

# SNIPPETS

June 2019

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**We have passed the shortest day with a run of frosts we can now look forward to spring.**

Spring is traditionally the time for young animals to be born on the farm and we think our run of additions to the SRVS 'family' may pause for a time now. We are quite proud to say we have added nine babies among the staff in the last 12 months - with one more to come! The most recent addition to welcome to the smallies has been Antonia's little bundle of joy Max!

Amber is back from maternity leave. She will be working three days a week. We are very pleased to have her back.

When you come to either clinic with your pets you can expect to come across a variety of friendly faces looking after your fur babies as we continue to work through pregnancies and maternity leave. Rest assured the same excellent service will be maintained.



**Our Saturday 'spey and neuter day'** was very successful allowing us to catch up with a back log in demand, due to proactive owners. Many of the small animal team very generously relinquished a days rest to help out with the surgeries to ensure no unwanted puppies and kittens are in our district.

With these frosty mornings our pets are feeling their aches and pains just as we do. Any existing arthritic lesions can really trouble them at this time of the year, so please remember that we have a range of over-the-counter and prescription products that can make life easier for them.

## Have you met Emily?



Emily is our energetic Head Nurse, who has been with us since the start of 2017. She helps to keep the small animal team ticking like clockwork, and especially enjoys giving some reassuring cuddles with your newest family members when they come in for their first vaccinations.

When Emily isn't working she enjoys time with her friends, playing badminton and working on her new house with her partner Nick.

**AUGUST  
IS  
SENIOR  
MONTH**

Get your beloved elderly friend a senior (7 years +) check up in August with one of our friendly vets for just \$100 which includes a half price senior bloodtest and 20% off your consult call us today to make an appointment.





# DISASTER PLANNING FOR YOUR PETS BY NURSE MARIAN

Do you have a plan for evacuating yourself and / or your children in an emergency?

If you do - have you included a plan for evacuating your pets? If you haven't, NOW is the time to consider this most important task.

Having a 'grab bag' containing at least 2 weeks supply of food and water and their medical records /vaccination book in a clear plastic bag is a great basic kit to have ready to take with your animal - adding treats and a toy does not hurt either. If you have a cat, you can easily store these things in their carrier with a towel and have the carrier in a place that you can get to easily. Make sure your animal's carrier is labelled with all of their details and yours. Consider an alternate contact also (parents or family) outside your region - in case your cat is found first and needs to be relocated to safety outside the disaster zone until you are found.

For dogs, a lead and a collar are a must and a muzzle if your dog owns one, clipped to the lead. Your dog may have to be transported initially with other dogs and a muzzle is invaluable to allow this to happen safely. A plastic ID card envelope with the animals details on a piece of cardboard inside, make a very good identifier on the collar or harness of your dog.

Make a sign for your home so that emergency services know that you have animals inside and how many there are and what species. Stickers for windows can be purchased online for this purpose.

## What if you aren't home when disaster strikes?

Microchipping ensures that if your animal is located wandering - it can be identified and returned to you. Something to do right now: Write down a detailed description of each of your animals including their collar colour, distinguishing marks or coat patterns and any information about their medical history - ie speyed, amputated limb etc. Take a photograph of your animal from the front and side, approximately a metre away from them. Having these created and waiting means in an emergency it is very fast to make up a missing post for your animals on a pet website, or in a register of missing pets in a region affected by disaster:

Other things to consider: It pays to have a dedicated cat carrier for every single cat you own. When under stress or in danger, cats can be unpredictable and need their own 'safe space' even if they normally get on with other cats in the household. Booties for your dog - if you are evacuating by foot because of an earthquake, there could be broken glass and masonry on the route you must travel. You will put on shoes to make this journey-your dog needs shoes to make it safely too, especially if you have to traverse an urban area to escape.

To learn more about evacuating with your pets and preparing for disaster- visit [animalevac.nz](http://animalevac.nz) for more information and adhesive carrier and home labels can be found at [www.animalevac.nz/store/](http://www.animalevac.nz/store/)





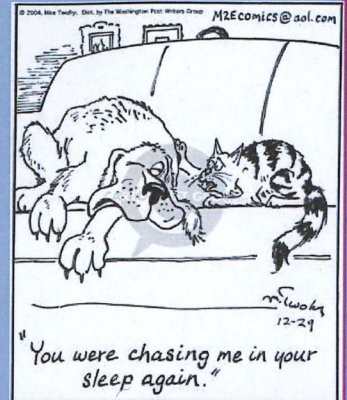
# Senior Wellness

For the month of August we will be highlighting the general wellbeing of your older pets ( seven years plus ). The modern term for this is "Senior Wellness"

We are hoping that owners will book their pets for a 'senior wellness' check at one of our clinics. This package will be discounted for the month of August.

This will involve a thorough clinical examination, standard health profile blood tests and include a discussion about any behavioural changes. Dogs and cats can have similar aging problems with their brain that we can. The results of all this will enable us to develop a health plan for your pets individual needs.

The aim is to help prevent problems before they arise and to try to keep your pets young and active for as long as possible. Please give the clinic a call to organize an appointment - our senior pets are special - they deserve a special check up.



## Arthritis

Your older pet may be slowing down and suffering silently from degenerative joint disease.

Arthritis (joint inflammation) is more common in the ageing pet due to joint degeneration (wear and tear) but we may also see it in younger animals where it may be a result of trauma or, more often due to poor conformation (hip and elbow dysplasia).

Arthritis is a joint inflammation. It can occur in all joints of the body including the spine. The signs of arthritis are due to gradual loss of cartilage and the exposure of the bone ends. This causes lameness, stiffness after rest, joint swelling and tenderness, and in severe cases grating (crepitation) when moving the joint. Arthritis can also be caused by infection and in this case the joints will be hot and swollen.

Articular cartilage can heal, although poorly and often needs frequent treatment. There are a whole range of treatments and in many cases the animal can have a good quality of life if properly managed. Cats get arthritis too but are very good at masking the pain and often spend more time resting. One of the best treatments is a drug called Cartrophen™. This is an injectable product which is known to stimulate healing within a joint by habiting some of the destructive enzymes which attack the cartilage. Non Steroid anti-inflammatories (NSAIDS) are also often used (Rimadyl™ and Metacam™). These block the pain pathways.

Weight (overweight) can be a significant factor and getting weight off will often make a significant difference to an animals' mobility.

With the colder weather often arthritis and stiffness will get worse, so providing a draft-free and insulated sleeping area is essential. Keeping pets warm will also reduce their food requirements as they don't need to burn up energy to keep warm. Remember our animals are much like us; they like comfort and warmth in the colder months.



Bravecto™ flea treatment is available for cats and dogs. The chewable tablets for dogs and the spot - on for cats lasts for 3 months. There is also a spot on for dogs that lasts 6 months.

Is an ideal way to flea your pets without remembering to flea them every month.

Bravecto™ kills adult fleas and ticks and can be used on puppies and kittens from 8 weeks of age, pregnant and lactating bitches.



# Lumps

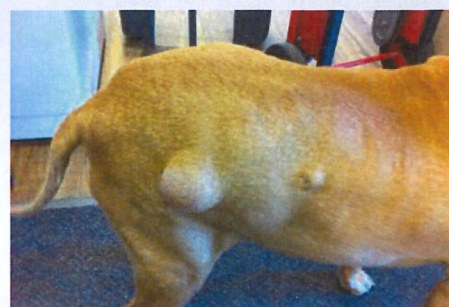
Not all lumps are cancerous (scary word) and not all cancers are untreatable. What do you do if you find a lump on your pet?

Generally and certainly in the early stages cancers are not painful. Tumours may be malignant or benign. What can we do about lumps? The first thing to do is to get it checked by a vet. Often lumps are cysts or fatty lumps and can simply be monitored regularly.

Your vet will normally palpate and get an idea of what the lump is from feeling it. The next thing is likely to be a fine needle aspirate (FNA). This involves a fine needle being stuck into the lump with suction on the syringe. This enables a small piece of the lump to then be squirted onto a slide which is then microscopically examined. This can sometimes give enough information to give a diagnosis. Sometimes a bigger section will be needed (a biopsy), this can give us better means of diagnosis due to a greater number of cells.

Some tumours can be likened to an octopus with tentacles extending into the deeper tissue. These tumours need very wide and deep margins to be taken during surgery to try and stop the spread.

A Lumpectomy (removal of the lump) may be required, the lump is sent to the lab and examined by a pathologist. Your vet can make the best decision based on these findings, and discuss further options with you.



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