



AUTUMN 2015 PET CARE ADVICE

IS YOUR CAT LAZY?

A change in diet can put the spring back into 'puss's boots!

FELINE AIDS

Is your cat at risk?

MICROCHIPPING IS FOR CATS TOO

Microchipping cats, dogs and other pets allows easy identification and safe return of lost or hurt animals.

Your guide to a healthy pet

AVOID SMELLY BREATH IN DOGS

Oral disease is one of the most frequently diagnosed health problems for pets.

RAT BAIT TOXICITY

Keep your rat bait well out of animals reach.



Become our friend on
FaceBook - AnexaPets



Is your cat lazy?

Shadie is a 12 year old cat, belonging to our vet, Angela. Shadie really enjoyed her food, but unfortunately this became a bit of a problem. Despite Angela's best efforts to control her weight, **Shadie was getting bigger and bigger**. Over time Angela started to notice changes in her behaviour.

Shadie could no longer jump up onto the bench to drink water from the tap. She also began to have trouble jumping up onto chairs and beds and she started sleeping on the floor instead. She only ever walked and was slow and lethargic.

Angela recognised Shadie's change in behaviour as a possible sign of arthritis.

Her joints were having to carry a heavier load due to

her weight and this was causing her pain.

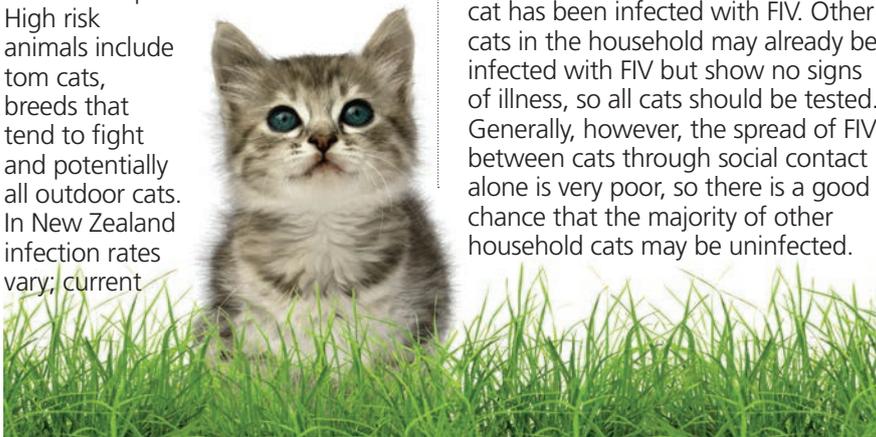
Angela decided to change Shadie's diet and to treat the suspected arthritis. She started her on the anti-inflammatory medication, Metacam®. The effect was dramatic and Shadie was soon back to her old self again, "Before Metacam®, she isolated herself and just lay around but now wherever we are, Shadie is too. She is happier and is back to sleeping on the

beds, drinking from the tap and running to get her food. She has lost weight and is returning to a healthier size. The effect of Metacam® has been dramatic." Angela said. Metacam® is an oral liquid medication that is given daily, is easy to administer.

If you suspect that your cat may have arthritis, we highly recommend you book an appointment to have your cat assessed by your Anexa veterinarian.

Feline Aids (FIV) - Is your cat at risk?

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), or Feline AIDS, is a common feline retrovirus infecting New Zealand cats which leads to diseases such as oral infections and cancer. Caught through bite wounds in fighting cats, New Zealand has one of the highest rates of FIV positive cats in the world. High risk animals include tom cats, breeds that tend to fight and potentially all outdoor cats. In New Zealand infection rates vary; current



research estimates 5-15% of New Zealand cats become infected with this life threatening disease.

HOW IS FIV DIAGNOSED?

A simple, in-clinic test is used to diagnose FIV infection. If the test is positive it is highly likely that your cat has been infected with FIV. Other cats in the household may already be infected with FIV but show no signs of illness, so all cats should be tested. Generally, however, the spread of FIV between cats through social contact alone is very poor, so there is a good chance that the majority of other household cats may be uninfected.

VACCINATION PROGRAMME

A vaccine, Fel-O-Vax FIV™, protects against Feline AIDS. We recommend vaccination for all at risk cats, which have tested negative.

Kittens may be vaccinated straightaway.

A course of 3 vaccinations spaced 2-4 weeks apart is necessary for full protection, followed by an annual booster, for continuing protection.

Book an appointment to discuss testing and vaccinating your cat with our vets.



Microchipping Is For Cats Too

Microchipping dogs, cats and other pets allows easy identification and safe return of lost or hurt animals, especially when the microchip details are registered on the Companion Animal Register.

This means that if an injured animal is brought to an Anexa clinic, where the owner is unknown, we will scan for a chip, check against our own database and the Companion Animal Register and then immediately contact the owner.

The Companion Animal Register database is accessible 24/7 to registered organizations, such as vet clinics, local councils and SPCA's via the internet. They accept registrations of any companion animal, including cats, dogs, rabbits, horses, guinea pigs and birds. Anexa Animal Health charges a fee of \$25 to

register a pet on this database which lasts a lifetime.

Veterinarian Judith Tisdall says "Microchipping is a simple and virtually pain free process. The microchip is approximately the size of a grain of rice and is administered via a syringe and largish needle into the scruff of the animal's neck. For most pets it only stings as much as any injection or vaccination".

Anexa Animal Health offers the service of

scanning the microchip during routine health checks or vaccinations to ensure the microchip has not migrated, giving owners peace of mind.



What Are You Feeding Your Puppy?

Good health starts with nutrition. Owners are always concerned with puppy feeding – particularly the what, when and how.

Puppies grow a lot in a short space of time so feeding them a complete and balanced diet now, gives them all the nutrients they need for growth as well as helping to prevent common health issues later on in life.

Breed is important, as small, medium and large breed dogs grow at different rates and are considered 'adult' at different stages. Small breeds grow for about 8 months, medium breeds 12 months and large/giant breeds 18-24 months.

Veterinary diets are specifically formulated for each breed size, to help maximize growth, form strong and healthy bones and help to boost immunity, as well as maintaining an ideal body weight. Minerals, proteins, vitamins, fats and other nutritional supplements are all added at correct ratios

to ensure optimum growth and a healthy, radiant coat. A puppy food also needs to be highly digestible as the stomach of young puppies is very sensitive.

Digestion is also important with regards to size. Large breed dogs have a shorter digestive tract to that of small breed dogs, which means they have different nutritional requirements.

Any change made to the diet must be done gradually, as a sudden change can cause digestive stress and diarrhoea.

We recommend that a food is transitioned over 7-14 days by slowly increasing the proportion of new food mixed in with the puppies' old food, until you are feeding purely the new diet.

When your puppy is neutered, it creates metabolic changes which put your puppy at risk of gaining weight. In order to avoid this weight gain, make sure you are feeding a food that is slightly lower in fat, but higher in protein and fibre.

The fibre helps your puppy feel full for longer and

protein helps to develop muscle. Alternatively, ask your vet or vet nurse about diets specifically formulated for neutered dogs.

For further nutrition information speak to your vet or nurse at your local Anexa practice.



Avoid Smelly Breath In Dogs

Oral disease is one of the most frequently diagnosed health problems for pets.

Oral disease begins with a build-up of bacteria in your pet's mouth. Over 300 species of bacteria that are naturally present within the mouth combine with saliva and food debris to form a film on the teeth known as plaque. It is not visible (it's the 'furry feeling') and is removed by regular brushing of the teeth. If plaque is not regularly removed, it mineralises and gives rise to tartar, a hard, brown deposit on the

tooth's surface. This cannot be removed by simple brushing and must be scaled away by a veterinarian. Tartar causes the gums to be inflamed, which can lead to a loss of appetite and painful chewing. You will also commonly notice bad breath and excessive drooling. In the advanced stage, bacteria attack the bone and other support structures of the teeth, leading to loosening or loss of the teeth and possible abscess development.

The bacteria can also gain access, through the inflamed gums, to the bloodstream and spread throughout the body causing infection in organs, such as the heart, liver or kidneys. When your pet's teeth have tartar on them your veterinarian will recommend a dental scale and polish. Sometimes badly affected teeth need to be

removed. This is done under anaesthetic and brings the teeth back to a state that you can maintain at home.

Teeth care at home involves a combination of the following:

APPROPRIATE DENTAL DIET FOOD:

- Special dental diets have been developed that help clean the teeth as your pet eats. Hills Prescription Diet t/d and Royal Canin Dental Diet are available from your local Anexa Animal Health clinic. For most people this is the most practical way to maintain good oral health in their pets.
- Dental kibble diets work in two different ways. Firstly they have an abrasive effect on the teeth during chewing due to their shape and texture, helping to remove plaque. They also have a chemical effect on the saliva, inhibiting mineralisation of plaque to tartar.
- Royal Canin Oral Bars are available to use as teeth-cleaning treats for your dog.

HEALTHY MOUTH: This is a liquid product added to your pet's drinking water daily. It is anti-bacterial and can therefore help reduce the bacterial build-up on the teeth. It also helps decrease bad breath.

TOOTH BRUSHING: This is the most effective way to remove plaque and prevent the development of tartar. However, for most owners it is also the most difficult option! It is best to start tooth brushing when the animal is young. Remember to always use pet-only toothpaste.

REGULAR VETERINARY EXAMINATION OF THE TEETH: Dental problems are best fixed sooner rather than later both for the sake of the animal and to reduce costs in the long run. Dental disease is very painful, but as cats and dogs have undergone natural selection to NOT show pain in an obvious way (i.e. in the wild, drawing attention to oneself may mean getting eaten!!) it can be hard to tell just how sore their mouths really are.



RAT BAIT TOXICITY

Rodenticides, commonly known as rat bait, are laid around houses, workshops and gardens to kill rats and mice.

They contain a product called warfarin which is an anticoagulant, meaning that it thins the blood and prevents it from being able to clot. Cats and dogs can either ingest the rat bait directly or by eating a poisoned animal. Once the animal has eaten the bait, they may not show any symptoms for several days, even up to a week. Symptoms include coughing, pale or white gums, blood coming from the nose, eyes, mouth, anus or vulva. Animals will also be lethargic, and possibly off food. Most of these symptoms are caused by internal bleeding. Prevention is better than cure – keep stored rat bait well out

of animals' reach, and use caution when laying it down for rats, bearing in mind that rats may move the bait to somewhere where a pet can get at it. If you suspect your pet has eaten rat bait, even if there is only a small chance, the best thing you can do for them is to take them to your vet immediately. The vet may make your pet vomit which can be an effective way of removing rat bait from the system for up to 2 hours after ingestion (but best as soon as possible). If your pet is very sick by the time it comes to the vet it may need intravenous fluids and in some circumstances a blood transfusion to replace lost blood. Vitamin K is usually given as an antidote as it is required by the

liver to make clotting factors to allow the blood to clot. Your pet might need to be on this treatment for several weeks.

There is a blood test available that can confirm rat bait poisoning. These bloods may need to be repeated a week or 2 after the Vitamin K treatment finishes to check that the clotting factors in the blood have gone back to normal levels. Rodenticides can be a very dangerous poison but with caution and quick thinking bad situations can be easily avoided.

If you need more information please contact your local Anexa Veterinary Clinic.



ONLINE PETSTORE

Pet Supplies Online Shopping We now have an online shop available for you to place an order for your favourite flea treatments, food or if you are looking for a new collar, lead or any other accessory:

www.vetfirst.co.nz/anexa

0800 2 THE VET | anexa.co.nz

Morrinsville
P 07 889 5159

Te Aroha
P 07 884 8014

Matamata
P 07 888 8068

Rototuna
P 07 854 0772

Huntly
P 07 828 7660

Ngaruawahia
P 07 824 8630

Te Kauhwhata
P 07 826 3581

Raglan
P 07 825 8390

Gordonton
P 07 824 2103