



Welcome

We hope you enjoy our Summer 2015 Newsletter. We aim to provide interesting information that helps you to look after your pets, and also give you an idea of what we are doing and where we might be of help to you.

We have had some very hot days this summer and that has had an effect on the cases we have seen. **Hyperthermia** occurs when the core body temperature increases and causes metabolic complications, which can be fatal. We have seen a few cases of hyperthermia in dogs exercising in hot weather. Hyperthermia can also arise when animals are locked in vehicles on hot days. If your dog looks to be overheated cool them in a trough or shower, or wrap them in wet towels first, then call us.

We have had two recent cases of '**tying up syndrome**' in dogs. Tying up occurs when exercise causes muscle damage and occurs when dogs are doing heavy sustained exercise, especially if the weather is hot or the dog is dehydrated. The dog's muscles become hard and painful resulting in difficulty walking. Muscles over the shoulder are often affected first. We confirm the diagnosis by taking a blood sample and measuring the CPK level. CPK is an enzyme from the muscles normally found in the blood at low levels but the blood level increases dramatically with muscle damage. The normal level of CPK in the blood is below 385 units. In one recent case the blood level of CPK was 328,000 and in the other 100,000 which indicate severe muscle damage. When muscles are badly damaged they release chemicals that in turn damage the kidneys and may cause fatal kidney failure. Both dogs responded to treatment with rest, intravenous fluids and anti-oxidants, but one had to retire from pig hunting.

Grass seeds also cause problems over summer. We saw a young cat with a very sore eye and we removed a large grass seed from under his eyelid. The next day we saw a staffie dog with sudden onset of sneezing and blood from her nostril, and we removed a grass seed from the nostril. A few days later we had two dogs with grass seeds in their ear. Normally we would see less than one grass seed case a week, but this year the dry spell of December and January has resulted in more dried off grass and more grass seeds causing problems in pets. Grass seeds cause a lot of problems in Central Otago, but our cooler, wetter climate usually makes it less of a problem for us.

In This Issue

- Summer animal health issues
- Doggy Dishes & Kitty Cuisine - *What NOT to feed your dog or cat*
- Laminitis
- Hoof Trimming Basics course
- Travel Tips - *Helpful hints for travelling with your cat*
- Flea control
- Dog Training Tip from Tracy
- Expanding Service - Acupuncture
- Did you know?



Doggy Dishes & Kitty Cuisine

Isobel Topham - Veterinarian

What scraps can do to Scrappy

A lot of people know that you shouldn't feed your dog chocolate because it is poisonous to them. But did you know that avocados, onions, and grapes are even more poisonous? We need to be wary of what we feed to our pets.

- All members of the onion family including garlic and chives can be toxic. This limits the range of leftovers you can safely feed! Remember that even tomato sauce contains onions. If in doubt look at the label or ask the chef.
- Cooked bones of any sort should never be left where they could be scavenged. Cooked bones often splinter when chewed and can pierce the intestine with dire consequences.
- Corn cobs are not poisonous, but are a common cause of bowel blockages, needing surgery to remove.
- Fatty meals can cause the development of pancreatitis in which the pancreas leaks digestive enzymes causing severe inflammation, pain and vomiting, and is occasionally fatal.
- Chewing gum contains Xylitol which is poisonous in even low doses. Gum can also cause intestinal blockages, especially in small animals.
- Coffee can cause fatal heart arrhythmias.
- Stone fruit pips may cause cyanide poisoning, and can cause intestinal blockages.
- Macadamia nuts, walnuts, and many other nuts are toxic.
- Bread dough in large quantities can cause severe pain and even intestinal rupture as it rises internally.

Our advice - if in doubt don't feed it. Good quality dog food is always best.

Laminitis



Izzy Topham - Veterinarian

Does your horse's hoof look anything like this? Your horse has chronic laminitis!

The laminae are structures that attach the outside of the hoof (the wall) to the inside (the coffin or pedal bone). When these become inflamed, they lose their grip and the hoof wall starts to peel away from the bone inside. Repeated mild bouts produce the rippling effect seen in the hoof picture at left.

Horses have evolved to eat dry, stinky, rubbishy plants so their body is designed to take its nutrition from rough, fibrous feed. When horses eat easy-to-digest foods such as green grass or grains their body experiences a 'sugar rush' - a spike in blood sugar and insulin. These whizz around the body and come to the feet, specifically the laminae. The cells of the laminae are not adapted to high levels of sugar and insulin and become stressed and damaged. This is what produces the pain and damage seen in laminitis.

What do I do?

The heart of the problem is diet. Your horse's body cannot cope with the sugars in their diet. It is essential to provide a diet comprising **ONLY** roughage (hay soaked in water overnight is best), minerals and water. This means keeping him off grass on a permanent basis - on yards, lanes, a dry lot, or sprayed off corner of the farm.

The chronically laminitic hoof is often misshapen and overgrown. The excessive length adds further to the stress on the lamina; imagine bending your fingernail back when it's long. Note the growth rings are farther apart at the heel than the toe in the pictured hoof, and the toe is curved outward rather than straight. This requires expert treatment to correct. Please contact the clinic if you think you might have, or know a horse with feet like these. We are happy to help - take a picture and give us a ring.

Hoof Trimming Basics Course

Bridget McCauley - Veterinarian

We are planning to run a 'Hoof Trimming Basics' course for clients who are already trimming, or are interested in learning to trim their horse's hooves.

Topics we will be covering include:

- Hoof anatomy
- Common hoof abnormalities
- How to trim a normal hoof correctly

If you are interested please call the Clutha clinic - (03) 418 1280 or email admin@cluthavets.co.nz



Travel Tips

Isobel Topham - Veterinarian

Help your kitty stay calm, cool and collected in the car

Car travel anxiety in cats is extremely common. It is a problem which is distressing, noisy and sometimes smelly for both owners and cats. These steps apply for long or short journeys.

- Make sure you have a good, sturdy carrier. Plastic carriers with the door at the front can feel more secure to your cat than mesh top ones, or put a blanket over the top.
- Smell is extremely important to your cat - this is why they rub themselves on everything! Put some familiar smelling (unwashed!) items in the carrier with your cat, such as a favourite bed, cushion or blanket.
- Make the carrier a happy place:
 - keep the carrier sitting in an obvious place well in advance of when you intend to travel
 - start feeding your cat near to the carrier with the aim to eventually feed inside it.
- Make the car a happy place:
 - once you have established the carrier as a happy place, and where dinner lives, move towards feeding dinner inside the car. Your cat will soon not only lose anxiety, but actually look forward to hopping in the car!
- Ensure that your cat doesn't have access to food for at least 3 or 4 hours prior to your trip.
- Make sure that your car is an appropriate temperature during travel; cooler is better than warmer.
- If you are going on a long journey stop regularly to provide water and a motion free time to toilet.
- Some cats show anxiety despite everything we try, and they may benefit from medication.



Flea Control



Peter Heslip - Veterinarian



Fleas are a problem every summer. Fleas lay eggs on our pets which then drop off and hatch in the environment, becoming larvae, pupae and finally adult fleas, which then jump back onto pets (or humans). Fleas will jump from animal to animal but most fleas acquired are young adult fleas from the environment, which have recently hatched. Flea control means not only treating fleas on the animal, but also controlling them in the environment.

In recent years some new and very effective flea treatments have come on the market. In addition to spot treatments such as Frontline and Revolution, and Frontline spray for cats and dogs, there are now two new products for dogs only - Seresto 8 month flea collars, and Bravecto which is a tablet given every 3 months. These products have new active ingredients so resistance to fleas is not present. Occasionally it is necessary to treat an entire property if large numbers of flea larvae and eggs are present, and Indorex fogger is effective.

If you have a problem with fleas come and speak to us so we can find the best product for you.



Dog Training Tip from Tracy

Tracy Cullen - Vet Nurse

I know most of us all love talking to our dogs, but when you are around your dogs, or training your dogs, remember animals care about your body language and actions more than words.

Try to focus on the message your body is giving. See what your pet's response is to your actions. Try to cut down on the words you use.



Expanding Services - Animal Acupuncture

Catherine Copland - Veterinarian

Clutha Vets are now offering acupuncture therapy for your pets and working dogs. Acupuncture can be used in conjunction with conventional therapies for pain relief, and can help the body deal with other diseases.

Acupuncture works by inserting fine needles into the body to stimulate the nervous system. This blocks pain messages, encourages the brain and central nervous system to produce more of the body's natural painkillers, and in non-painful conditions may help to reset normal body function.

Acupuncture is usually well accepted by most animals - even cats and rabbits! Often they will become relaxed and may even become sleepy.

Acupuncture can be used to treat pain associated with arthritis, muscle strains, disc or boney changes in the spine, and other types of pain. Functional conditions such as constipation in cats, and irritable bowel type problems in dogs may also respond.

For more details speak to Catherine Copland one of our dedicated small animal vets.



**LOOK OUT FOR OUR 2015 PROMOTIONS
CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR REGULAR UPDATES - www.cluthavets.co.nz**

Did you know?

Dog nose prints are as unique as human fingerprints and can be used to identify them.

The oldest dog on record was an Australian cattle dog named Bluey who lived 29 years & 5 months. That's more than 160 in human years.

Dogs can smell about 1000 times better than humans. Humans have 5 million smell-detecting cells, dogs have more than 220 million. The part of the brain that interprets smells is 4 times larger in dogs than humans.

The kuri, the Maori dog, was a squat, fox-like animal which arrived in New Zealand with the early Polynesian migrants. It became extinct within a few years of European settlement.

Dogs have lived with humans for over 14,000 years, cats for only 7,000.

Eighteen muscles or more can move a dog's ear.

The smallest dog on record was a matchbox sized Yorkshire Terrier. It was 2.5" tall at the shoulder, 3.5" from nose to tail tip & weighed only 4 ounces



Contact Us

Clutha Vets

Balclutha - 03 418 1280

Milton - 03 417 8032

Email:

admin@cluthavets.co.nz

Web:

www.cluthavets.co.nz

Visit our Facebook page
at Clutha Vets

CLUTHA VETS CARE