



KAMO+VETS



Winter 2018

Companion Animal Newsletter

Our Carlton Cres & Kamo Road, Whangarei

(09) 435 1924

www.kamovets.co.nz

Specials:



Hills cat pouches

Buy 2 get 1 free

Optimal Care (chicken & fish),
Age Defying, Adult Urinary HB

Opening Hours:

Monday 8am - 6pm
Tuesday 8am - 6pm
Wednesday 8am - 7pm
Thursday 8am - 6pm
Friday 8am - 4.45pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm
For after hours call us
on: (09) 4351924



Kennel Cough:

Kennel Cough or Canine Cough is caused by a number of different infectious agents and active infections can involve more than one agent at the same time. Both bacteria and viruses are involved - some of which we can vaccinate against. Adenovirus and Parainfluenza virus vaccination are included in the core vaccination for Distemper and Parvovirus, but the main bacterial culprit Bordetella Bronchiseptica is a separate vaccination, which we tend to refer to as the Kennel Cough vaccine. This bacteria is very similar to Whooping Cough (caused by Bordetella Pertussis) and causes the classic harsh honking cough that is often described by owners as "something stuck in the dog's throat".

Kennel Cough is easily spread from dog to dog and we tend to see episodes of infections, much like respiratory diseases in other species. Just after Easter this year there was an outbreak and we were seeing 2-3 dogs daily over a 2 week period with kennel cough. Interestingly this time there was a lot of sneezing and nasal involvement, not just the harsh cough. If your dog socialises with lots of other dogs, such as walking The Loop, going to the Dogpark or Doggy daycare, there is an increased risk of exposure to infection however this can still occur from just meeting one dog.

Vaccination is mandatory for any dog going to a boarding kennel and some Doggy daycare centres are also making it mandatory. We strongly recommend vaccination in any dog who is likely to socialise with other dogs. Although vaccination does not stop all infections, we tend to see less severe disease in dogs who are vaccinated.

Well, that's just rude.



Anti-Freeze

For those of you that use anti-freeze in your car radiators in winter, be very careful about any spillages - clean them up immediately. Ethylene glycol is very palatable to cats and dogs but is very poisonous.

It is unfortunately almost always fatal, causing severe acute kidney failure. We haven't seen any cases for a couple of years but the risk is always there.

Cold weather and arthritis:

Help your older pets through the cold and damp weather:

Use joint supplements such as Bomazeal for those with arthritis

Provide a well-padded bed that is not directly on a cold surface or in a draught

Limit bathing or swimming to nice fine days and preferably do in the morning so they have plenty of time to dry thoroughly

Don't forget to give prescribed anti-inflammatory medication - missing a day hurts, even if they don't show it

Provide small bouts of regular exercise throughout the week instead of one long walk on the weekend

Think about reducing food intake if there is a sustained decrease in exercise





Pet of the Month

Sponsored by:

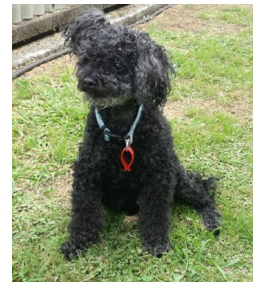


Shadow

Shadow, an 8 year old Poodle Cross was brought into the clinic in early February. His owners brought him into the clinic when they noticed him drinking more water, urinating more regularly, coughing and losing weight. Following blood tests and x - rays, he was diagnosed with Diabetes mellitus. Two weeks into treatment an Ultrasound confirmed that he also had Cushing's disease.

Cushing's disease or hyperadrenocorticism, is a condition where the adrenal gland, located by the kidney, becomes overactive. In Shadow's case this is triggered by a Pituitary gland tumour. The Pituitary gland is located at the base of the Brain and produces a hormone that stimulates the adrenal gland to produce cortisol. The tumour causes overproduction of this hormone and therefore the adrenal gland produces excessive cortisol. Shadow is fortunate that the tumour is a small one at this stage and hasn't had any neurological symptoms, however he does display signs of high levels of cortisol such as:

- Hair loss
- Increased thirst/urination
- Panting when resting
- Increased appetite with weight gain and a potbellied appearance
- Insulin resistance which has made it challenging to control his Diabetes.



Diabetes mellitus is a disease of the pancreas where it doesn't produce enough insulin or when the body becomes insulin resistant. Without insulin, Glucose isn't absorbed from the bloodstream and accumulates. Early signs include increased thirst and urination, increased appetite and weight loss. Anorexia, lethargy, vomiting and recurring infections can occur if left unmanaged, and dehydration which can become fatal. Treatment includes a strict feeding routine and insulin injections to help the body absorb glucose.

It has taken quite a few visits and day stays at the clinic to test his glucose levels, checking effectiveness of insulin dose amount and regularity, with the Cushing's disease making it difficult to control. Shadow is doing well at home with his owners treating him for Diabetes to get his glucose levels back to a safe level and monitoring Cushing's disease.

Random Animal Facts...

- The heart of a shrimp is located in its head. ...
- A snail can sleep for three years. ...
- The fingerprints of a koala are so indistinguishable from humans that they have on occasion been confused at a crime scene. ...
- Slugs have four noses. ...
- Elephants are the only animal that can't jump.
- A rhinoceros' horn is made of hair.
- It takes a sloth 2 weeks to digest it's food

