

SAVE THAT TOOTH!!

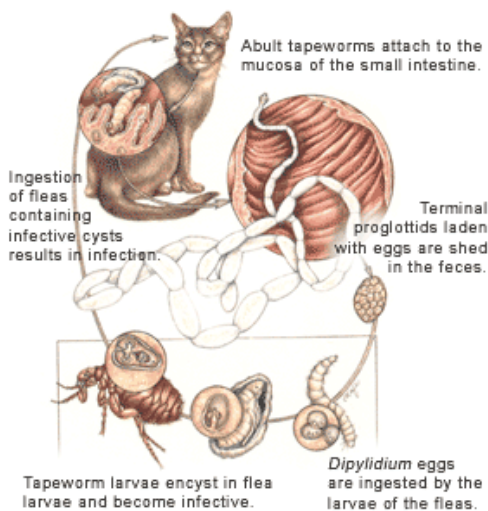
For several years our clinic has been offering a technique called 'Vital Pulpotomy' for saving broken teeth in dogs – usually caused by trauma to the mouth. If the damaged tooth is treated quickly, the root of the tooth may be saved by carefully sealing the root chamber, allowing a natural cap to form under the repair. This is only available for newly damaged teeth, when the base of the tooth is undamaged, but gives good results especially in saving strong young teeth.



Regular examination of your pets mouth is the only way of picking up traumatic damage or problems of tartar accumulation or decay. Getting your pet used to having their mouth checked is a good practice to initiate as a puppy or kitten. The nurses at the clinic offer a free dental check to report on emerging problems and offer solutions – often these can be addressed at home with prescription diets or other measures but where gingivitis has developed, early intervention with a dental scale and polish under anaesthetic often prevents further development of periodontal disease, pockets and eventual tooth decay.



WERE YOU AWARE.....



....that the flea treatments which also treat worm infestations, are only active against roundworms (the most common worm type) but NOT tapeworms?

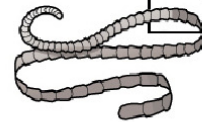
There are two types of tapeworms that can infect dogs and cats:

Tenia Spp - transmitted when dogs and cats eat raw meat or prey carrying the parasite (livestock, rats/mice, birds and rabbits)

Dipylidium Caninum - carried by fleas and passed to dogs and cats by ingesting infected fleas as they groom themselves.

Both can appear as segments about the tail / anus of dogs and cats. Often there are no symptoms but some will show weight loss or 'scooting' along the floor on their bottoms.

Tapeworm segment as it appears in stool (25x actual size)



Tapeworm (2x actual size)



What should I do?

- Treat every 3 months
- A tablet for dogs or cats, or
- 'Profender' for cats - which is applied on the back of the neck (great for those difficult patients!).



RAT BAIT!

Its that time of year when rats and mice start migrating into buildings to seek warmth. Many people will lay poisonous baits, and unfortunately we are seeing the usual autumn increase in rat bait poisonings.

We urge you to use a proper bait station which is pet-proof, and secure the storage place. Most baits act by stopping the blood from clotting, leading the animal to bleed to death. The treatment is long and expensive. Secondary poisoning from eating dead rats and mice is unusual as the number required to cause illness is large compared with direct ingestion.

The symptoms vary depending on where the bleeding is occurring:

- There may be blood in the urine or faeces
- Blood in the saliva or small haemorrhages in the gums
- Rapid breathing or a cough due to haemorrhage in the lungs
- Lethargy or poor exercise tolerance

If you suspect your pet has eaten bait, treating with an emetic to induce vomiting is important - and needs to be done ASAP! Contact the clinic and arrange to see your vet for further treatment.



FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS ('CAT AIDS')

In recent years we have seen an increasing number of cases of this infectious disease in cats, especially in certain areas eg Motueka. Although it is from the same family of viruses as the human HIV, there is no risk of transmission of FIV to people.



Symptoms - Sometimes vague, depression, gingivitis, susceptibility to infections, fevers of unknown origin to name a few.

Prognosis - This disease is progressively fatal and is transmitted by bite wounds - so is a risk to all outdoor cats. Prevalence has not been studied yet, and varies in each area, but countrywide is estimated to be up to 20% especially in wild cat populations. However, if managed, your cat can lead a fairly normal life.

Wild cat populations are more likely to be carriers of this disease as unneutered animals are a bigger risk. There is a vaccine available, which involves a course of three initial vaccines and an annual booster. For adult cats (over 6 months) a blood test is recommended first as transmission may have already occurred. We also recommend microchipping all recipients of the vaccine. Please contact the clinic for further information.

SPECIAL WINTER OFFER \$232

(includes course of FIV vaccine, blood test if required & NZ Microchip)

HILLS PRESCRIPTION DIETS - QUALITY CONTROL

Does your pet require a specialised diet?

So your vet has prescribed a prescription diet for your pet - what now? You may have questions or need advice. Hills are offering a new and FREE service to support owners of pets needing a prescription diet for a specific complaint.

A Hills Vet will contact you within a few days of your first prescription to answer any queries or help with any concerns you might have. They will also follow up with you after a month to see how you are getting on.

Compliance with the prescription foods is one of the cornerstones of therapy for many illnesses. Let your vet know if you would like to take advantage of this.



BARLEY GRASS ... AGAIN!



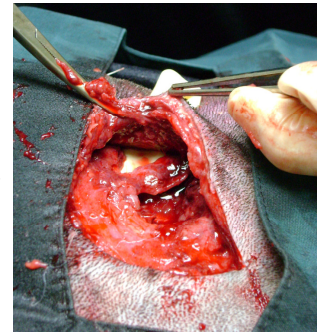
A barley grass seed

Another hazard we see at this time of year is dogs with barley grass seeds which need removing.

The typical places we find barley grass are between the toes, under the armpits and in the ears.

You will often see a small oozing hole that the dog is constantly licking at, or head shaking and scratching at the ears.

The treatment is to remove the barley grass, obviously (although sometimes easier said than done!), and treat the animal with antibiotics. They often require an anaesthetic to remove the seed which has a natural barb & penetrates deeply.



Wound caused by a migrating barley grass seed

Some tips on how to prevent your dog falling foul of the above:

- Don't take him to areas where barley grass is present
- Trim the fur away between the toes, under the arm pits and under the ears
- Make it a daily ritual to check the feet and ears for any grass seeds
- It is much easier to remove the seeds before they penetrate the skin!

SPECIAL!


IAMS

Chicken or Ocean fish

2 for \$20 (saving \$13!)

(While stocks last)

Facts of the day.....



"A one year old dog is as mature, physically, as a 15 year old human"

"only dogs and humans have prostates"

