



## Autumn Specials

Buy 2 Broadline and  
receive a free tote  
bag



## Nutro Dog food

Get 3 cans free  
with 6.8 – 13.6  
kg dog biscuits  
purchased!



While stocks last

### Opening Hours:

Monday 8 am – 6 pm  
Tuesday 8 am – 6 pm  
Wednesday 8 am – 7 pm  
Thursday 8 am – 6 pm  
Friday 8 am - 4.45 pm  
Saturday 9 am – 1 pm  
Vet on call 24 hours  
For after hours call us  
on 4351924

## Annual Health Checks – Why?

Just like with humans regular health checks for your furry friend not only saves money over the course of your pet's life but it also helps to ensure their life will be a long, happy and healthy one.

Some important reasons to have your pet checked regularly for preventative health care include:

- Annual health checks are not just about vaccinations but include a full examination of mouth/teeth, ears, eyes, skin, respiratory system, heart, lymph nodes, abdomen, joints and muscles changes to your pet's weight, habits and activity level – as well as a chance for us to answer any questions you might have
- Routine exams help us develop a baseline for your pet, making it easier to assess any changes that take place from one visit to the next a decline in your pet's health may not be as obvious to you because you see your pet every day but with regular health checks we can recognise differences and take appropriate action such as blood tests

- Early signs of illness can be detected before they become serious – signs that can only be identified by a veterinarian during a thorough exam
- Dogs and cats can hide illnesses and pain and in the absence of other obvious symptoms they could be struggling without your knowledge
- Senior and geriatric pets have evolving health issues as they age and routine wellness exams will give you an opportunity to manage your pets aging and understand any lifestyle changes that may be needed
- Dental issues in your pet can affect their body more than you may imagine. Advanced stages of dental decay can cause heart, liver and kidney disease due to the bacteria entering the blood stream

There are physical and emotional costs associated with illness, not just for your furry friend, but for you and your family. Illness can be time consuming, messy, worrisome and stressful, all of which impact on your household and the way your pet interacts with family members. A stressful car ride and health exam once or twice a year pales in comparison.

## All about furballs

Does your favourite feline leave you furballs as a gift?! If so you are not alone. Although we love cats for being meticulous groomers, it's safe to say we don't like finding furry presents around the house.

Furballs are clusters of fur that your cat unintentionally swallows while grooming themselves. When enough fur is ingested and collects in your cat's digestive tract it forms a furball. Cats that have long hair, shed excessively or constantly groom themselves are prone to developing furballs.

Most furballs are harmlessly coughed up by your cat and do not pose a threat to their health. Furballs are usually passed in vomit or through faecal matter. However frequent furballs could be a symptom of abnormal gastrointestinal motility or inflamed intestinal tissue.

Please contact us if your cat

- Continues to gag for more than one day
- Seems constipated
- Suffers from chronic diarrhoea or vomiting

To decrease the amount of fur ingested you should brush your cat daily. Food formulated for furballs or furball remedy, such as catlax, can also help reduce the coughed up gifts. If you think your cat suffers from furballs please contact the clinic for more advice.



# Easter surprises?



With the Easter bunny busy at the moment and the long weekend approaching this is a great time to remind you to **keep ALL chocolate out of your furry friend's reach!!!!**

Our canine friends' noses are designed to find every little morsel of chocolate – wrapped or unwrapped!!!!

Theobromine – a derivative of caffeine in chocolate, is what causes the problem for our dogs. Ingesting this can lead to:

- Hyperactivity
- Tremors, panting and racing heart
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Seizures
- Death

As a general rule – the darker the chocolate, the more toxic it is. So if you are planning an Easter egg hunt in your

garden please ensure that your pooch is safely locked away and all eggs are found!!!! If your dog has indulged in ANY amount of chocolate please call us immediately. In most cases, if we are able to make your dog vomit early enough we can prevent any nasty side effects.

*With Easter please don't forget that raisins and sultanas can cause acute kidney problems in dogs and cats. Please keep hot cross buns off the menu as well.*

In an emergency during after-hours please call the normal clinic phone number.



## Karaka berry toxicity

From January to April the unripe green berries turn orange and are falling off trees. The berries are loved by Kereru but are highly toxic to dogs when ingested. Toxicity is variable but can remain for a long time in older berries. The Karaka tree can grow up to 15 meters and has thick, dark and glossy leaves. The orange fruit is 2.5 – 4 cm long. It can be found all over New Zealand but especially in the North Island.

Symptoms can be delayed by 24 – 48 hours and include:

- Weakness
- Vomiting
- Confusion
- Back leg paralysis
- Convulsions
- Death



Treatment for Karaka berry poisoning includes inducing vomiting before the toxin has time to work. Unfortunately most owners do not see when the berries are consumed and only notice the toxicity symptoms. Supportive care will be started as soon as you bring your dog to the clinic. This gives your dog the best survival chance. Treatment may include intravenous fluids, antibiotics, antacids, anti-nausea medication, pain relief, enemas, activated charcoal, sedation and/or muscle relaxant. Some dogs can take weeks to fully recover. If you have a Karaka tree on your property please ensure that your dog/s has no access to the berries.



## Animal Facts

- When playing with female puppies, male puppies will often let them win even if they have the physical advantage
- Puffins mate for life and set aside an area for toileting inside their home on cliff sides
- Dolphins have names for one another
- A study measuring the effects of music found that cows produce more milk when listening to soothing music
- Before chicks hatch they can communicate with each other and their mother through a system of sounds



**KAM+VETS**

