

Happy Easter



Are your duck dogs ready?

- five things to check

1. Vaccinations

Keep your dogs vaccinations up to date. Leptospirosis is most commonly transmitted in urine. The urine from rats that have been living under your Mai Mai since May last year may well carry Lepto. Lepto is zoonotic, meaning the disease can be transmitted to humans. You are more likely to come into contact with your affected dog than an affected rat.

2. Feed 'em right

To get the very best out of your gun dog, feed them the best. A premium working dog food has higher levels of protein to promote lean muscles and fat to sustain energy for peak performance. You want your dog to be able to work for you all day, not struggle for energy and require a longer recovery time.

3. Keep them warm

Generally, Labradors are somewhat exempt from this aspect due to their cozy double coats. There are however other breeds of gun dogs that will need to be kept warm this season. Dogs with shorter, finer coats will suffer from the cold. A cold dog will not perform. Dry them after a swim and pop a jacket on if your dog is one that the cold affects.

4. Fleas and worms

Treat your dogs for fleas and worms. The birds that these dogs are retrieving possible carry lice and more likely, worms. If you sleep in your Mai Mai with your dogs keep in mind that any parasites your dog contracts have the potential to make their way into your bed too!

5. Identification

Microchip your dog. As most dogs will have their collars taken off to avoid the risk of snagging on debris floating in the water when retrieving, it is vitally important to microchip your dog. This permanent identification means if your dog ends up washed down stream or lost then it can be safely returned to you.

Call into your local Anexa FVC Clinic to discuss getting your gun dog shooting-season-ready.



We recommend you pop into your local clinic to pick up your pet's food, here's just a few reason why...



#1.

Specific diets to help treat varying health conditions such as kidney dx, arthritis and skin conditions

#2.

Healthier skin, coat and body condition



#3.

Better quality ingredients = less waste



From our Huntly Clinic...

This little kitten was abandoned outside the Huntly branch. Potentially the mother was in the box to as something had managed to escape through a hole. This little kitty is extremely malnourished and has one of the highest flea burdens we've ever seen on a live kitten. It is anaemic and very weak. This morning it was given a bath to warm it up and clean it, it has been sprayed with Frontline and has been hand fed a tiny amount of Royal Canin Kitten sachet. It was VERY dehydrated that it was given 20mls of subcut fluids and 3-4 mls of water was syringed into it. It was then wrapped up and it is sleeping with a hot water bottle. Our team initially thought this little boy was 5-6 weeks old from his size, but after closer examination he is more likely to be closer to 8 weeks; he is very small for his age.

This is a sad reminder of just how important it is to desex your cat. If you are unable to care for your cat or its kittens please contact your local SPCA, sooner rather than later.

Is Ant-Bait Toxic To Your Pet?

By Cath Picard, Anexa FVC Veterinarian, Thames

We often get after hours calls from owners whose dogs have eaten some ant bait. The good news is that most ant-baits in New Zealand contain Boric acid, and this ingredient is typically non-toxic to mammals. Animals that have eaten some ant bait do not usually need treatment because symptoms are usually mild and self-limiting.

Your pet may become thirsty and salivate excessively shortly after ingesting the bait (due to the drying action) but as long as fresh water is available these signs will generally pass quickly.

Vomiting and diarrhoea may occur if larger amounts are ingested and we would recommend you phone your vet to discuss if treatment is necessary. To be honest, there is more risk from dogs ingesting the plastic bait stations than the actual bait itself so you don't need to panic if your pet ingests a small amount of ant bait.

If you are concerned about your pet, please contact your local Anexa FVC clinic



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Flea treatment all up to date and your dog is STILL itchy?

Occasional itching is a normal protective mechanism. But when itching causes your dog to damage its skin, causes your pet distress, or disrupts the household, it can be a problem.

Canine itch can be caused and exacerbated by many factors including infections, parasites or allergies. The four most common allergies are:

- Flea allergy (even one flea can cause this)
- Food allergy
- Contact allergy (when your dog comes into direct contact with something which triggers the itch)
- Atopic dermatitis (itchy skin disease associated with environmental allergens e.g. pollens, moulds or house-dust mites)

You will usually notice when your dog has a skin disease because of their change in behaviour or their smell! There are some important signs to look out for that may indicate your dog is itchy, these include:

- An increase in licking, chewing, biting or scratching
- An increase in rolling, rubbing or scooting their bottom
- Foot chewing
- Hair loss
- Ear irritation, redness or smell
- Changes in the appearance of the skin, e.g. sores or darkened colour
- Redness of the skin
- Body odour

With allergic skin diseases, your dog will experience a vicious cycle of itching and scratching. It is very important to take the scratching seriously and stop your dog's itch sensation rapidly because:

1. Itching is very irritating for your dog (and you!)
2. The longer they itch, the worse the skin condition becomes and the harder it is to control
3. It may result in bacterial infections which will require treatment, either shampoos or antibiotic tablets or both

The great news is Anexa FVC Vets now have a new treatment recommendation available. This treatment is specifically designed to rapidly control the itching and inflammation associated with allergic skin disease.

It acts fast and reduces itch on the first day, providing effective and sustained itch relief for your dog. It is well tolerated with fewer short and long-term side effects compared to steroids (the current most common treatment prescribed by vets).

If you are concerned about your dog's excessive itching please contact your local Anexa FVC Vet Clinic to arrange an appointment – we're here to help.



RVM; Available only under Veterinary Authorisation.

Are your dogs ears worrying them?

Lucy Picott, Veterinarian, Anexa FVC Vets Te Kauwhata

Shultz is a 10.5 year old female spayed Mastiff cross who came in earlier in the week to get a check up as her owner was worried about her sore, swollen ear. Her condition is called Aural Haematoma. This occurs when Dogs have an ear infection, shake their heads and burst a blood vessel in the inside of their ear, causing it to fill with blood. The treatment for this is surgery as, if you simply drain the blood the empty space refills.

So Shultz came in today for surgery, which included cutting a hole in the ear to drain the blood and stitching it back together with pressure. We stitch plastic onto the ear with swabs between it and the ear, to put pressure on. Then we bandage the ear to her head so she can't shake it and damage it more. Most importantly, we check the ear for mites, and treat the ear infection so it doesn't happen again!

Shultz is now on the mend and will be fine - but remember If you see your dog scratching their ears or shaking their head a lot, bring them in for a check up, it's best to get these things checked early.



Shultz with her sore, swollen ear



Shultz All patched up ready to go home

Chocolate Free Easter for Dogs

Did you know that chocolate can be toxic, sometimes even fatal, for animals? Dogs are the most commonly affected, as their keen sense of smell means they are able to track down hidden chocolate stashes! The cause of the problem is Theobromine; a toxic compound similar to caffeine which is found in chocolate.



What are the symptoms?

Signs of toxicity are usually seen within 12 hours of the chocolate being eaten. Animals become excited and nervous with increased heart rate. Vomiting and diarrhoea are other common signs and animals may drink and urinate more than normal. Seizures, muscle spasms and death due to heart rhythm abnormalities may be the end result.

How much chocolate is needed for a reaction?

The size of your pet, the type of chocolate and the quantity of chocolate eaten determines how toxic it is for your pet. Dark or cooking chocolate contains 8 to 10 times as much Theobromine as milk chocolate. Some dogs may experience chocolate toxicity at dose rates as low as 20 mg per kg of dog weight. This means that a 20 kg dog would only need to consume about 250g of milk chocolate to be at risk. This is a rather conservative estimate since the standard risk level is 100-200mg per kg but it is better to be safe than sorry!

What treatment is given?

There is no specific antidote for chocolate toxicity in dogs. If you seek help within four hours of the chocolate being eaten, it may be possible to induce vomiting. Otherwise fluid therapy, anti-seizure drugs and heart medication can be administered by your vet. If you suspect chocolate toxicity, contact your vet immediately.

What treats can my dog have?

There are a range of safe pet treats available to purchase. Call into our clinics to select a safe treat – Schmackos, Raw Hide Bones, Greenies and more...

So, despite the longing eyes, think about your pets health – chocolate wasn't meant to be shared anyway!

Adapted article from
Dr M Kidd, Exceptional Canine.



**Don't forget to grab some
Easter treats for your pet**



Easter Opening hours

Friday 25th March
All Clinics will be closed

Saturday 26th March
All Clinics will be closed
with the exception of
Thames

Monday 28th March
All Clinics will be closed

**Our afterhours service is
available during this time**



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