



Parvo Virus

A timely reminder to keep your dogs up to date with its core vaccinations. We have seen three cases of Parvo in recent times. Parvo virus infection is a very expensive disease to treat and it carries a very poor to grave prognosis in the majority of cases.



The Parvo Virus does not have the genetic ability to replicate itself and has to “borrow” a host’s cells genetic machinery to do so. In order to maximise the rate of its own replication, it makes sense for the virus to invade cells in the host body that have a high rate of division – intestinal cells being the target. Every time an intestinal cell divides naturally, the invaded parvo virus also divides using its host’s equipment. However, as soon as this shared division occurs, the virus then kills the host cell allowing the escape of the virus. Very quickly an infected dog starts to lose all of the lining of its intestines. Consequently massive amounts of fluid volume are lost from the animal resulting in life threatening dehydration. Frank bleeding occurs leading to significant blood loss, and bacteria which normally reside harmlessly inside the intestines can cross over into the blood circulation causing a septicæmia.

There is very little we can do to fight the virus. Treatment is often symptomatic, replacing fluid loss via intravenous fluid administration and broad spectrum antibiotic cover as well as keeping the animal clean from its own profuse diarrhoea and vomit. Anti viral medication is very expensive and of limited availability. Much better, cheaper and kinder to your dog to keep up with its vaccinations.

What’s New?

Our veterinary technicians now have another tool to use in monitoring our anaesthetised patients. Vetco now use a Pulse Oximeter on all patients undergoing any procedure that involves an anaesthetic. This machine measures the amount of oxygen carried in the blood, records the animal’s heart rate and monitors the strength of the pulse.



The amount of oxygen that is present in a normal healthy animal is between 97-100% saturation, and a correctly maintained anaesthetised patient should still be within this range. If the % Oxygen saturation drops below this value, it quickly alerts the anaesthetist so that potential complications can be averted.

Medical advances have also seen some recent introductions into the veterinary pharmacy. Cerenia is a drug that acts as an anti vomiting medication for dogs, and has the advantage of only needing once a day injections while the sick animal is in hospital. Other anti vomiting injections have to be given 3-4 times a day. Overseas there is a pill form of this and it is expected that this will become available in the New Zealand veterinary market in the near future so that treatment can be offered at home for vomiting dogs that can be treated as an outpatient.

Convenia has just been launched in New Zealand and is a broad spectrum antibiotic for cats and dogs. The duration of action is 14 days, that’s two weeks cover for one injection! It will be a handy drug to have for fractious cats that can not be pillled or feral cats that are mostly outdoors. The drug is not cheap and is not the best antibiotic for all infectious diseases but it will certainly be something we can use from time to time for the right situation.

CASE OF THE MONTH – GORDON

Gordon is a very friendly and outgoing 5 year old Pekingese. He came in this month because he had some discharge from his eyes. Pekingese are a short nosed (or brachycephalic) breed and tend to have eyes that protrude, so will often have a bit of discharge around their eyes. Unfortunately Gordon's discharge was due to something more sinister than this. Gordon had developed a condition called 'dry eye'. This is caused by a decrease in tear production so that the cornea, the outside of the visible eye is scratched and irritated by the eyelid. Short nosed breeds are particularly prone to this syndrome.

In Gordon's case, the irritation from the lack of tears caused ulcers to develop on both of his eyes. He had only a small ulcer on his right eye, but a large ulcer on his left. Surgery was the best option for Gordon, so a third eyelid flap was put up on his left eye. This is a minor surgery where the third eyelid (visible at the inside corner of dog and cat eyes) is pulled up to cover the eye. This is a painless and reversible procedure, which provides a protective shield while the eye heals.

Gordon came back 4 days later for a re-check. His right eye was looking good, but unfortunately his left eye had worsened. There was now nearly a full thickness hole through the cornea. There was concern about the eye rupturing as the small layer covering the hole was unstable. It was decided to put a conjunctival flap up. This is when a small bit of tissue from the side of the eye is sutured over the hole to cover it and provide a blood supply. The biggest hindrance to good healing of eyes is the lack of a good blood supply to bring healing cells and nourishment to the damaged and diseased area. The conjunctival flap provides both of these and can be removed at a later date.

However when the flap was removed the ulcer had still not healed and the eye was becoming more painful. The eye was removed and now Gordon is a happy, healthy, very loved dog and has not noticed his handicap at all. He will need artificial tears in his other eye for the rest of his life but is willing to take his medicine for a few pats.

Eye condition like Gordon's can develop and deteriorate rapidly without treatment. It is important to look out for early warning signs of eye discomfort such as scratching or rubbing at the eye, increased blinking, increased wetness around the eye and any reddening of the eye itself or the

ANIMAL FACTS

- * A Cat can jump as much as seven times it's height
- * There are 701 types of pure breed dogs
- * Fish have been on the earth for more than 450 million years
- * It has been established that people who own pets live longer, have less stress, and have fewer heart attacks
- * Pigeons can reach speeds up to 100mph
- * All cats & dogs are born with blue eyes
- * The most yokes found in a single chickens egg is nine.

KENNINGTON CLINIC

11 CLAPHAM RD 03 230 4689

EDENDALE CLINIC

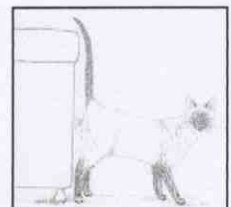
14 SWEENEY ST 03 206 6170

Number ones!

Does your cat or dog have problems in the number 1's area?

Older female dogs that have been spayed can occasionally develop a bladder weakness that results in urinary incontinence. Classically, you will observe either a wet bed in the morning where your dog sleeps or a small pool of urine on the floor where your dog has been sitting. Otherwise, urination is normal when the dog voluntary goes to the toilet. The problem is caused by the muscle ring around the bladder neck (called the sphincter muscle) being a bit weak and unable to hold the bladder closed. So when the dog sits or sleeps, the abdominal contents put pressure on the bladder so that urine leaks out. The good news is that an inexpensive pill can be prescribed that makes the sphincter muscle tighter so that urine leaking no longer occurs.

Male cats that get stressed can begin to spray urine inside, causing obvious problems. The



stressor can be obvious, such as a new dog in the house, a new baby, guests staying or even strange cats that come inside the house. To alleviate the stress we can either treat with a medication that reduces the level of anxiety or we can expose the cat to a synthetic pheromone that instantaneously makes the cat feel at ease. This product is a plug in diffuser called Feliway Diffuser and works best for those cats that are mostly indoors cats. More information on the product (and medication options) can be obtained at the clinic.