



VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

May 2019

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Letter from Dr Mostert

Welcome to our May Newsletter!

It has certainly been a very busy month so far. In front of most peoples minds are the strikes affecting water supply.

At Village we obviously rely on essential services such as water and electricity to run our hospital, as we simply cannot go without them. Village is equipped with a generator and a large Jojo tank that ensures that our supply of water is not interrupted and our patient care not compromised.

We recently posted an article on our Facebook page which highlighted the importance of pet insurance and encouraged owners to take out medical Insurance for their pets. Thank you to all those that contributed so positively to the discussion.

Advances have been made in medicine that are wonderful and it means that diagnostics and treatment have improved drastically in both veterinary and human medicine.

Medical insurance has kept up in both fields and has developed policies that in general cover three categories. 1) Accident only 2) Accident and illness cover 3) Accident; illness and routine care.

On a daily basis we see patients requiring emergency treatment because they had swallowed a sock, eaten a sosatie stick, were attacked by another dog or for a number of reasons. Should that happen to your pet, medical insurance will ease your mind tremendously. As more people are seeing the benefit of it, uptake is improving.

If you read the comments on our Facebook page you can see the positive responses.

In closing I would just like to thank all our clients for the lovely welcome they have given our new reception staff, and your kindness as they 'learn the ropes'.

Warm regards,

Dr Craig Mostert



Find us on
facebook

Meet Monique our new receptionist

I was born and raised in Glenwood, Durban with my mom, dad and sister. I am an avid sportswomen, a passion which has been passed down from my father. I started playing hockey at the age of six and most recently took up playing touch rugby as well. In my spare time, when I'm not playing/umpiring hockey, I enjoy spending time outdoors or trying new recipes in the kitchen.



I have always had a passion for animals, but my love of working with them was only discovered after I left high school.

I worked in the Wildlife Rehabilitation field for eight years and have completed course in both Wildlife Management and Primate Behaviour.

In July 2018 I moved to Kloof with my fiance Gavin, where we live happily with our cat Shelby and dogs Riley and Max. After a six month stint of being a "stay at home pet mom" I decided it was time to get back to work and try something new, but of course with animals. What better place than at Village Vet. Everyday is interesting and you get lots of cuddles from dogs. I couldn't think of a better way to spend my day.



To book an appointment to pamper your pets and get their coats in tip-top condition phone Daphne on:

031 655 1252 or 079 626 6927

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:

Highway After hours 031 765 3221

Westville Veterinary Hospital after hours 031 267 8000

Survivor - A very ill "Stray Kitty" who's became our special Willow ...

We're fortunate to live in a road where there is an active WhatsApp chat group with a keen sense of care for fellow neighbours and their pets. Gates accidentally left open, pets going wondering unattended, homes wanted for strays, ducks crossing the road, monkey helpline, what-snake-is-this, etc. There's no limit to the interest and support that's shown. Early Feb I received a message from Belinda a few houses down, she'd found a cat in her garden and needed some help. A beautiful grey-blue kitty with stunning green eyes lay, weak and unmoving in a flowerbed, ants were crawling over her. We couldn't tell if she'd been hurt by a car or dog but she was clearly injured and very ill.



Covering her in a blanket and lifting her as carefully as possible, as advised by Sabrina, we got her to Village Vet ASAP. Dr Zugravii (Tony) did the examination and x-rays. Unfortunately there was no microchip. We were not able to locate anyone who knew where she had come from or owned her. The prognosis was that she had a very large, dead kitten inside the birth canal which had started to decay and a fractured pelvis. He wasn't sure if she would survive. He would need to remove the kitten and get her onto strong antibiotics. Belinda and I decided to go ahead feeling that she deserved a chance to survive. The flowerbed where she was lying is at the top of a very long, steep driveway and the property is fenced in all around. To this day we have no idea how she managed to find refuge in the flowerbed.

Later that day, after surgery, we stopped in at the Clinic to visit her. She managed a little purr for Belinda but was very weak. In the week that followed we visited daily and received regular updates from Village Vet via sms as well as chats with the nurses and Dr Tony who kept us informed of her progress. Meanwhile back on our street chat group, concerned residents regularly enquired as to how she was doing and made generous financial contributions towards her account. It was amazing how people rallied around this stray kitty. At first she was listed as "Stray Kitty" at Village Vet. From day one she had crept into our hearts with her affectionate nature & survival spirit. There were a few very worrying days when she was very listless, didn't eat and had a high temperature but she proved to be a feisty kitty. As she got better and the feedback was passed on to fellow residents, it was suggested that she be given a name, among the proposals were Bella and Bluebell. Belinda's suggestion was Willow and this just seemed to suit her so well.



Willow came home a week after surgery, with a fractured pelvis, very thin, weak and not able to walk much. She recuperated over a period of 6 weeks in a safe, quiet space. At first she didn't move much, just a few steps to her litter box and to eat. Often we fed her while she was lying down. Kevin and I took turns keeping her company in her room. She was affectionate and liked having company but was very weary of the other fluffs (cats), when they came sniffing at the door. After she came out of her sanctuary it took about 3 days for her to tentatively explore her surroundings and even with her wobbly walk this didn't stop her exploring. What's been amazing is how quickly and confidently she's settled in to her new home. She missions around with a slightly uneven gait and can sprint and play with the Labrador and other cats. She's playful, intelligent and has the loudest, "I'm hungry!" meow, of our little clowder. We're so happy to have her in our family.

The Lloyd family

Sugar Gliders

Sugar gliders have become a popular exotic pet as they are small and relatively easy to care for. They get their name from their love of sugar and their innate ability to glide from tree to tree using the webbed area between their body and back legs along with their tails. Sugar gliders can glide over 150 feet on the right wind currents. They are marsupials and start off life in a pouch. They are nocturnal (active at night) and arboreal (tree dwelling). A full-grown sugar glider weighs between 85 and 100g.



Sugar gliders are unique animals. They have velvety, soft fur, large dark eyes, and a long bushy tail. Their most unique feature, however, is the thin skin fold that stretches between their fore and hind legs. This membrane allows the animal to glide between trees in the wild. Sugar gliders are native to, or originally found in, Australia, Tasmania, Indonesia, and New Guinea. They



prefer to live with at least one other sugar glider companion. Since they live high in the trees in the wild, their homes also need to be as tall as possible with lots of climbing accessories and a nest box. Sugar gliders love to climb, jump, and play. They are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. A suitable sugar glider diet should include a careful selection of fresh fruits, sugar glider-specific pellet food, and an occasional selection of nuts and fresh, non-wild insects. Diet is one of the biggest challenges to a sugar glider owner as it is hard to simulate the exact diet that sugar gliders get in the wild.

What to expect when visiting a vet

When you call or visit your veterinarian, you will be asked for information about your animal and to provide details of its medical history, especially if this is your first contact with that particular vet.

You should receive a fairly accurate estimate of costs for routine procedures such as vaccinations and sterilisation. If the condition is more complex, it may be harder to estimate what the final cost will be. Remember that as your vet progresses with a patient, the diagnosis, prognosis and costs may change. You should feel free to question your vet about possible additional costs.



Veterinary hospitals have a wide range of equipment, and usually offer all the necessary diagnostic tests and treatments in one place. If there's a serious problem, your vet might recommend a visit to a veterinary specialist who has particular expertise in that area.

Develop a relationship with your vet and remember that you are free to get a second and even a third opinion if you are not entirely satisfied.

It's important that pets have regular health checks. Dogs and cats age more quickly than humans, and it's important to catch problems early if you want to ensure a long and happy life for your companion animal.

Annual Health Checks

Because pets age so rapidly, major health changes can occur in a short amount of time. Minor problems can often go unnoticed at home, until they become more serious. Most problems can be treated successfully and cost less, if they are recognised early. The risk of cancer, diabetes, obesity, arthritis, heart disease and other serious conditions all increase with your pet's age. Annual health checks can help your veterinarians diagnose, treat or even prevent problems before they become life-threatening.

July school holidays are just around the corner

The July school holidays are just around the corner and if you are going away you should already be making provision for your pets. Whether you are leaving them at home with a reliable house sitter or putting them into kennels you need to make arrangements well in advance.



Please remember that all kennels and catteries require their guests to be fully vaccinated on arrival. We recommend that all dogs should be vaccinated against

Kennel Cough well before they reach the kennels so that they have time to develop an immunity before possible exposure to the disease.

Please let us know if your pets are staying at home in case your house sitter needs to bring them in for a visit.

Othaematoma (swollen "pillow shaped" ear)

An othaematoma is a collection of blood within the ear flap which causes a blood-filled swelling. It can occur in both dogs and cats due to trauma or head shaking because of an ear infection.

Why operate?

Simple drainage of the blood leads to a high recurrence rate so the treatment of choice is surgery. It is important to operate soon to avoid long term damage of the ear flap. If the othaematoma is not treated properly, one of two things will happen:

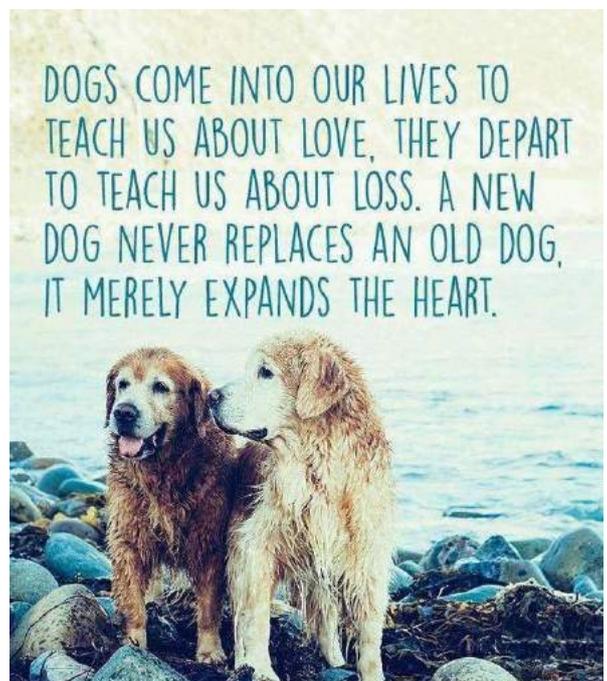


- The haematoma will continue to enlarge until it ruptures and becomes infected.
- The blood clot will cause permanent damage to the appearance of the ear. This may result in a very thick ear that can interfere with normal ventilation of the ear canal leading to ear infections. Sometimes as the clot matures and contracts, it will cause the ear to become "cauliflower-like" in appearance. This change is irreversible and results in a withered appearance to the earflap.

What is involved in the operation?

The swelling is opened by making an elliptical incision so that the blood can be drained from the ear. Lots of stitches are then placed through the ear flap. The skin cut is left open to allow drainage and blood may drip or ooze from the cut for a few days after the surgery.

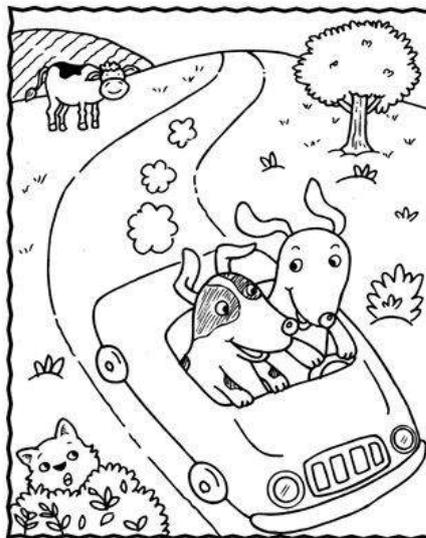
The sutures remain in for 21 days as opposed to 10-14 days with other surgeries. Weekly check ups are required to ensure healing is progressing as normal and that there is no sign of infection. The wound needs to be cleaned and kept free of scabs so that drainage can occur and the wound can heal from the inside out..



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These doggie pals are out for a drive.

Now look at the picture. There are 5 differences. Find and circle them all.



Village Veterinary Clinic's Healthy Pet Club

Join our in-house Healthy Pet Club scheme that allows you to pay monthly for annual vaccination and health check, flea and tick control, plus deworming. In addition you qualify for 10% discount on all professional fees and if your pets are a member of a pet medical aid, you qualify for 20% discount.

Our Healthy Pet Club is proving to be very popular and we would like to encourage our clients to join up — there are no strings attached!!

Email Vanessa@villagevet.co.za for more information.

