



The Vet Centre

Maungaturoto • Waipu • Ruawai • Mangawhai

Winter 2018

Nose to Tail

Companion Animal Newsletter



Dementia in Older Pets

Dementia or cognitive dysfunction is a very common yet underdiagnosed problem affecting older cats and dogs. Dementia in animals has a lot of similarities to Alzheimer's in humans. A lot of times pet owners and even veterinarians assume the symptoms of dementia are just age-related behavioural changes. About 30% of older dogs and 30-50% of older cats are affected.

Symptoms of dementia can sometimes be difficult to notice as they tend to come on slowly and may not be noticed right away. Symptoms include but aren't limited to: increased pacing, restlessness, being less responsive to stimuli, not recognizing familiar things or people, getting lost, not wanting to play or interact with the family, development of fear or anxiety, barking for no reason, waking at night and sleeping more in general, and losing their house training.

Thankfully there are some treatments and diets available that help reverse some of these changes and improve brain function. Hill's Pet Nutrition has two diets available, Youthful Vitality and Brain Diet (b/d), that are loaded with antioxidants and other supplements. There is a daily supplement called Aktivait, that is similar to the Hill's diets. Some animals may also require additional medication to treat any underlying diseases or anxiety.

Arthritis in Cats and Dogs

Winter is here! Which means that our older, sore, arthritic four legged friends will experience more pain in the colder months to come. You may find they are stiffer and slower to move or get up from rest, dogs may be more reluctant to go on their usual walks, and cats may not be as active as they are in the warmer months or unwilling to jump. Just like us cold wet weather makes an already painful condition even more painful.

Some things you can do at home to make them more comfortable include: having a soft padded bed that is off the cold floor or ground, having a warm dry place for them to sleep if they stay outdoors, starting them on joint supplements or a joint support diet before the cold sets in. Some animals that are really bad may need a prescription for some anti-inflammatory pain relief. It is very important to book an appointment with us at the Vet Centre to make sure there are no other underlying medical conditions. We can make recommendations and create a long term wellness plan for your pets that will keep them as comfortable as possible all year round throughout their golden years. We also have a wide range of coats and warm beds available in clinic.

Watch this space!

Dental month coming this August! It's the perfect time to come get your pet's teeth checked out and get some great advice from our vets. Details to come!



Faulty Microchip Replacements

Recently Virbac Animal Health has announced that several batches of Bio Tec microchips made in the last few years have become faulty and will no longer read. Some batches have stopped working completely, while others are expected to stop working in the next 6-12 months.

If you know your animal has a Bio Tec microchip (you can check the sticker inside your pet's vaccination book or registration form) or you are suspicious their microchip is faulty, please come in for a free scan. If your pet's chip is faulty Virbac will replace it for free.

Current Promos

We have two promotions going on at the moment in all four of our clinics. With the purchase of any Bravecto cat or dog product (spot-on or chewable) you will go into a draw to win a whole year's worth of flea product for your pet. That's a value of up to \$235!

With the purchase of any cat Bravecto product you will also go into a draw to win a lovely tent style cat bed.



Anxiety and Phobias in Pets

Just like us our pets can also suffer from anxiety and phobias. Some animals are born naturally more shy and fearful than others, therefore developing anxiety or phobias more easily. Some of these animals will tend more towards fear aggression, whereas others will simply withdraw or run away. However, even the most confident cat or dog has the potential to develop anxieties or phobias about certain situations, sounds, or people.

Cats and dogs exhibit signs of fear and anxiety in different ways. Symptoms of fear or anxiety in dogs include trembling/shaking, barking, hiding or escaping, toileting in the house, excessive panting, restlessness, destruction, and abnormal licking. Whereas in cats symptoms of anxiety or fear include: inappropriate toileting, scratching furniture, aggression, over grooming or self mutilation, hiding or withdrawing, clingy or needy behaviour, changes in appetite, and a state of hypervigilance. Some cats may also develop potentially life threatening cystitis. There are a number of factors contributing to fear and anxiety, including other diseases, so it's very important for your pet to be seen by one of our veterinarians to screen for underlying health issues. We have a wide range of nutraceutical, pharmaceutical, and behavioural treatments available to help with these conditions and we can help you find the one that works for your pet.



The Vet Centre News

Our recent kitten desexing special was a huge success again this year! Thanks to everyone for bringing their kittens in to see us.

We have had a few changes around the clinics and a few new faces. Susi Pringle, our receptionist in Mangawhai for the last 10 years, is now moving over to Maungaturoto to the accounts payable department. We have welcomed Melissa Hunt to take over from Susi as full time receptionist in Mangawhai.

Our technician Laura Greening, who has been on maternity leave for the past year, will be coming back in August as a part time receptionist in Waipu.

We have welcomed Steph Downey as a new veterinarian on the Maungaturoto team. We are very sad to announce the departure of our lovely vet Byrony in Waipu, who has left to join her partner Dana down in Blenheim. We wish them both the best for the future!



Clinic Locations

The Vet Centre Mangawhai

36 Moir Street,
Mangawhai 0505
Ph 09 431 4535

The Vet Centre Maungaturoto

184 Hurndall Street
Maungaturoto 0520
Ph 09 431 8318

The Vet Centre Ruawai

23 Jellicoe Road
Ruawai 0530
Ph 09 439 2506

The Vet Centre Waipu

53 The Centre
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