



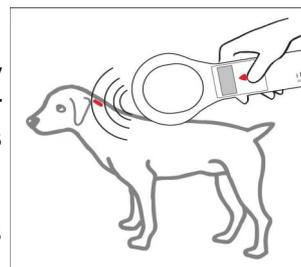
## Microchipping Pets

Microchips are a small device about the size of a grain of rice. The microchip is implanted in the soft scruff of the neck. Placing a microchip is a common procedure, being quick and safe for your animal. The microchip has a unique number that can be read by a special reader, similar to a barcode reader.

As microchipping has become more common place and in the case of dogs a legal requirement, the New Zealand Companion Animal Council (NZCAC) recognised there was a need for a suitable New Zealand based animal repatriation system. With this in mind they have created the New Zealand Companion Animal Registry.

The New Zealand Companion Animal Register is designed specifically to make the recovery of lost or injured pets easier by ensuring that anyone can quickly check to see that your microchip number is on the database and important agencies involved with lost and or injured pets can access the database quickly and efficiently to search for that animal's owners and carers.

If your pet is already microchipped but not registered on the NZ Animal Registry then Vetco as an authorised agent can process the information on your behalf for a small fee. By providing your contact and email details you have online access to your records to allow you to update your details as required.



The register will accept registration of a variety of animals into the database. This may include Birds, Cows, Deer, Emu, Goats, Horses, Llamas, Alpacas, Ostrich's, Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Sheep as well as Cats and Dogs.

## Flea Control

Controlling fleas means that both your pet and your pet's environment must be free from fleas. Dogs and cats share the same fleas so if you have both species in your household you need to control fleas on both of them or else the fleas will keep passing from one to the other.

There are 4 stages of the life cycle. The entire life cycle (adult flea > egg > larva > pupa > adult) can be completed in 7 - 21 days with the proper temperature and humidity conditions.

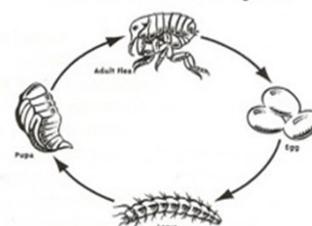
Fleas lay their eggs on the animal, but then they fall off into the animal's environment where they can complete their development.

When the adult flea emerges from its cocoon, it immediately seeks a host because it must have a blood meal within a few days to survive. It is attracted to people and pets by body heat, movement, and exhaled carbon dioxide. Following the first blood meal, female fleas begin egg production within 36 to 48 hours. Egg production can continue for as long as 100 days, which means that a single flea can produce thousands of eggs.

There are a number of flea treatments available from spot on treatments to chewable tablets for dogs with varying length of effectiveness. Some treatments can be used from day 1 for a new kitten or puppy.

Fleas greatly prefer dogs and cats to people. They can be very difficult to see on your dog or cat. To ensure that your pet does not have fleas you can either treat with a product recommended by your vet, or ask your vet to check for fleas for you during your pet's annual health check up. In situations where there is a very high flea density it may be necessary to have your house fumigated/sprayed by a registered pest control technician.

The Flea Life Cycle



## Food Toxins

Chocolate is a commonly recognised household toxin. The toxic compound is theobromine – a substance found in cocoa, tea and cola drinks. Dogs and cats are unable to break theobromine down in the same way as humans, which leads to toxicity at relatively low doses. Substances with a higher percentage of cocoa solids have a lower toxic dose, meaning a small quantity of cocoa powder or dark chocolate can lead to problems. The early signs of theobromine toxicity are vomiting, tremors and seizures. Prompt treatment is essential as toxicity is often fatal.



Garlic and onions cause damage to red blood cells in dogs and cats. If fed in high quantities or over a prolonged period they can lead to serious health issues. Onions are most commonly eaten when dogs are fed leftovers. Contrary to popular belief, feeding dogs garlic is not an effective form of flea control.



Dogs can develop serious kidney problems after eating grapes and raisins. In some cases even a small amount of fruit has led to kidney failure and death. Vomiting and abdominal pain are usually the first signs of intoxication (generally seen a couple of hours after exposure). If a toxic dose has been ingested, prognosis is very poor without early treatment.

Macadamia nuts have been shown to cause vomiting and weakness in dogs. The exact mechanism is not understood but signs normally resolve in 12-48 hours. Fluid therapy may be necessary after ingestion of higher doses.



Xylitol is a common sweetener used in many sugar free and low-calorie products. Toxic effects have been seen in dogs after ingestion in fairly small amounts, often in sugar free lollies, chewing gum, mints and baked goods. Xylitol is not known to cause illness in any other species, but leads to low blood sugar and liver damage in dogs. Signs may take up to a day to develop. Vomiting, weakness, depression and seizures are some of the common symptoms.

## Did you know....

- ◆ Bats make up 20% of all mammalian species
- ◆ More dogs are called Max, Jake, Maggie or Molly than any other pet names
- ◆ Cats have 5 toes on their front paws and 4 toes on each back paw
- ◆ Caution during Christmas: Poinsettias may be festive but they're poisonous to cats
- ◆ Rabbits have continuously growing teeth. It is estimated that their teeth grow between 1-5mm per week
- ◆ Hippo's are unable to swim, they can't even float. Their bodies are far too dense to float, so they move around by pushing off from the bottom of the river or simply walking along the riverbed in a slow-motion gallop, lightly touching the bottom with their toes, which are slightly webbed.



## Christmas/New Year Hours

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

Christmas Statutory Days..... 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> December 2015

New Year Statutory Days..... 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Southland Anniversary Day..... 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016

If you require Veterinary Services while our clinics are closed please follow the usual after hours procedure which is 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).



**KENNINGTON CLINIC 11 CLAPHAM ROAD (03) 230 4689**  
**EDENDALE CLINIC 14 SWEENEY STREET (03) 206 6170**

