

## FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (FIV)

FIV is a viral disease of cats. It is spread from cat to cat by fighting and cannot be transmitted to other types of animals or people. The virus can hide out in the body from months to years before it starts to show clinical signs. It is more common in middle aged to older male cats. New Zealand has a high incidence of FIV as cats here commonly have an indoor/outdoor lifestyle. We have seen a number of FIV positive cats through the Kennington clinic lately.

The signs of FIV result from a disrupted immune system. These can include recurrent snuffles, diarrhoea, mouth infections, skin infections, fever, weight loss, swollen lymph glands, kidney disease, eye disease and behavioural changes. Unfortunately there is no cure to eliminate virus from the system – we can only treat the secondary infections that result from FIV.

We have a blood test available for FIV in the clinic. Within 10 minutes of taking a small blood sample we can let you know if your cat has the FIV infection or not. Because FIV is infectious it is helpful to have other cats in the household tested if you have an FIV positive cat.

There are two ways to prevent the spread of FIV. One way is to confine FIV positive cats inside at night time (or all the time) so they do not fight with other cats and spread the disease. The other way is to vaccinate cats which do not have the disease to provide immunity against FIV infection. Vaccination against FIV is available at both the Kennington and Edendale Vetco clinics.

## PODGY POOCHES & FATTY CATS CLUB

Byron and Nicole at Kennington have our Podgy Pets clinic well and truly up and running with some amazing results already. Our Podgy Pets clinic is a free service provided by our vet nurses. Byron and Nicole are great at offering support and advice to enable your pet to reach a healthy body condition. Typically this involves an initial weigh in then drawing up a plan to help your pet gradually reach its goal weight. We recommend switching to a weight loss diet (Hills r/d) to help your pet lose weight. When your pet has reached its target weight a maintenance diet (Hills w/d) is then fed long term to prevent reoccurrence of obesity.

One of our success stories.....

NEVAH is a 3 year old female Labrador who initially weighed a whopping 40kg and was fed all sorts of things including pies. She has made great progress and is now weighing in at 34kg after switching to a weight loss diet 3 months ago. Well done!



## Familiar Faces at Kennington

There are lots of familiar faces to catch up with when you next call in at the Kennington clinic. Andrew and Sheryll are still here to greet you and help you find the right food, products or toys for your pets.

Byron and Nicole provide excellent nursing care for pets needing longer stays with us as well and being available to help with weight management and nutrition advice.

Danielle Dunn BVSc, who many of you and your pets have met over the previous nine months has been joined by Lisa Stuart BVSc (dist.)

Lisa has graduated from Massey in 1997 with distinction and has worked for the Edendale Vet Club and now Vetco Ltd. Over the last eight months she has relocated and is now based at the Kennington clinic. Lisa is working towards a post graduate diploma in small animal medicine and seems to attract feathered pets.

Terri McCurdy BVSc has returned to Vetco Ltd, working part time.

And watch this space – a third full time vet is due to join the team after Easter 2010.

## CASE OF THE MONTH—PAT

Pat is a 6 year old male Heading dog. He dislocated his wrist joint when coming off a farm bike. The dislocation was so severe that part of the bone broke through the skin and his paw was hanging from a flap of skin when he first came in.

We took x rays of Pat's wrist which confirmed the dislocation and then realigned the joint under heavy sedation. The wound where the bone was initially sticking out was cleaned and dressed and a leg bandages and splint were applied.

For Pat's wrist joint to heal he was going to need some very specialist surgery to fuse the wrist bones together to form what is called an arthrodesis. However we needed to wait until the wound had healed otherwise there would be a greater risk for infection during surgery. Pat was hospitalised for 2 weeks prior to surgery with daily

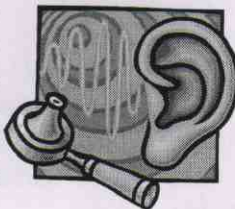
bandage changes, antibiotic and pain relief medication. After 2 weeks the wound was looking great and Pat was ready for his arthrodesis operation.

Because the surgery Pat was going to need was very technical the best option for his recovery was to refer him to a specialist vet clinic in Christchurch. In Christchurch Pat's damaged wrist joint was opened up and bone graft was packed into the spaces between the wrist bones. A big plate was then screwed over the top of the wrist joint to hold it all in place.

Pat is now back at home resting up while his joint fuses together. Pat has remained in remarkably good spirits throughout this ordeal and has become quite a popular character at the Kennington clinic. Soon he will gradually return to work and be able to help out on the farm again.

## EAR PROBLEMS

Ear problems are a common reason for bringing your pet to the vet. Early signs of troubled ears are typically head shaking and scratching. Dogs with long floppy ears, hairy ear canals, skin allergies and those which swim a lot are predisposed to ear problems. Cats are much less commonly affected. The ear canal consists of a vertical component and then bends round a corner into a deeper horizontal component. At the bottom of the ear canal is the ear drum. To examine your pet's ears we use an otoscope to visualise the ear canal and ear drum. There are many different causes for ear problems including bacteria, fungi, mites, foreign bodies (eg. grass seeds), growths or a combination of the above. Treatment can involve ear cleaners, medicated ear ointments and oral medication. Sometimes an anaesthetic is required to flush out the ear or to remove a grass seed. Prompt treatment of ear troubles is usually much less complicated than cases which have been left for weeks. With careful management, ear infections can often be prevented. Regularly cleaning of your dogs ears with an ear cleaner such as Epiotic (not olive oil or water!), helps to keep the ear canal clean and dry. If applicable, the treatment of underlying skin allergies can also prevent ongoing ear infections

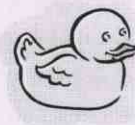


**KENNINGTON CLINIC**  
11 CLAPHAM ROAD  
03 230 4689  
MON—FRI  
8.00AM—5.00PM  
THUR—LATE NIGHT  
8.00AM—8.00PM

**EDENDALE CLINIC**  
14 SWEENEY STREET  
03 206 6170  
MON—FRI  
8.00AM—5.00PM

## Amazing Animal Facts

- The starfish is the only animal that can turn its stomach inside out.
- A blue whales tongue is the same size as an elephant.
- A ducks quack doesn't echo and no one knows why.
- The milk of a hippo is bright pink.
- Eels have two hearts
- The original name for the butterfly was flutterby
- An ant can lift 50 times its own weight
- An Ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- A Beaver can hold its breath for 45 minutes under water.
- Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards.
- No two Zebras have the same striped pattern, they are unique just like our finger prints.



- All Polar Bears are left handed.