

Microchipping peace of mind if your cat goes missing

As cats are not registered, they are not required to have a microchip, however microchips are the best way to ensure that your cat can be identified if it ends up lost or at a shelter or veterinary clinic, allowing easy identification and a safe return home.

Getting a microchip involves the insertion of a grain-of-rice-sized chip under the skin between the shoulder blades. This is virtually pain free and for most pets only a sting is felt. This process takes only a couple of minutes.

Registering the microchip number on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register [NZCAR] is essential for your cat's microchip to be any use. Keeping your contact details updated is also critical.

Veterinary clinics, shelters and local councils all have microchip scanners, and checking for a chip is the first thing done when presented with an unknown animal.

Your cat is the most adventurous pet in your household. You don't know half the places he/she visits! Microchipping your cat ensures we can get in touch and return him/her safely home.

Anexa FVC is offering a November December special – we don't want lost pets this summer. For \$45 we will microchip and register your cat (offer valid until 12th December).

Call us now to arrange a time.

Have you checked that your dog has the correct contact information on his/her microchip?

Come along to any Anexa FVC clinic and have one of our nurses scan your dog's microchip at no cost. When dogs are found, checking for a microchip is our first port of call to identify that you are the owner so we can get in touch with you.

All dogs over the age of three months are legally required to be microchipped and registered with your local council. Sometimes (although rare) microchips can fail or migrate under the skin, so checking they are still readable is very worthwhile.

We will check that your details are up to date on our system and confirm if they have been registered on the New Zealand Companion Animal Register (NZCAR). This system is different from the National Dog Database (NDD) where your local council stores your contact details. The NZCAR can be accessed by all New Zealand veterinary clinics 24/7 as opposed to the NDD which is only accessible during working hours.

If your dog only needs to be added to the NZCAR database, then we can do that for you too.

Call us for an appointment, and ensure your beloved pet has a higher chance of getting back to you when it gets lost.

We are pleased to offer our patients a convenient way to pay for their Pets healthcare needs. With 12 months no payments and no interest* on treatments \$200 and over, you can get your pet the treatment it needs, when they need it.

Talk to us about this payment option and begin your Pets treatment today!



Don't let this be your pet!
Microchip your pets to ensure you can be contacted if they go missing.

\$45
CAT MICROCHIP
Includes registration on NZCAR

\$20
DOG REGISTRATION
ON NZCAR

FREE
MICROCHIP CHECK

Be ready for the Holidays, take advantage of Anexa FVC's Offers. BOOK NOW!

Anexa FVC
Thames | 623 Pollen Street, 07 868 7005
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love your pet
anexa fvc



Holiday Reminders

Chocolate Toxicity

By Wendy Jarnet, Veterinary Nurse

Chocolate is derived from the roasted seeds of *Theobroma cacao*, which contains certain properties that can be toxic to animals: caffeine and theobromine. If ingested, these two ingredients can also lead to various medical complications and may even prove fatal for your dog. The darker and more bitter the chocolate, the more dangerous it is to your pets.

To give you an understanding of how little is needed to be potentially life threatening;

Severe toxicity levels for a 4.5kg dog

Milk Chocolate 3 Squares (85 grams)

Dark Chocolate 1.5 Squares (34 grams)
(40%)

Baking Chocolate ½ Square (11.5 grams)

Signs of toxicity can include; vomiting, diarrhoea, drinking a lot, excitability, increased heart rate, high blood pressure, seizures and potentially death from sudden cardiac arrest. Often signs do not appear for some time which can lull people into a false sense of security that their pet is ok. ALWAYS contact your veterinarian if you suspect your dog has eaten chocolate and keep any packaging as your vet will need to know information about the chocolate product. Initial signs can simply look like excitement which is usually the heart rate increasing as a result of the toxicity. It always pays to get a check-up if you are unsure as we have a higher success rate and more treatment options available at treating toxicity in the early stages before the coco is completely absorbed by the gut. Once it has been fully absorbed into the system treatment options become limited.



Hot dogs? Not cool!

By Wendy Jarnet, Veterinary Nurse

The temperature in a parked car, even in the shade with partly open windows, can rapidly reach a level high enough to seriously harm or even kill your pet. A dog can be overwhelmed by heat in just 10 minutes or less!

Dogs cool themselves by panting and by releasing heat through their paws. They do not perspire through their skin like people. On warm days the air and upholstery in your vehicle heats up to high temperatures making it impossible for pets to cool themselves. Your dog will be more comfortable left at home. For example: 26°C Outside | 20 minutes | 43°C Inside Heatstroke is a serious condition and can very quickly become fatal, even with prompt intervention. Even if your dog appears okay, it is still advisable to seek veterinary treatment as the core body temperature can still be elevated even though their skin may feel cool.

Symptoms of heatstroke

- Exaggerated panting (or the sudden stopping of panting)
- Rapid or erratic pulse
- Salivation
- Anxious or staring expression
- Weakness and muscle tremors
- Lack of coordination
- Tongue and lips red (which may eventually turn bluish in colour)
- Convulsions or vomiting
- Collapse, coma and death



Vaccination reminder

If you are putting your dog or cat into a boarding kennel then vaccinations should be up-to-date. Most catteries/kennels require cats to be vaccinated with a standard 3-in-1 vaccine, mainly for protection against 'cat flu', and dogs to be vaccinated against parvo, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis and kennel cough. The kennel cough vaccination is generally not part of a routine dog vaccination, so if you are unsure whether or not your dog is covered either consult your vaccination card or ring your Vet.



If you are taking your pets on holiday with you then bear in mind that their risk of exposure to potentially lethal viruses such as parvovirus may be increased, so it is equally important that vaccinations are up-to-date.

Weight Management – Fighting Obesity

By Wendy Jarnet, Veterinary Nurse - Anexa FVC Thames & Coromandel

Why is it so important?

It is estimated that between a third and half of all companion animal pets in New Zealand are overweight or obese. You probably wonder why your veterinarian or veterinary nurse regularly assesses your pet's weight and makes recommendations about ideal weight and diets.

These are just some of the consequences associated with obesity:

- **Stressed joints;** osteoarthritis, ligament damage and spinal problems.
- **Heart disease;** the heart develops a layer of fat which impedes the function. They can also suffer from congestive heart failure and increased blood pressure due to the heart having to work harder.
- **Breathing;** excess fat compresses the windpipe and problems such as laryngeal paralysis and tracheal (windpipe) collapse can occur. Fat also compresses the lungs making exercise difficult and breathing harder.
- **Diabetes;** this will often require long term treatment with insulin and dietary management. Once diabetes has developed it cannot be "cured", even with a return to healthy weight, the pet will need to be managed with insulin for the remainder of its life.
- **Urinary health;** more likely to suffer from urinary stones and urinary tract infections.
- **Liver;** obesity increases the risk of developing "fatty liver" where fat builds up in the cells of the liver and impairs the function of the liver.
- Increased risk of some cancers.
- **Heat Intolerance;** fat acts as an insulator (think about the polar bear) so over warmer months pets struggle to regulate their body temperature.
- **Reduced lifespan;** according to the Purina Lifespan Study, obesity takes almost two years off a dog's life and up to two and half years off a cats life.
- **Anaesthetic and Surgical risk;** Cardiac arrest (heart stops) and poor circulation of oxygenated blood to the tissues can occur with obesity. Many anaesthetics are taken up by fat, so an overweight animal will take longer to come out of anaesthesia. The increased fat in the tissues makes surgery more difficult. Basically it is harder to find or get at what you are looking for. This makes the surgery technically more difficult and the procedure will also take longer.
- **Digestive Disorders;** increased risk of developing constipation and may have problems with intestinal gas and flatulence.

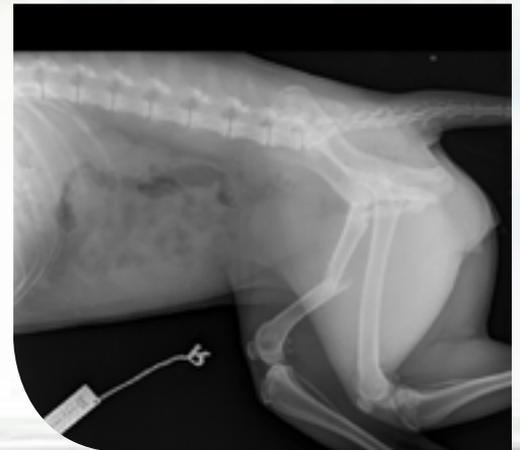
We want your pets to be happy and healthy just as much as you do. So to help keep your pets in tip top condition, speak to one of our qualified nurses or your veterinarian about weight management and weight loss programs.

X-rays

Until recently, all x-rays (for humans and animals alike) were taken on x-ray film, which was then developed by hand in a darkroom (like camera film). However, the digital era is upon us! Just like cameras have gone from using rolls of camera film to becoming exclusively digital, so are x-rays. A small number of highly skilled small animal vets around the country have access to in-clinic digital x-rays. This service is available in three of our Anexa FVC clinics (Huntly, Raglan, and Morrinsville). Digital x-rays provide a much higher quality 'picture' than plain film x-rays, which allows for better diagnosis and treatment of injuries or illnesses. These x-rays are also easier to store and access on the computer.

Below we have the x-ray from "Scooter"*, a one year old Huntaway. He was hit by a car and came in for full xrays (pelvis, legs, and chest). Thanks to the digital x-rays, this femoral fracture was quickly diagnosed and successfully surgically repaired by our small animal team. Scooter has healed very well, and visits us every year for his check up and vaccinations!

**names have been changed to protect the identity of those involved*





Farewell to Ross Harris

Running a vet practice requires a special type of person – compassionate, driven, and great with people and focused on delivering excellent service to customers. These are the traits of our retiring boss, Ross Harris. After 15 years heading the 5 FVC clinics, Ross is stepping down in late November.

Ross leaves after successfully supporting the merging of the FVC clinics with neighbouring practice, Anexa Animal Health. The Anexa FVC clinics continue to focus on employing excellent staff, providing competitive prices and taking the very best of care of the animals in our community.

Ross Harris says he retires with no regrets, many good memories and a business looking forward to a new chapter in its future.

All the best Ross, it's been fantastic working with you.



Vet Nurse of the year 2015!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Wendy Jarnet!

Wendy won Vet Nurse of the year for 2015!! Wendy works out of our Thames and Coromandel clinics. The Anexa FVC team are very proud of Wendy's achievement; it takes a lot of time, dedication and passion to even be nominated for this award.



Farewell to Jude Tisdall

Jude arrived in Morrinsville to begin her veterinary career over 25 years ago. Working predominantly with dairy farmers for the first six years, she changed direction in 1990 to focus on small animal medicine and surgery. She has since worked 2-3 days a week in Morrinsville, enjoying the challenge of working with clients and their companion animals. . Jude has always been keen to try the latest techniques and ideas and as a consequence her patients got the most up to date treatment. Jude has a special interest in animal dentistry, and has enjoyed developing this aspect of the business. The care, compassion and thoroughness that Jude showed towards her patients was valued by her clients and gave her an excellent reputation.

Jude has been central in training graduate vets as they hone their skills post study. She was often called upon to offer experience and expertise any time day or night. This effort has been much appreciated by her colleagues over the years.

Now it's time for the next chapter in Jude's life, and she is retiring in December. We wish her all the very best and sincerely thank her for her time and the exceptional care she has provided to the Morrinsville animals whom she has been their vet.



Christmas Clinic Hours

All Clinics will be closed on the Christmas and New Year public holidays.

**Friday 25th December –
Monday 27th
December**

**Friday 1st December –
Monday 4th January**

Our afterhours service is available during this time.



When you think **Animal Health**, think **Anexa FVC** | 0800 284 3838 | anexafvc.co.nz



Coromandel
P: 07 866 8556
Gordonton
P: 07 824 2103

Huntly
P: 07 828 7660
Maramarua
P: 09 232 5891

Matamata
P: 07 888 8068
Morrinsville
P: 07 889 5159

Ngaruawahia
P: 07 824 8630
Ngatea
P: 07 867 7256

Paeroa
P: 07 862 8815
Raglan
P: 07 825 8390

Rototuna
P: 07 853 0027
Te Aroha
P: 07 884 8014

Te Kauwhata
P: 07 826 3581
Thames
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