



SPRING 2014 PET CARE ADVICE

Your guide to a healthy pet

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How much do you know about your cat's behaviour?

In the ancient times cats were domesticated purely as pest control but over the past hundreds of years have grown into a much loved family pet.

The socialisation period for a kitten is between two and seven weeks of age.

Socialisation for kittens is very important and will affect how they deal with stressful situations and adapt to changes later on in life. During this time they are most susceptible to learning and new experiences and are working out what is part of a 'safe world'. Their minds are open to anything and accept all items/persons as normal. It's important to expose them to as many different people, both male and female, children, babies and adults, other animals and a range of different smells, sounds, vehicles and places whilst they are young.

Cats are territorial animals

Small changes within the territory can cause stress and can lead to behavioural problems, commonly spraying/ toileting inside. Stress can be a huge problem in cats and sometimes it can be very hard to find a cause.

Territory size varies, dependent on gender and whether or not cats have been desexed. Territories are marked by rubbing, scratching and spraying.

To ensure you have a happy cat, you can help eliminate stress by:

- Keeping cat numbers in households to one or two.
- In a multi cat household ensure there are several 'escape' possibilities available for the 'underdog' (or rather 'undercat') to safely retreat from the other cat(s).
- Always keep litter trays clean.
- Provide your cat(s) with a regular routine, such as consistent feeding times, location of litter trays and having their own bedding.
- Cats like to hide, give them somewhere 'safe'. They love an igloo, empty boxes or a cat bed underneath coffee tables; experiment to see where your cat enjoys hiding.
- If necessary, you can use synthetic cat pheromones (Feliway Diffuser) can help to relieve stress and anxiety.
- For any advice on your cat's behaviour, come and have a chat with our vets and vet nurses.

FELINE AIDS

Feline AIDS is caused by infection with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). FIV causes a potentially fatal viral disease that interferes with the cat's immune system.

The virus lives in the blood of the infected cat and is carried in its system throughout its life. Infected cats may expose healthy cats with which they come into contact, most often through biting.

Even though the feline aids virus is related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), no human has ever been reported to be infected with FIV.

While some infected cats show no obvious signs of disease, others may display some of the following symptoms: weight loss, painful gums and dental disease, eye lesions, chronic infections, cancer and neurological disease. As happens in AIDS, the immune system becomes too weak to fight off infections eventually resulting in death.

New Zealand is a country with high levels of FIV in the cat population ranging from 7% in healthy cats to 27% in sick cats.

All cats with outdoor access are ultimately at risk of contracting FIV through a cat fight wound, where the virus enters. Cats that fight regularly are at a particularly high risk. There is no treatment or cure for an FIV infected cat.

Vaccination is the only way to prevent contracting feline AIDS in cats and kittens with outdoor access. There is a vaccine available which requires three doses at 2-4 week intervals to build immunity, which must be followed up with annual boosters to maintain the best chance of protection.

A blood test may be required before vaccination to check for pre-exposure to the virus, however it is not typically required before your cat is 6 months of age.

The FIV vaccine is a safe and effective vaccine. Only occasional reactions to the vaccine have been reported, typically loss of appetite and lethargy for the first 24 hours after vaccination.

Talk with your veterinarian today about making sure your cat has the best vaccination program in place to provide protection against all preventable diseases including FIV.



Cats that fight regularly are at a particularly high risk. There is no treatment or cure for an FIV infected cat.

9th November Morrinsville Dog Walk Fun Day

Join us in a FREE family fun day in Morrinsville



Is your best friend finding it hard to move?

As an owner of an ageing pet, you may be noticing some changes in behaviour of your pet.

You may think that your best friend is getting old, or is just stiff because of the winter chill factor. However, they could actually be suffering from arthritis.

Arthritis is a painful and debilitating condition that affects 1 in 5 dogs over the age of one.

Arthritis is no less painful to dogs than it is to humans and can significantly impact their mobility and willingness to play, which ultimately prevents you bonding with your dog.

It can affect one or more of the major joints including the hips, knees, elbows, carpus and spine.

Once present, it is relentlessly progressive and steadily becomes more severe over time.

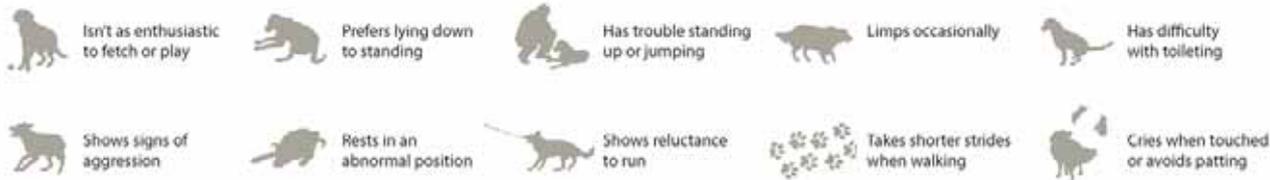
If your best friend is suffering from any of the symptoms below, arthritis could be to blame.

While no cure exists for arthritis, the good news is there are pain relief options available for your dog, which can transform his or her quality of life, greatly reduce the impact of the condition, and allow both of you to regain that bond.

Talk to your vet to discuss the options to ensure your pet is as comfortable as possible and getting the most out of life.



Symptoms of Arthritis



Desexing puppies and kittens at 5 months of age

Desexing operations, known as "neutering, castrating, spaying or fixing", are most commonly performed on kittens or puppies at about 5-6 months of age, before they reach puberty.

However, the operation may also be performed on adult animals through to geriatric age. Desexing will often make a pet into a much nicer, cleaner companion with more socially acceptable behaviours.

Desexing will reduce the incentive for pets to wander away from home and reduces fighting over mates and territory. It can help to reduce or eliminate the likelihood of malignant cancers forming, such as mammary tumors in females and testicular cancer in males.

Desexing an animal also causes hormonal changes, which can slow your pet's metabolism. These changes mean that your

pet is more likely to gain weight. Speak to our nurses about ways to help prevent weight gain.

At Anexa Animal Health we pride ourselves on using up-to-date equipment, anaesthetic agents and pain relief protocols, all of which help ensure that the recovery post-surgery is rapid and pain-free. Our patients will often feel well enough to eat a small meal in the evening following surgery and within 24 hours your pet will be eating and moving about normally.

If you have any queries or concerns about how to organize desexing of your pet puppy or kitten, please do not hesitate to contact your local vet clinic. They are only too happy to help.



Importance of yearly vaccinations

Vaccinating your animals is very important for their health and well being.

Dog Vaccinations

Vanguard Plus 5 - This vaccination is given at 6, 10 & 14 weeks old, or 8, 12 & 16 weeks old. A booster is administered one year later, then every 2-3 years after that as an adult.

Leptoguard - Leptoguard is given in two shots 3-4 weeks apart (usually at the same time as Vanguard). The first shot is given when the dog is over 8 weeks old. A booster is required every year.

Kennel Cough - This is an optional vaccine for many dogs but is required if your dog will be boarding in kennels and recommended for dogs that are in contact with lots of other dogs. A booster is required every year.

Cat Vaccinations

Felocell - This vaccination is given at 6, 10 & 14 weeks old, or 8, 12 & 16 weeks old. A booster is administered one year later, then every 3 years after that as an adult.

FIV - This is an optional vaccine to protect cats against the cat version of HIV. Cats need 3 injections initially and then a yearly booster vaccination.

Dog and Cat Wormers

Dogs can be wormed for round worms and tapeworm with a Drontal Plus tablet. Puppies should be treated for worms every 2 weeks until they are 12 weeks old, then every month until they are 6 months old, then 3 monthly as an adult. Dogs need monthly worming on sheep properties to prevent the spread of sheep measles.

- Cats can be wormed with Drontal, every 3 months for an adult.
- You still need to use Drontal once yearly when using a monthly spot on flea product that kills worms.

Weight Loss Corner



Meet "Buster" a Huntaway-cross owned by Les and Karen.

Buster came to visit the vet as he was lame. The vet advised Les and Karen they needed to put him on a diet.

- Dec 2013 he weighed 40.55kg, with 40% body fat. The ideal weight would be 33.8kg

Buster started on a Metabolic Diet and steadily lost weight.

Les and Karen initially thought he wasn't getting enough food, but after a couple of weeks they noticed Buster was happy with the amount they were feeding him. They really committed to helping Buster lose weight and exercised him regularly.

As the weight was coming off they were delighted to see a change in Buster. He was getting more energetic, his coat was looking shiny and they commented that he seemed happier.

They also said they were surprised how easy it was to feed the food and stick to the diet.

- Buster has now lost 8kg and weighs in at 32.1kgs. He reached his goal in July 2014.

Well done Buster

Win the flea control battle

Over the winter months many pet owners may become complacent, with lapses in their pet's flea control.

In the North Island the climate is too mild to kill off all fleas over winter so, although flea numbers are reduced, they are still there.

Come spring and summer, the flea population explodes and these little critters can become a real issue.

The Flea Life Cycle:

There are only ever 1-5% of fleas on the animal, with the remaining 95-99% in the environment. The stages that are found on animals are adult fleas and flea eggs. The eggs fall off and hatch into larvae, which then become pupae. When mature, the pupae hatch into adult fleas. When the vibration of a passing animal stimulates them, the adult flea will jump aboard and the cycle begins all over again.

What fleas can do to your pet:

- Flea Allergy Dermatitis: An intensely itchy skin disease caused by hypersensitivity to flea saliva. This causes dogs to look mangy and cats to appear bald, especially around the rump and hind legs.
- Anaemia: Fleas are blood-sucking parasites and blood loss (or anaemia) is quite capable of killing kittens and puppies.
- Tapeworms: Fleas are carriers of tapeworm larvae which cause a mature tapeworm infestation in cats and dogs.
- Flea Bites: Humans can also be bitten by fleas.

What you can do to the fleas?

Many companies with "effective" products have chosen to market them as vet only, meaning that the product is only sold at a veterinary clinic to pet owners.

This ensures you have a ready source of advice and back up. There are numerous products available from Anexa Animal Health clinics; each has its own different qualities.

Some are waterproof and others have additional active ingredients which control some worms, mites or ticks, in addition to the fleas. These products are applied to the pet on a regular basis and will help control flea numbers in your house as well as directly on your pet.

Discuss with us which product will best suit your pets' needs.

Worming

Get worming tablets posted to you as needed. To register for our Drontal Worming service, please contact your local clinic. Note: an account is needed to utilise this service.



Morrinsville Dog Walk Fun Day



Mark Sunday the 9th of November on your calendar and join us in a FREE family fun day in Morrinsville.

We are holding our annual Dog Walk at the Morrinsville Polo Grounds.

As well as taking your dog on a riverside walk, we will be having Dog Obedience Demonstrations and Dog Grooming

Stations. Try your dog on an agility course for fun.

Enjoy our stalls offering Food, Coffee and Face painting. Lots of spot prizes will be available.

Join us at the Polo grounds from 10am – 1pm, Avenue Road, Morrinsville. All 'on leash' dogs and their families are welcome.

0800 2 THE VET | anexa.co.nz

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Huntly
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Ngaruawahia
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Te Kauwhata
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Raglan
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