



VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

April 2019

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Letter from Dr Mostert

Welcome to our April Newsletter! The fourth month of the year and what passes for a winter in Durban starts making itself known. It's time to start washing all the winter woollies and get ready for shorter days and chilly mornings. As usual we'd like to encourage those with elderly pets to make plans to 'winterise' them. If their joints are old and stiff we can help with some supplements to keep them comfortable. If you've been holding off moving them on to senior food, this is a good time to do it, because, like all diets, they take a while to work, and you want them to get all the benefits before winter is in full swing. So pop in and visit and we can advise you on how to keep your elderly pets comfortable in the colder weather.

Winter is also an excellent time to tick off all the elective care that your pets need. Summer is a time for parasite control, skin conditions, allergies and tummy bugs and we mainly see pets for those issues. In winter we address things like dental care and spaying and neutering for those pets that are waiting to be sterilised. It's a great time for a general health check to look for lumps and bumps, abdominal masses and any other issues that may not have presented themselves yet, but could really benefit from early detection. If there are any other niggles you're concerned about, we can take a look at those for you too.

Whilst I 'have the stage' I'd like to thank our clients that have sent their pets to our parlour, some for the first time ever, for all the positive feedback. A clean and sleek coat is part of a healthy regime and particularly for 'pour on' parasite control. They work far better in a clean and unmatted coat than in an ungroomed coat.

If you would like to try our grooming service, please call Daphne to make an appointment. Her number is 031 655 1252.

If you want to see some of the parlour's happy visitors, head on over to the Village Pet Parlour Facebook Page and you can peep behind the scenes.

That's it from me, we look forward to welcoming you soon,

Take care,

Dr Craig Mostert

Practice Principal



Find us on
facebook

DENTAL SPECIAL FOR APRIL

We are offering

Dental scale and polishing for only

R1 100.00

during April

This includes a free dental evaluation with
one of our nurses

**For more information please contact
reception on 031 764 0588**



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



"I may not always
hear you when
you call my name,
and sometimes I
miss the ball on
an easy toss, but
the love for you
that shines in my
eyes will never,
ever grow old."

Puppy Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,
The king size bed is soft and deep.
I sleep right in the center groove
My human mom can hardly move.

I've trapped her legs, she's tucked in tight,
And here is where I pass the night.
No one disturbs me or dares intrude,
Til morning comes and "I want food!"

I sneak up slowly to begin,
Nibbling on my human's chin.
She wakes up quickly, and looks at me
Then asks the question, "What's wrong puppy"?

The morning is here, And it's time to play
I always seem to get my way.

So thank you lord for giving me
This human mom that I see.
The one who hugs and holds me tight
And shares her bed with me at night!



Your pet's dental health

It is recommended that you brush your pet's teeth every day to prevent plaque build up which leads to tooth decay. Neglecting your pet's teeth not only means bad breath but also puts its health at risk. If untreated, tooth decay can cause the tooth to fall out and cause discomfort and pain to your pet. In severe cases, an infection can even spread from the tooth to other parts of your pet's body.



Thankfully, there are plenty of products available that make brushing and caring for your cat or dog's teeth a breeze.

Toothbrushes for cats and dogs, which are generally smaller than human toothbrushes, come in different sizes to accommodate different jaw sizes. Choose a toothbrush with soft bristles so that it doesn't hurt your pet's gums. Finger brushes fit over your finger so that it's easier to get to all of the teeth and reduces the risk of choking. Use toothpaste specifically made for dogs and cats. Do not use human toothpaste because they often contain chemicals that are toxic to dogs and cats.

For days when your dog or cat just refuses to open its mouth for a good brushing, you can feed it a dental treat. Dental treats have enzymes added to them that help prevent and reduce plaque. Dental toys are made with textures, grooves and holes that help clean teeth and massage gums while your pet chews on them. Some toys are infused with mint to combat bad breath.

Besides regularly brushing your pet's teeth at home, annual dental scale and polish are recommended for small dogs and cats and twice yearly for larger dogs.

Breed Specific - Turkish Angora

One of the most outgoing and affectionate of all cat breeds, the rare and beautiful Turkish Angora has a fascinating history and is considered a national treasure in its native land.

This natural breed takes its name from the city of Ankara in Turkey which was formerly known as Angora. For centuries the cats have been attractive souvenirs for invaders of, or visitors to, Turkey and may have been the first longhaired cats to arrive in Europe. The cats eventually became scarce and were saved only through a breeding programme originated by the Ankara Zoo.

Beautiful and elegant on the surface, the Turkish Angora can surprise an unsuspecting owner with his athleticism and intelligence. No bookcase is too high for him to reach the top and no closed door is safe from being opened by his questing paws. Whilst he certainly can have lovely manners, the Turk has an active, boisterous side to his nature with a cleverness that makes him endlessly entertaining. He like to play and will do whatever is necessary to get and keep your attention, even if it means getting into a little trouble.



The Turkish Angora is friendly towards guests but loves his own people best. This is a sociable breed who is best suited to a home where he will have another cat or a dog to keep him company if people are not home during the day. When you are at home, the Angora may drape himself across your shoulders or settle comfortably into your lap. At night you are likely to find

him next to you with his head resting on your pillow.

This is an affectionate, gentle cat who is devoted to his family but his precocious intelligence, resourcefulness, desire for interaction and play, and short attention span may make him a challenge to live with.

The Turkish Angora's soft, silky coat rarely mats and requires only minimal grooming. Most breeders recommend combing once or twice a week with a fine-toothed comb or slicker brush to remove excess hair and keep the coat looking and feeling its best.

Rocco's long road to recovery

It was in October 2018 that my Italian greyhound went off his breakfast. Thinking that it was probably a tummy bug that was making him go off his food, I gave him some medicine for upset stomachs that I had in the cupboard. I thought "Give it a day or two" and he would be back to normal. I was wrong ! Two days later we paid a visit to Dr Zugravii. Dr Zugravii took his temperature and immediately realized that Rocco had a burst anal gland abscess that was making him feel very ill and basically poisoning his system. It was early afternoon and Dr Zugravii said he would have to operate and clean out the abscess straight away and that I could fetch Rocco after the procedure at 5 o'clock. I collected Rocco that afternoon and assumed that in a day or so with the help of the prescribed antibiotics all would be well.

I was wrong!!! Rocco still didn't want to eat. I pulled up his lips and noticed that his gums were exceptionally pale..ashen!! This raised a red flag for me and on the Monday morning I took him back to Dr Zugravii and alerted him to the colour of Rocco's gums. Dr Zugravii took one look at the gums and immediately took him to the hospital to check his bloods. To my dismay the results were not good. Rocco's immune system had gone into over drive from his infected anal gland and his white blood cells were attacking his red cells!! He needed an immediate blood transfusion!!! Dr Zugravii asked me to leave Rocco at the surgery so that they could give him a blood transfusion as soon as they could get donor blood.

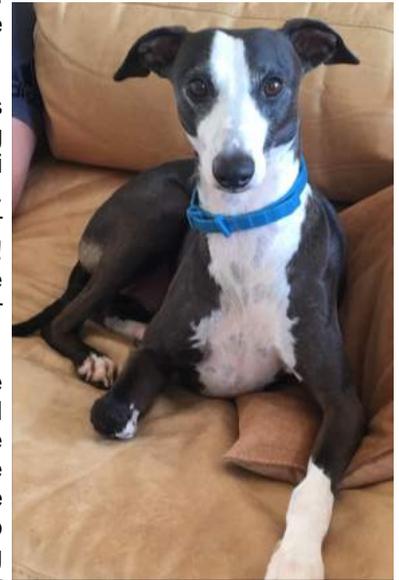
I picked him up the following day after he had received the transfusion. He now had to be on a course of cortisone to suppress his immune system and to prevent his white blood cells from attacking his red blood cells. All went well for about three days and then he started going off his food again. I took him back to Dr Zugravii who confirmed that the blood transfusion had not worked as well as hoped. Rocco's immune system was more reactive than anticipated and his red blood cells were dropping rapidly. He would have to have another transfusion first thing in the morning. Dr Mostert very kindly offered to bring his Rottweiler Layla to the practice in the morning so that she could be a donor for Rocco. He said she would make a better donor and the transfusion would have a better chance of success. By this stage Rocco was getting very weak and the following morning he was critical. I phoned Dr Mostert's wife at home and told her that we had to hurry to get the blood transfusion done as Rocco was now so weak he could hardly stand. As soon as the donor blood was drawn up Dr Zugravii phoned me and I rushed to the surgery with Rocco who was hardly able to hold up his head. He was rushed through to the hospital and received the transfusion. Within a few hours I was able to collect him and it was clear that this transfusion had been much more successful. Rocco was prescribed Cortisone again and a special immunosuppressant. This time it worked!!

It was a long road to recovery and the high doses of cortisone clearly had some unpleasant side effects as Rocco was very restless in the evenings, always hungry and needed to urinate frequently. Gradually the medications were tapered down over a six month period and as the cortisone was tapered off he regained his muscle mass and his immune system returned to normal.

At the end of March we were able to successfully withdraw all the medication.

I would like to thank Dr Zugravii and all the staff for saving Rocco's life and especially Dr Mostert's dog Layla for donating her blood.

The Favelin Family



World Veterinary Day is on 27 April 2019



For nearly 20 years, World Veterinary Day has been an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of veterinarians to the health of animals and society. The 2019 World Veterinary Day theme is **Value of Vaccination**. Vaccination is an essential tool for preventive veterinary medicine, promotion of animal health and welfare, and reducing the risk of human exposure to many zoonotic pathogens. (Zoonotic pathogen refers to pathogens naturally transmitted between animals and humans. There are several pathways whereby pathogens can invade humans. The principal pathways are via breathing air, drinking water, eating contaminated food, or hand to mouth contact.)

This veterinarian day was first celebrated in the year 2000 with the motive to highlight the lives and the hard work carried out by the veterinarians all over the world.. Without the veterinarians, and all other veterinary professionals that help them, the animals that we care so much about would have lives with lower quality and shorter life spans.

We would like to thank our vets for the dedication and compassion given to all animals that visit our clinic.

The following schedule is our recommendation for puppy vaccinations:

- First vaccination should be given at **6-8** weeks. This is a 5-in-1 and includes Parvovirus, Distemper, Hepatitis and Parainfluenza
- Second vaccination given at **10-12** weeks. This is another 5-in-1 and if the puppy is 12 weeks old, the first Rabies vaccination can be given.
- Third vaccination given at **14-16** weeks
- Thereafter an annual vaccination plus rabies should be given.

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WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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SEA ANIMALS

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