

OCTOBER

is **DENTAL MONTH** at **SRVS**



Bad breath isn't just unpleasant, it can be unhealthy and if dental disease is left un-treated, it can be deadly - Up to 80 % of dogs and 70% of cats that do not receive proper dental care may show signs of dental disease by the age of 3.



**We are offering a FREE dental consultation,
half-price blood tests and
20% off DENTAL TREATMENTS
for cats and dogs**

PHONE US TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY



SOUTHERN RANGITIKEI VETERINARY SERVICES LIMITED
233 State Highway 1 Bulls & 48 Tutaenui Road Marton

SEPTEMBER 2017

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Dr Dave * Dr Amber
Dr Kate * Dr Libby

Nurse Natalie * Nurse June
Nurse Karen * Nurse Lara
Nurse Emily * Nurse Siân * Nurse Holly

233 State Highway 1, Bulls
48 Tutaenui Road, Marton
Email: team@srvs.co.nz
www.srvs.co.nz

SNIPPETS

Welcome to our latest edition of Snippets.

Hopefully spring is finally in the air and we have seen the last of the wet miserable winter.

Spring babies are everywhere—calves and lambs seem to be coming thick and fast, keeping our large animal vets very busy —We have had a few visitors in the clinic in recent days too —the large animal vets and technicians are as much a sucker for a cute face as those of us in the Small Animal Department !



It certainly helps the time fly when you have a little cutie to fuss over and feed—it's surprising how much you can achieve with a sleeping lamb on your lap!

Happy Spring Everyone

**We now have a vet clinic all day in Marton every Monday.
Appointments are essential—please give us a call.**

Dental Treatment

Dr Dave

Why do we recommend that your animal's mouth and teeth are checked regularly—preferably every 6 months but in all practicality yearly? It never ceases to amaze me how animals can cope with a mouth full of rotten teeth. Sometimes these are so rotten that a tug with dental pliers will remove them.

At SRVS we try and encourage owners to get their pet's teeth checked by having a dental month in which we will discount the service as well as doing a half-price blood test. These tests will give information on the animal's general health and often give us a heads up on any disease processes that are developing. Early diagnosis can often lead to early treatment and better long term health for your pet.

Infected teeth lead to bacteria being released into the blood stream. These bugs then establish in various organs and areas throughout the body; these include the kidneys, liver, heart, lungs and joints. Cats in particular are prone to infection in the kidneys; **Kidney disease is the most common cause of illness and death in cats.** Animals can operate on about 25% of effective kidney function, so this means there is significant damage to them before they will show significant signs of the damage.

Early detection enables us to treat these problems before they become fatal. Pain is also a significant feature of dental disease and our pets often suffer silently.

We only have to think of how painful an infected tooth can be to realise how painful this must be for our pets.

Greyhounds as Pets—GAP

Nurse Natalie



GAP is a national organisation with kennels around the country, who aim to place retired racing greyhounds into loving pet homes.

Our local GAP is based in Levin, Horowhenua where they have a fantastic team who facilitate their transition into wonderful pets. The greyhounds go through a number of tests before they are rehomed and the staff take great care to ensure the personality of each dog is well-suited to their new adoptive family.

Each week we have greyhounds come into the Small Animal Clinic where Dr Amber and the Team give the dogs a general health-check, before taking them to surgery to be de-sexed and have dentals performed. In-clinic we

generally find the greyhounds very easy dogs to deal with, they are sweet-natured and very willing-to-please. They stay with us overnight and are collected in the Greyhound Van the following morning.

If you are interested in adopting a greyhound contact Danielle and the Team on (06) 362 6849 or go online to: www.greyhoundsaspets.org.nz



Guinea Pig Caesarean Section

Dr Kate



Meet Honey, a first-time Guinea pig mum!

Honey came in to SRVS after her owner was concerned she had gone past her due date without having any babies. Honey had a very big belly and x-rays showed two very large babies (called 'pups').

Guinea pigs usually give birth to litters of 3-4 pups but can have as many as six. A Guinea pigs pregnancy varies between 59 and 72 days, usually being shorter for larger litters.

Female Guinea pigs need to be bred before 6-7 months of age to give birth naturally. If they are bred for the first time after this age (like in Honey's case), their pelvis has fused and their birth canal is too narrow to give birth. When this occurs, the only option is to perform a caesarean section.



C-section surgery in guinea pigs is very similar to that in cats and dogs but they have a higher risk of anaesthetic complications. Our small animal vets performed a C-section on Honey and brought two very cute pups into the world. We paid particular attention to keeping little Honey warm during the surgery and ensuring her blood sugar levels were stable in recovery.

Guinea pig pups are born ready to go; They have all their fur and teeth, and their eyes are already open. They suckle from mum for a few days but are eating solid food within a week!

Honey and her babies recovered from surgery and were doing well. Unfortunately one of the pups was not feeding and despite her owner's best care, she passed away a few days after surgery. Honey and her remaining pup are doing well.

Honey lives with a male Guinea pig, so to prevent further c-sections in the future, we have castrated him. Female Guinea pigs can also be spayed to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Give everyone the summer treatment & win!

Purchase any 3 or 6 pack of FRONTLINE® Plus for cats or dogs, NEXGARD® Chewables, NEXGARD SPECTRA® or 3 packs of BROADLINE® spot-on solution for cats for your chance to WIN!

*See back for terms and conditions.



FRONTLINE® Plus (afoxolaner) Chewables NEXGARD® SPECTRA® spot-on solution for cats BROADLINE®

This promotion commences 1 September 2017 and concludes on 29 December 2017

—see instore for further details.

Worming Protocol

Dr Amber

Endoparasites, often referred to as ‘worms’, are parasites that live internally within their host species, making it easy to forget about their importance. They can potentially transfer from animals to humans and cause severe diseases in infected animals, therefore preventing a heavy worm burden in dogs of all ages is extremely important.

Worming protocol for puppies:

Use an all-wormer product like Endoguard® or Drontal® once every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age, then once monthly until 6 months of age. Regular worming every 3 months is then recommended thereafter.

Worming protocol for adult dogs:

Use an all-wormer product (Endoguard® or Drontal®) **-at least once every 3 months** throughout the animal’s life. Working dogs will require more frequent dosing (once monthly with varying products) for sheep measles.

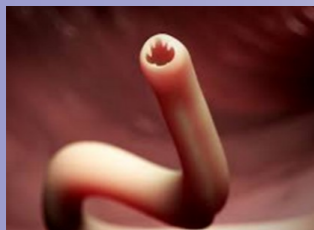
Lapsing treatments can result in heavy worm burdens, slow growth, malnourishment, and can pose a significant human health risk. Animals with heavy worm burdens may require more frequent dosing, which also depends on the product used, so please consult your local veterinarian for advice on this.

Keeping the dog’s environment (kennel and outdoors) clean and free from faecal material is also very important in preventing worm reinfection. *Feeding a premium diet will help this by reducing faecal bulk.*

Types of internal parasites that affect dogs:



Roundworms are a common issue for young pets, living in the intestine. Heavy infestations can result in intestinal obstructions, vomiting and diarrhoea, and malnourishment.



The **hookworm** *ancylostoma* mostly affects greyhounds and working dogs in NZ due to husbandry practices. They are a common cause of enteritis (bowel inflammation) and anaemia (blood loss). The parasite sticks to the gut lining, and can remove up to 0.2ml of blood per day. Canine hookworms can also migrate through the skin – causing loss of condition, diarrhoea, blood in stools, pale gums and poor performance.



Whipworms are about 6mm long, feed on blood and live inside the intestine. They can cause watery, bloody diarrhoea and pain.

Lungworms are worms that live in the lung tissue and trachea (windpipe), and can potentially cause respiratory problems. Once treated with a suitable de-wormer, the worms are coughed up, or swallowed and excreted through the faeces.

Worming Protocol continued



These tapeworms come from infected fleas; they then mature in the intestines into large worms. Tapeworm segments can sometimes be seen stuck to the dog’s bottom area as small, white ‘grains of rice’. Flea control is important at preventing this parasitic infestation.

Other tapeworms : **Sheep measles** tapeworm is important in working dogs, or those that feed on sheep or goat offal.

Endoguard® is a palatable (tasty), tablet all-wormer that is effective against all of the above listed internal parasites.

Sticking to these recommended worming protocols will greatly improve your animal’s health and reduce the potential risk that these organisms pose to human health.



Black Hawk Grain Free Food is Now available in Store!

No grains.
No fillers.
Nothing
but real.

New

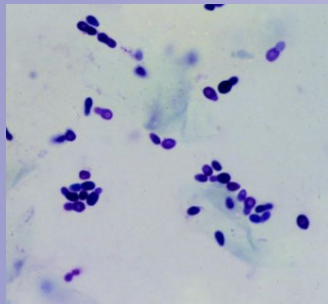


Does your dog have itchy, smelly ears??

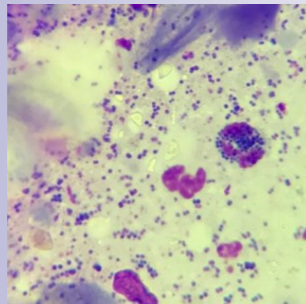
Dr Kate

We see a lot of dogs with ear infections. Owners will often bring their dog into the clinic because they have been scratching at their ears, shaking their head or they have smelly discharge coming from their ears.

The main treatment for ear infections are medicated ear drops. To find out the type of medication needed, we need to take a swab sample from inside the ear. We look at this sample under the microscope and see what type of bacteria or yeast is present.



Yeast from a dog's ear



A bacterial ear infection seen down the microscope



Ear drops need to be applied twice daily for a minimum of ten days. **It is very important that we see the dog again after this time to re-sample the ears and check that the infection has completely resolved.** *If there are still bacteria or yeast present, we need to prolong the treatment or look at using different medications.* If the infection isn't completely cleared, it will flare up again.

Dogs are more prone to developing ear infections when they have underlying allergies or immunosuppressive illnesses. We may want to investigate further to see if your dog has an underlying problem if he/she is having recurrent ear infections.

Ear cleaners can be used regularly to prevent further infections. Some dogs may also benefit from skin support diets if the underlying cause of their ear infection is an allergy.



Esther Honey Trip 2017

Nurse Lara



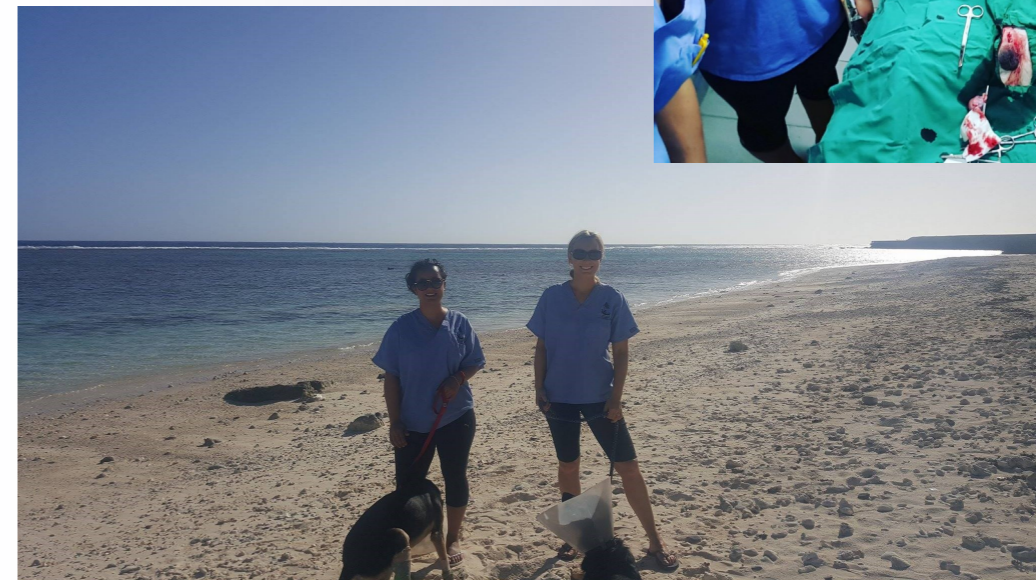
In May this year myself, a fellow nurse and veterinarian from Wanganui flew to Rarotonga to work for the Esther Honey Foundation.

The Esther Honey Foundation was founded in 1994 by US tourist Cathy-Sue Ragan-Anunsen following a holiday to Rarotonga; While in Rarotonga Cathy-Sue discovered there was no veterinary service for the many cats, dogs and other animals of the Island. With the help of friends, family and colleagues, she set up what is now a well-known and successful foundation, with Volunteers coming from all around the world to provide veterinary care and welfare to the animals.

During our two week stay we worked at the clinic and were involved with routine surgeries such as neuters and spays, daily care for hospitalized animals, and attended call-outs to animals in need. All services are free of charge for the animals and their owners, and therefore rely on donations in the form of money, equipment, medicine and medical supplies, and of course, the services of veterinary professionals.

Working in a foreign country, with different diseases and a variety of challenges, sometimes with limited resources, gave us great experience and appreciation of our well-resourced clinics back home.

We thoroughly enjoyed our time away, made many new friends from around the world and fell in love with the wonderful animals of Rarotonga that touched our hearts.



To make a donation, or for more information on the Esther Honey Foundation please visit—<http://estherhoney.org>