



Pheromones & Stress Relief

Pheromones are substances released into the environment that are produced by an animal. It results in a behavioural or physiological response from an animal of the same species.

If you are moving house, getting a new pet/household member, your pet may become anxious and stressed due to the situation change. Cats may start spraying and peeing inside to ensure that their smell predominates. They may scratch objects, over groom, become more vocal or go into hiding. Dogs may become more vocal, restless or have a reduced appetite. They may become clingy and toilet inside. The dog appeasing pheromone and felihway for cats are available at our clinic.

Dog Appeasing Pheromone:

This is a synthetic copy of a dog produced pheromone. It has been proven to reduce stress and anxiety in both puppies and adult dogs. It mimics the pheromone nursing dogs release to comfort their puppies.

Uses: staying home alone, fear of fireworks, visiting the vet, travelling, New Baby, help promote learning during training and socialisation, help puppies or adult dogs settle in new homes.



These synthetic pheromones are available in the forms of sprays, electric diffusers or collars

Feliway:

This is a copy of the naturally produced feline facial pheromones. This is a cat's natural territorial marking pheromone, released when the cat rubs its head against objects. When this is used in the house, it reduces the cats need for excessively marking its new environment (spraying, scratching) giving off a reassuring message to your cat.

Products are available in spray form or as a diffuser. Sprays should never be applied directly onto the cat, but rather on to environmental items such as cat beddings.



Rabbit Vaccination Days

Our vaccination days have been very successful. Rabbit vaccination days are held a number of times throughout the year. The vaccination protects against Rabbit Calicivirus Disease. This virus was introduced to New Zealand to try and eradicate the imported wild rabbit population. Unfortunately it will also kill your pet rabbit.

- ◆ Signs: initially listless, off their food. Death occurs within 30 hours. Sometimes no signs until death
- ◆ Treatment: There is no treatment – Nearly 100% fatal

If you want to get your rabbit vaccinated, please call the clinic about our vaccination dates.



Case of the month - Dixie

Dixie a 6 year old labrador was presented to the clinic with a history of weight loss and reduced appetite. She has been off her biscuits for a week and only eats soft food when offered. Her breath has been getting quite smelly.

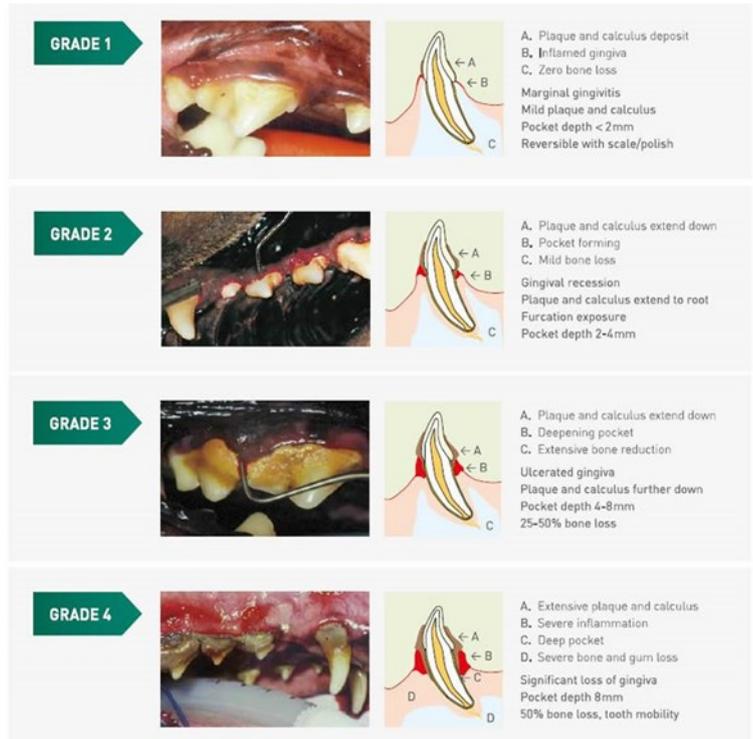
On examination it was found that she had severe dental disease. She had advanced gingivitis (inflamed gums) and severe gum recession. Several tooth roots were exposed and decaying. All teeth were covered to some extent with tartar. A general anaesthetic and dental scale and polish was recommended. The owner was warned that several teeth would need to be removed. She was started on a course of antibiotics 2 days before her surgery.

Under anaesthetic a total of 14 teeth were removed. Several teeth were sitting loosely in their sockets. The remaining teeth were thoroughly cleaned and polished. As dogs have 42 teeth, she still had many healthy teeth left. Dixie's owner was

advised to feed her soft food for the next 5 days and she was also sent home on pain relief. Once her gums were healed, tooth brushing once a daily was recommended with an enzyme based pet toothpaste.

A brief recap:

Plaque is a bacterial film on the teeth. This can be removed with tooth brushing, chewy toys and dental treats. Tartar is calcified (hardened) plaque. At this stage its too late for tooth brushing and in most cases a dental scale is required for removal. The bacteria attack the gum and teeth and leads to dental disease.



Lumps & Bumps

Our pets can grow some oddities. The word tumour means mass, though not every tumour is cancerous. Some lumps may simply be a cyst or a blocked sebaceous gland, bruising or perhaps an abscess.

Whether a tumour is cancerous will need to be seen. Some tumours are benign while others are malignant or a mixture of both.

Benign growth: placid and relatively settled: a mass that does not spread to other areas in the body, however some can grow to quite a substantial size. Your pet may have several benign masses.

Malignant growth: greedy: an aggressive type of tumour that is likely to spread to other areas and good at invading tissues.

In order to figure out which group a mass belongs to, further testings are required. These may include:

Fine Needle Aspirate. Cells are collected and transferred onto a microscope slide. With special staining techniques the cells can be analysed. This method may miss nasty cells or not get enough cells for a definitive diagnosis. Most pets tolerate this very well without any sedation

A partial or complete biopsy. This is a more accurate way of determining the cell type. In this method either a section or the entire mass itself is removed and sent to the lab for analysis. This requires either a sedation or a general anaesthetic. Sometimes a sample is submitted after a mass has been removed to check if the margins were wide enough and no tumour cells left behind.

In any case, bringing your pet to the vet to get a lump checked is a good idea. It is usually simpler to remove smaller masses rather than a large mass with lots of blood supply.

