill it. Recovering animals can continue to shed the virus for up to 6 weeks, as well as other cats which can have subclinical or mild disease. Very young kittens and old cats are most at risk of developing severe disease but all cats can become very sick especially if their immune system is already challenged.

Clinical signs can develop very quickly, within a day, and include;

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|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| • Vomiting | * | Fever |
| • Diarrhoea | * | Dehydration |
| • Lethargy / depression | * | Anaemia |
| • Lack of appetite | * | Death |

Treatment involves aggressive supportive care with fluid therapy, possible blood transfusion and antibiotics. This can be expensive and mortality rate in young kittens can still be up to 90%.

Prevention involves vaccinating cats and kittens on a regular basis. In a high risk environment kittens can be vaccinated from 6 weeks, if this is the case 4 kitten vaccinations are recommended at 3-4 week intervals. In a lower risk environment kittens should be vaccinated from 8 weeks old and should receive 3 vaccinations at 4 weekly intervals. A booster in a year is recommended for all kittens and then they can go on to their adult vaccination schedule.

Not the Christmas Ham!!!

Tis the season for good food, treating ourselves and our pets. However in doing so we don't want to cause them more harm than good.



Pancreatitis is a preventable ailment that we see a spike in cases of around Christmas and New Year's. It is simply an inflammation of the pancreas, but its consequences can be disastrous. The pancreas is responsible for producing digestive enzymes. Your animal has defence mechanisms to prevent these enzymes being activated too early. Under certain conditions however the enzymes are activated too early when they are still in the pancreas as opposed to the gut and as a result auto/self-digestion occurs. The pancreatic tissue as well as neighbouring tissues such as the liver and gut become injured and left untreated other organs can become affected leading to multi-organ failure, shock and eventually death.

One of the most common predisposing factors is ingestion of high fat foods whether it be the Christmas ham you decide to give as a treat or the chicken skin Spot decides to help himself to out of the rubbish bin. It is more common in middle age to older dogs, particularly those who are obese.

Clinical signs: Anorexia
Vomiting
Diarrhoea
Lethargy / depression
Abdominal pain which can present as your dog in a prayer position

Treatment involves supportive care, intravenous fluid therapy along with pain relief, gastro protectants and antiemetics (stops vomiting). Animals that develop pancreatitis once may be predisposed to developing it again therefore it is encouraged to feed a low fat highly digestible food.

Cats can develop pancreatitis too however the cause tends to be different and the signs can vary tending to be far more non specific.

Pesky Parasites

Coming into warmer weather fleas can become a real nuisance for our cats and dogs. Although in New Zealand's climate fleas can survive and thrive all year round, the time of heaviest burden is through the warmer months. This is because pupation of the larval stage can be prolonged when cold, with adults emerging in response to warmth and pressure. When it is hotter fleas can reproduce faster leading to huge numbers in a short time period. There are a few handy tips to best protect your pets:



- Protect all pets as cats and dogs share the same fleas. If one of your animals has visible fleas chances are the other also does whether their coat is short or long. Cats are notorious for roaming and so they can pick up fleas outside of the home environment and then bring them back in.
- Use a fine tooth comb to check for fleas. You may not find live fleas but flea dirt is often seen when brushed. Flea dirt appears as small dark spots which if you look closely have an apostrophe shape. If you wet them down they will streak red as contain digested blood, soil will not do this.
- Make sure you are using a good quality product. Many of the supermarket products won't work!!! The reason for this is because resistance has developed to particular drug families, these may have worked but the fleas have developed mutations meaning such products won't kill them.
- Follow the packet or vet instructions. Certain products have particular ways to administer them. Make sure you know the weight of your pet so they are getting the correct dose also. There are many different products available on the market; some require re-application after 4 weeks, others 6 weeks, some 3 months or 6 months. Currently the longest lasting product in the New Zealand market provides 8 months of protection under the correct circumstances.
- Pets can still pick up fleas even when flea treated. If the environment has a particularly heavy burden you may even find live fleas on your pets, these will often die shortly after contact with your pets. Make sure to address the environmental burden before assuming the product has not worked. Wash animal bedding thoroughly, vacuum well and if needed flea bomb the house. Flea larvae tend to live at the base of the carpet or in wooden cracks so not all will be picked up even with the vacuum.

